

Eastern strikers step up activity

BY SUSAN LaMONT

Striking Eastern workers in many cities are moving ahead with plans for stepped-up picket lines and rallies at airports in response to Eastern Airlines' announcement that it intends to have 226 flights in the air by July 2.

In Chicago International Association of Machinists Local 1487 is organizing a rally from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., July 2, at Chicago-O'Hare International Airport, in front of Eastern and Continental airlines' ticket counters. Both carriers are owned by Texas Air Corp., headed by Frank Lorenzo.

"Come and join us on the Eastern picket line," says Eastern strike coordinator Robert Stine in a leaflet issued by IAM Local 1781 in San Francisco. "Eastern Airlines has announced plans to resume flying between San Francisco and Atlanta, beginning July 2, with nonunion crews. We want to make sure that all passengers on the initial flights at 9:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. know that the IAM is alive and well — and mad as hell!"

Machinists Local 1445 Secretary Treasurer Frank DeMaria reports there will be a rally at 5:00 p.m., on June 30, at Newark International Airport. The event is also being sponsored by the Transport Workers Union (TWU), which represents striking flight attendants, and the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA). It will be held at Terminal C, where Continental flights are based. Other New Jersey unions will also be

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Coal miners' strike expands to 11 states

30,000 walk out, jailed leaders freed



Militant/Kathleen Mickells

Miners rally in Charleston June 11

BY RONI McCANN
AND MAGGIE McCRAW

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — In a victory for the strike which is spreading throughout the nation's coalfields, Federal District Court Judge Glen Williams released United Mine Workers of America leaders Marty Hudson, C.A. Phillips, and Jackie Stump on June 20.

Strike coordinator Marty Hudson, UMW District 28 President Jackie Stump, and International Representative C.A. Phillips were arrested in Virginia on June 5 and held in contempt of court for allegedly violating an order restricting strike activity against Pittston Coal Group.

After being freed, Hudson said, "Let's get

on with it! No surrender! We're in this for the long term. They're after our soul," the June 22 *New York Times* reported.

Miners strike from Virginia to Kansas

The walkouts, which began June 12 in support of fellow miners on strike against Pittston and New Beckley Mining, now involve more than 30,000 miners in 11 states out of a total unionized work force of 80,000:

- On April 5, some 1,700 miners struck Pittston Coal Group in Virginia and West Virginia. With the walkout at Pittston's Eastern Coal Corp. in Stone, Kentucky, on June 19, every unionized Pittston mine has now been struck.

The company is operating several of the mines with scab labor, though at greatly reduced production rates.

- An estimated two-thirds of West Virginia's 24,000 miners had walked off the job by June 17.

- Most of UMW District 28 in southwestern Virginia is out. More than 2,500 strikers and supporters have been arrested in Virginia since the Pittston strike began.

- Some 3,000 union miners in Pennsylvania have walked off the job.

- So have all 1,750 UMW miners in District 11 in Indiana — the largest strike there since 1981. Indiana miners have contributed more than \$84,000 to the Pittston miners' strike fund.

- More than 200 miners shut down the Sunglow mine in eastern Kentucky. There are now more than 1,000 miners out on strike in that state.

- Some 200 have walked out in Tennessee, more than 1,000 in Ohio, and the strike has spread to Kansas as well.

- All of District 20, which includes most of Alabama, is now on strike.

- On June 19 some 350 miners struck the Associated Electrical Cooperative in Randolph County, Missouri. These mines account for nearly 80 percent of all coal mined in the state.

- At midnight, June 20, all the 8,500 min-

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Gov't crackdown continues in China, dozens executed for role in protests

BY FRED FELDMAN

The Chinese government is sentencing a large number of people to death for alleged roles in resisting the crackdown on student-led protests that demanded democratic rights, or for participation in earlier protests. At least 27 have been executed since the June 4 massacre by troops in Beijing.

Beijing radio announced June 21 that 45 people in Jinan in Shandong Province had been sentenced to death or prison terms for "seriously endangering public order." Seventeen were said to have received death sentences.

Three Shanghai workers were publicly executed June 21. They had been convicted for participation in actions that began June 6 after a railroad train reportedly rammed into and killed six people — four of them workers — who were staging a sit-in on the tracks.

A large crowd, reportedly including many workers, set nine railcars on fire and large crowds blocked the tracks for many hours thereafter. Three were convicted June 14 after a one-day trial.

Those executed were an employee in a Shanghai brewery, a worker in a radio factory, and an unemployed worker.

Sentencing in Beijing

On June 17 eight people were sentenced to death in Beijing. They were charged with allegedly taking part in "riots" in which six buses or military vehicles were burned and some soldiers injured.

These incidents stemmed from resistance

to the June 3 and 4 assault by government troops in Beijing that left hundreds of civilians dead. "After troops began firing on civilians," reported the *New York Times*' Nicholas Kristof, an eyewitness to some of the June 4 killings, "demonstrations spontaneously turned violent all over the capital as ordinary citizens tried to resist tanks and armed troops with sticks and rocks and firebombs."

A Beijing television announcer said the eight included peasants, workers, and unemployed.

"In order to crack down strictly on the counterrevolutionary rebellion and crush criminal behavior," a television announcer declared, "the Beijing intermediate court agreed to sentence them to death."

Two other Chinese workers were displayed on television carrying placards describing their alleged crimes. The writing on the placards accused them of rumor-mongering and agitation, and announced that they had been sentenced to "reform" through labor.

In China, executions — usually by firing a bullet into the back of the prisoner's head — are normally carried out a few days after trial.

Those executed are among some 1,000 people who have been arrested in a continuing roundup of participants and leaders in the protests.

They include student leaders and activists. Some have been captured. Others have turned themselves in or been turned in by neighbors or family members as the atmosphere of intimidation has heightened.

The death sentences and public humiliation to which some of the arrested workers have been subjected reflect the regime's determination to block any further involvement by workers in struggles for democratic rights

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Two Cuban women on U.S. tour get warm welcome in New York

BY JON HILLSON

NEW YORK — Two leaders of the Federation of Cuban Women (FCW) got a rousing welcome during the New York leg of their national speaking tour, cosponsored by the U.S.-Cuba Women's Exchange and the Venceremos Brigade.

Carolina Aguilar, a founding FCW activist and current member of its national directorate, and Catherine Ribas, director of the group's North American department, spoke here June 16 to 130 people. The meeting was held at Casa de las Américas.

Winning U.S. visas for Aguilar and Ribas was a "tremendous victory," Rafael Pizarro, a national committee member of the Venceremos Brigade, explained to the meeting. The U.S. government routinely denies visas to Cubans invited to speak in this country, as part of a 30-year campaign to stifle public access to the truth about the Cuban revolution.

Breaking this blockade with the FMC tour, said Cathy Sedwick, Venceremos Brigade regional committee member, "should inspire us to reach out to mount more efforts to fight restrictions on information and travel to and from Cuba. That's the battle the brigade is committed to, and we invite you to join us." Sedwick cochaired the meeting with Pizarro.

Among those introduced from the platform were Margarita Delgado, first secretary of the Cuban mission to the United Nations, and Ken Jones, a national executive committee member of the Venceremos Brigade. Olga Sanabria, a central committee member of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, translated for the two speakers.

"There is much being said about the role of women in society," Aguilar said. "Some currents blame women for certain problems," claiming that women "leaving home for work" are the source of increasing social

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Toronto workers welcome Eastern strike coverage

BY ROSEMARY RAY

TORONTO — During a two-week period in early June, *Militant* supporters in Toronto sold 120 single copies of the *Militant* and two subscriptions to airline workers at

working for Canada's two biggest airlines, Air Canada and Canadian Airlines.

Canadian Airlines recently bought a smaller carrier, Wardair, and announced after the buyout that

The union movement is opposing the privatization, which is part of the bosses' stepped-up attacks on airline workers.

One flight attendant who bought the *Militant* said, "Supporting the Eastern strikers and fighting Lorenzo is the only way I see of saving my own job."

As workers drove past the *Militant* sales teams at the Air Canada and Canadian Airlines hangars and noticed the coverage on the Eastern strike, some parked their cars and walked back to buy copies of the paper and to discuss their concerns about their own deteriorating working conditions. One International Association of Machinists member who works for Wardair said the re-

cent buyout by Canadian Airlines had already resulted in 200 layoffs at the repair shops of Canadian Airlines.

A ramp worker for Air Canada bought the *Militant* and explained how the two-tier wage system worried him. "I don't think it's right that while I earn \$14.50 an hour, Air Canada is getting away with hiring new workers doing exactly the same job for \$7.50 an hour." He said, "The unity of the different unions at Eastern has shown that when you stick together, you can win together."

Militant salespeople report that some workers who bought the socialist paper the first week were eager to buy the next week's issue so they could keep up with develop-

ments in the Eastern strike.

One ramp worker said he had bought two issues of the *Militant*. The article in the June 9 issue by Susan LaMont explaining the Trump buyout of the New York-Boston-Washington, D.C., shuttle was "okay," he said. But he thought "LaMont's article in the May 26 issue was better because it explained the last 10 years of contract concessions by all kinds of unions and how the Eastern strike fits in."

Militant supporters have obtained a permit from the Ministry of Transportation allowing its distribution inside the terminal buildings. This has made it possible to meet a broad spectrum of airline workers.

SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATES

Pearson International Airport. The *Militant's* coverage of the Eastern Airlines strike helped generate considerable interest in the paper.

The majority of papers were sold to members of the Machinists', flight attendants' and pilots' unions

it would lay off hundreds of workers in coming months. The government of Conservative Prime Minister Brian Mulroney instituted a budget last month that included completing the sale to private owners of the government-owned airline, Air Canada.

Uruguayan artist paints portrait of Túpac Amaru

BY SAM MANUEL

NEW YORK — A portrait of Túpac Amaru, mounted upon his horse, is the latest addition to the Pathfinder mural. The six-story mural is being painted on the south wall of the Pathfinder Building at Charles and West streets in Manhattan. It will be completed in late October.

The portrait of Túpac Amaru was done by a 22-year-old Uruguayan artist, Luis Eduardo Perero. A self-trained painter, Perero com-

pleted his first mural while in Costa Rica last fall on a program of the Friends World College. The 4-by-24-foot movable work is dedicated to Salvadoran refugees in Costa Rica. It is now on display at Heredia University.

"I first found out about the Pathfinder mural while I was painting in Costa Rica," explained Perero. "My sister sent me a copy of the Nicaraguan newspaper *Barricada*, which had a story about the Nicaraguan

artist Arnoldo Guillén painting on the Pathfinder mural. When I got back here, I had to come by and see it," he added.

"The mural in Costa Rica served the need of the Salvadoran refugees to express themselves. They have no voice. The Pathfinder mural speaks not just for one small community but for the global struggles of working people that are not talked about in the mass media," said Perero.

"Túpac Amaru fits with what is represented in this mural. He is part of the history of the Indian people, the working people, of the Americas," Perero explained.

José Gabriel Túpac Amaru is a symbol of the resistance by the indigenous peoples of Latin America to colonial conquest. An Indian chief and direct descendant of the Incas, he led an uprising in 1780 against Spanish colonial rule, in the Peruvian province of Tinta. His forces tried and executed the colonial ruler in the province and issued a proclamation freeing the enslaved Blacks.

On Nov. 18, 1780, at Sagarara, Túpac Amaru's Indian rebel forces defeated a powerful colonial army that had been launched

against them from Cuzco. Following their victory the rebel forces laid siege to Cuzco but lacked sufficient arms to occupy the ancient Inca capital and had to retreat.

The viceroys of Lima and Buenos Aires dispatched fresh troops led by field marshal José del Valle, who defeated Túpac Amaru's forces and captured the rebel leader. He was interrogated and tortured but refused to give his captors any information. On May 18, 1781, Túpac Amaru was executed in the Wacaypata Plaza, along with his wife, son, relatives, and loyal followers.

More than a dozen prominent artists from 10 countries have painted portraits on the Pathfinder mural, along with many more from across the United States. New Zealand artist Sally Griffin and Samoan artist Fatu Feu'u will arrive in New York this week. They will paint portraits of leaders of the labor and national liberation struggles from the South Pacific.

The purpose of the mural is to promote Pathfinder and the books and pamphlets of prominent revolutionary and working-class leaders it publishes.

Socialist ballot drive starts July 15

NEW YORK — "On July 15 supporters of the Socialist Workers Party election campaign in this city will begin a period of intense campaigning," said James Harris, SWP candidate for mayor of New York.

On that day the campaign will launch a petitioning effort to get three citywide candidates on the ballot for the November 7 election. The legal requirement is 7,500 signatures, but the Socialist Workers Party in New York projects collecting 15,000 to assure a place on the ballot for Harris; Jerry Freiworth

for city council president; and Vivian Sahner for city comptroller.

The SWP is also fielding four candidates for Brooklyn and Manhattan borough offices.

During the petitioning campaign supporters will also be participating in a summer educational program, Harris said. This will include a series of classes for those interested in finding out more about what the SWP stands for.

For more information call (212) 675-6740 or (718) 398-6983.



Pathfinder mural portrait of Túpac Amaru, leader of Peru Indian rebellion against Spanish colonialism in 1780. At left is Uruguayan artist Luis Perero.

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Will court rulings on affirmative action provoke fightback?

BY MARGARET JAYKO

On June 15, the U.S. Supreme Court dealt the fourth in a series of sharp, rapid blows to the fight against racist and antiwoman discrimination in hiring, promotion, and treatment — both on and off the job.

The 5-to-4 majority ruled that a 123-year-old law barring discrimination in hiring could not be invoked to challenge racist bigotry and abuse once a person is hired. The law bars discrimination only at the initial hiring stage, according to the high court justices.

While the court refused to overrule a 1976 decision giving Blacks and other oppressed minorities the right to use the 1866 law to sue for private acts of discrimination, they drew

NEWS ANALYSIS

its jurisdiction so narrowly as to weaken its use as a weapon in the fight for equal rights.

Nervous about court moves

Some editors and columnists in major newspapers, which speak for the tiny handful of ruling families in the United States, have expressed nervousness and hesitation about the scope and pace of the court's efforts to undo legal precedents established in the 1960s and '70s. These laws and court rulings were the result of massive, and often bloody, battles led by working people who are Black.

While reiterating support for moves designed to chip away at affirmative action, as well as reaffirming opposition to numerical quotas, these prominent voices of ruling-class opinion have worriedly noted that the recent package of rulings may be too far-reaching and that their impact has been to anger millions of supporters of affirmative action who see them as body blows.

This is why congressional leaders, as well as editors and columnists for the big-business press, are calling on Congress to legislatively remedy some of the cruder aspects of the Supreme Court rulings as a way to head off organized, popular dissent.

The specter of the polarization and struggle that is taking place over the abortion rights issue, which led to one of the largest political demonstrations in U.S. history on April 9 in Washington, D.C., in defense of legal abortion, is haunting many in ruling circles as well.

'A treacherous road'

A survey of a broad spectrum of capitalist-owned periodicals reveals their concerns.

The June 26 *Business Week* ran an editorial warning, "The court is moving down a treacherous road. Most of the nation, except for die-hard Reaganites and a few members of the judiciary, has accepted the notion that employers must take extra steps to overcome the effects of past discrimination. The justices should think long and hard before tampering further with a system that by now is part of our social fabric, is accepted — and is working well."

In a summary article in the June 18 *New York Times*, Linda Greenhouse wrote, "With a recent burst of discrimination rulings, the Supreme Court did something more than provide newly confining definitions to widely used civil rights laws. The Court all but guaranteed that civil rights would leap to the forefront of domestic politics," she predicted.

The editors of the *New York Times* wrote on June 14 — the day before the latest decision — that the package of rulings all "deliver the same message. Today's Supreme Court majority sides with the beneficiaries, not the victims, of discrimination."

"Congress has set very different priorities over the past quarter-century. Now the Court is giving the lawmakers a lengthening agenda for reasserting previously established rights, and for rebuilding a workable system of justice."

Ignoring discrimination

Washington Post columnist Richard Cohen wrote on June 16, "In recent decisions, the Supreme Court has greatly limited what was once a broad affirmative action mandate. A new court majority, created by Ronald

Some in ruling circles are worried Supreme Court is going too far, too fast in assault on rights.

Reagan in his own image and — like him — out of touch with reality, ignored shocking examples of racial discrimination in an Alaska cannery (separate dining and housing facilities, for instance) but managed to muster ultimate sympathy for white firefighters in Birmingham, Alabama."

In a June 16 editorial titled, "Strike Four," the *Washington Post* editors wrote, "This case is the fourth loss in a major case this year for civil rights forces. The Supreme Court, with the addition of Justice [Anthony] Kennedy, now has a slim majority that appears to be intent on narrowing discrimination remedies, restricting affirmative action, and protecting the rights of white males. The decisions in each of these cases could be modified by carefully drawn legislation — federal, state, and local — and that is the task elected representatives must now undertake."

In an editorial the previous week, referring to the June 5 court ruling that dramatically increased the burden of proof on those who sue over discrimination, the *Post* wrote, "The court has issued other discrimination decisions in recent years basically requiring greater proof for narrower relief. Some of these efforts have seemed right to us." The problem now, the editorial states, is the court has gone "far beyond the previous adjusting."

And in a June 14 editorial on the case of the Birmingham firefighters, the *Post* stated, "It is hard to read their decision as anything



Chicago firefighters who won their jobs through affirmative action program. Some spokespeople for employers fear that recent Supreme Court decisions undercutting such programs will backfire.

less than a major setback in the nation's effort to resolve racial conflicts with justice and finality."

These divisions within ruling circles are reflected in the Supreme Court itself by the close votes in these decisions. These conflicts are of importance for all working people and their allies who support affirmative action measures as the way to combat discrimination and forge greater unity in the fight against the employers, their parties, and their government.

Tactical cleavages such as these over how, and how rapidly, to push back the rights and living standards of working people help increase opportunities to mobilize opposition in the streets, factories, campuses, and elsewhere to blows to affirmative action.

There are today no large-scale organized protests in defense of affirmative action measures. But that can change as anger mounts, especially if the court hands down a negative ruling on women's access to abortion in the case it is currently considering.

Puerto Rican independence activists get long sentences in Hartford trial

BY TIM CRAINE

HARTFORD, Conn. — Federal Judge T. Emmet Clarie handed down sentences this month for four Puerto Rican independence activists who are defendants in the Puerto Rico/Hartford 15 case.

On June 15 Clarie gave Juan Segarra Palmer the maximum sentence of 65 years in prison for conspiracy to plan and carry out a 1983 robbery of a Wells Fargo depot.

Clarie sentenced three other defendants June 8. Antonio Camacho Negrón was sentenced to 15 years in prison. Roberto José Maldonado Rivera and Norman Ramírez Talavera each received five-year sentences. They were convicted of charges involving transportation of stolen money.

These sentences mark the end of one phase of the U.S. government's campaign against 15 independence activists framed up for conspiracy in the 1983 robbery of a Wells Fargo depot.

Another of the 15, Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, is scheduled to go on trial in Puerto Rico on June 28. He is to be tried on charges stemming from the wounding of an FBI agent who broke into his home on Aug. 30, 1985, at the time of the first wave of arrests in this case.

Ojeda and eight other independence activists are still awaiting trial on charges related to the Wells Fargo robbery.

Clarie based his sentencing of Segarra on a memorandum issued by federal prosecutors on May 23. Their document accused Segarra of participation in two other bank robberies, an attack on U.S. Navy personnel in Puerto Rico, and an attack on a U.S. Air Force base in Puerto Rico in which \$45 million worth of planes were destroyed.

Segarra's role in these actions, which took place during the period 1977-81, was testified to by a government informer. And the government has never brought these allegations before a grand jury, let alone a trial court.

Nevertheless, Clarie was allowed to use these allegations against Segarra in determining the sentence.

The prosecution memorandum also repeated government claims that the pro-independence organization Los Macheteros, which the 15 allegedly belong to, is "terrorist." Furthermore, the memo argued, violence is unnecessary to achieve the independence of Puerto Rico since the people of that country have a "democratic process" available to change the status of the island. Puerto Rico has been a U.S. colony since 1898.

On the day of the sentencing, Segarra's attorney, Leonard Weinglass, called to the witness stand Abraham Díaz González, former president of the Puerto Rican Bar Association. Díaz is presently serving on a commission investigating the extensive network

of more than 100,000 files kept by the Puerto Rican police on the independence movement.

Díaz was prepared to testify that in view of the widespread harassment of the independence movement, the political process in Puerto Rico is not "democratic." The prosecutors, however, objected to his testimony, and they were upheld by the judge.

Before sentencing, each defendant made a statement to the court reaffirming his dedication to the struggle for Puerto Rican independence. Camacho Negrón stated: "The only crime that has been proved against me in this court, judge, is that I am one who struggles for the independence of my country, and this I admit."

1,500 urge release of Irish patriot

BY MARC LICHTMAN

NEW YORK — On June 17, the day before Joe Doherty began his seventh year in a New York City jail, around 1,500 people took part in a demonstration to demand his release.

Doherty came to this country after escaping from prison in British-occupied Northern Ireland. He was a volunteer in the Irish Republican Army, fighting to end British rule and to reunite Ireland. Accused of killing a captain in the elite Special Air Services, he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

After Doherty was arrested here, the British tried to extradite him to Northern Ireland, but U.S. judges ruled in Doherty's favor. A year ago, the U.S. attorney general ordered him deported — thus turning Doherty over to the same British authorities the courts ruled he couldn't be delivered to. His attorneys are fighting deportation and trying to win Doherty's release on bail and political asylum here.

The demonstration was initiated by the National Committee for Joseph Doherty and endorsed by more than a dozen Irish-American organizations, as well as Local 1199 Hospital and Health Care Employees and the

Service Employees International Union. The protest started at Battery Park, in view of the Statue of Liberty. Accompanied by several bagpipe bands and numerous colorful banners, marchers proceeded to Thomas Paine Park, near where Doherty is imprisoned.

Speakers at the rally included several politicians, Doherty's mother Maureen, and his attorney Mary Pike. Steven McDonald, a cop paralyzed while shot on duty and a hero of the big-business media, also spoke.

Congressman Thomas Manton from Queens spoke about the resolution he introduced in the House of Representatives calling on the attorney general to release Doherty on bail and approve his asylum request. The bill has gained 46 congressional sponsors.

In a message read at the event, Jesse Jackson paid tribute to Doherty as "a soldier for justice." The announcement that several striking Eastern Airlines workers were attending the rally was warmly greeted.

For more information on the case, contact the National Committee for Joseph Doherty, P.O. Box 20474, Midtown Station, New York, N.Y. 10129.

Fight can only be won 'in solidarity with others'

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-

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.

DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

among the difficulties of our struggle in our own places, on our own fronts, there is a common sense of solidarity that unites us and makes our struggle stronger. We in Nicaragua have witnessed for more than

10 years that solidarity works."

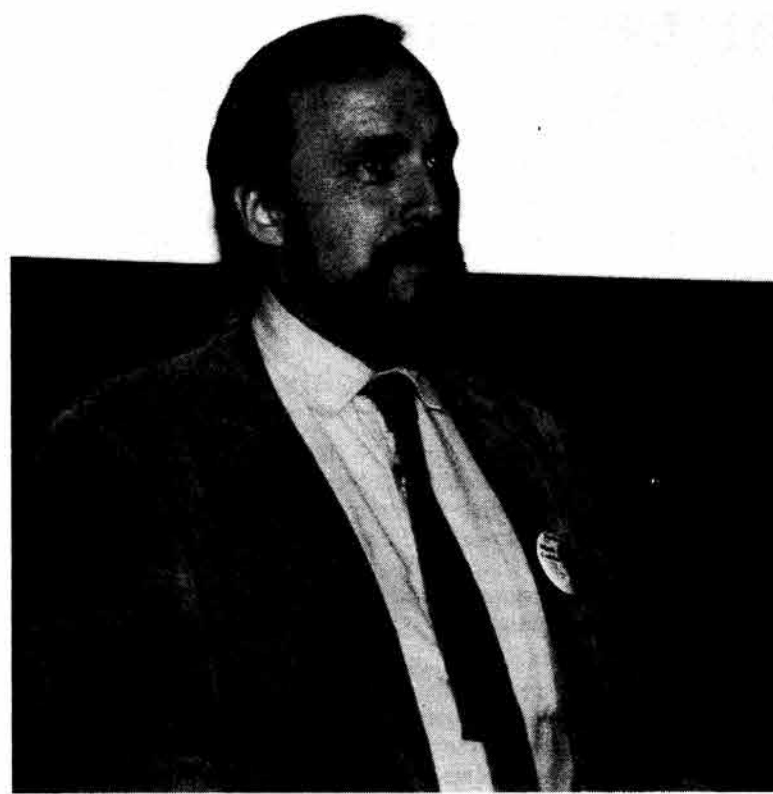
Sandra Nelson, a member of the steering committee of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee in Des Moines, also spoke. She discussed the international campaign launched by the committee to protest the decision of prison authorities to prevent Curtis and other prisoners at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory in Anamosa from receiving materials in languages other than English, and from sharing written materials with each other.

Doreen Wepler, a rail worker and the Communist League candidate in the June 15 European Parliament elections, made the Curtis defense effort a central theme of her election campaign.

Recent raids by immigration cops at the Waterloo and London Bridge rail depots, she said, "are aimed at trying to make workers who come to this country insecure, trying to isolate them from other workers, and thereby weaken the working class as a whole."

Curtis was arrested in March 1988 just hours after he had participated in a meeting to protest the arrest of 17 Latino coworkers by immigration cops who raided the Des Moines meat-packing plant where he worked.

John Gaige, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States and of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, explained that the denial of Spanish-language materials to Curtis puts the fight for Curtis' rights in the middle of a central issue of world politics — "the ability of working people to



Bill Behrend, Mark Curtis' uncle, addresses Chicago support meeting.

communicate and to get involved in active solidarity with each other.

"If you're effective at that anywhere in the world, you're taken seriously by those people in power and authority. It's a central question of world politics and it's a central question of politics in the packinghouse industry in Iowa."

The increased censorship against Curtis is an attempt by the prison authorities, said Gaige, "to make each prisoner an island. The goal is to keep the world out of the prison, to turn your eyes away from the political struggles and social battles taking place in the world outside."

Celia Pugh, an engineering worker in Britain, and Erik Dahlrot, a Curtis supporter from Sweden and a worker at a truck factory, chaired the meeting.

Dahlrot told the meeting about

the extensive Curtis support activities that have taken place in Sweden, pointing out that Swedish union magazines were among the materials denied to Curtis under the ban on non-English language literature.

Greetings were sent to the meeting from the El Salvador Solidarity Campaign Executive Committee and the North Staffs Miners Wives.

A campaign to introduce the Mark Curtis defense fight to the University of Chicago campus culminated in a meeting of 35 people on May 25.

The speak-out was initiated by the Committee Assembled in Unity and Solidarity with El Salvador (CAUSE), a campus organization. In the weeks leading up to the meeting, CAUSE activists and other

Curtis supporters:

- Won approval from the student government for a \$350 speaker's fee and travel expenses for Hazel Zimmerman, secretary of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, to address the meeting.

- Spoke about the case to other student groups, leading to endorsements for the meeting from a campus feminist group called Shakti, and from the University of Chicago chapters of the Democratic Socialists of America and the Divinity Students for Responsible Action.

- Wrote an extensive article for the campus newspaper on the frame-up of Curtis.

- Distributed hundreds of leaflets from Curtis defense tables set up on campus.

Arjun Guneratne of CAUSE chaired the meeting. Speaking were Bill Behrend, Curtis' uncle and a divinity student in Chicago; and Susan O'Neal, feminist and Curtis supporter; as well as Zimmerman.

In response to an appeal by the defense committee leader, nearly everyone at the meeting signed a protest statement to the warden at Anamosa against the denial of non-English language literature.

"The case of Mark Curtis in general and the new twist on his right to read dramatize the true outlook of the dominant sections of the U.S. ruling class," wrote Frank Rosen, president of United Electrical Workers District Council 11, in a statement to the meeting.

"It is part of their campaign to strengthen the mechanisms they will need to throttle the inevitable protests that will take place as the full impact of the true instability of the U.S. economy is visited upon more and more Americans."

Rob Jones from London and Don Davis from Chicago contributed to this column.

Fabrications spice U.S. media coverage of China

False reports of Cuba, Nicaragua, and Vietnam governments backing massacre

BY SELVA NEBBIA

As newspapers here carried front-page photos of the June 4 massacre of hundreds of Chinese students, a brief article appeared in the June 8 *New York Times* that stated, "Cuba has aligned itself squarely with the Chinese leaders, attributing the bloodshed in Beijing to 'counterrevolutionaries' seeking to topple the Government." The article was a Reuters dispatch from Havana.

A few days later, on June 12, a *Wall Street Journal* editorial stated, "Nicaragua, with Cuba and Vietnam, constituted the only countries in the world to approve the Chinese Communists' slaughter of the students in Tiananmen Square."

Other news media also repeated similar reports. Both CBS and NBC television stations mentioned these stories in their nightly network news programs.

But, what was reported as "news" turned out to be fabrications cut from whole cloth.

On June 7 Vietnam's United Nations mission issued a press release quoting a spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry. "Answering questions of the Vietnam News Agency about reports by CBS television and a number of other Western televisions and radios that Vietnam supported the actions of the Chinese government against the demonstration in Beijing, he said, 'These are sheer fabrications. Vietnam has never expressed its attitude in this matter.'"

"Asked about Vietnam's position, he said, 'This is an internal question of China. The bloodshed is regrettable. It is hoped that the situation in China will soon return to normal.'"

What about the Cuban government's position on the massacre of Chinese students?

In a phone interview on June 16, Clinton Adlum, from the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C., said, "The Cuban government has not made any declarations on this matter nor have any Cuban leaders referred to it in their speeches. The Cuban media has carried the various press reports on the events from Associated Press, UPI, and others, as well as statements made by Chinese officials."

Explaining the possible source of the statements attributed to Cuba on the Chinese events, Adlum said, "It seems that there are some who are interested in tarnishing our image by linking us to a massacre of this type."

The Cuban news media also reported the statements made by the Soviet government as well as those of U.S. President George Bush on the massacre of Chinese students.

A June 11 Havana report from the French news service Agence France-Presse stated, "Up to now, the Cuban government has refrained from commenting on the demonstrations in Beijing and other Chinese cities and the repression carried out by the army."

When the reports on Vietnam, Cuba, and Nicaragua first appeared, Alexander Cockburn, a columnist for *the Nation* and *L.A. Weekly*, and a contributor to the *Wall Street Journal*, attempted to track down their source.

In a column in the June 15 *Journal* titled "Nicaragua, Vietnam and Cuba Praise China? Dead Wrong," Cockburn concluded: "The stories were dead wrong, as any journalist

without the predisposition to believe anything bad about these three ranking members of the official U.S. hate list should have suspected."

AP story

Cockburn traced the story on Nicaragua to a June 5 Associated Press dispatch from Tokyo by Eric Talmadge. Talmadge's article had reported, "Lonely voices of support for China came from Nicaragua and in an official Vietnamese radio broadcast, which said troops in Beijing were attacked by hooligans and ruffians and were justified in fighting back. Nicaragua's official *Barricada* newspaper quoted Chinese leader's claims that the order to attack avoided chaos and greater bloodshed."

When Cockburn's assistant reached Talmadge in Tokyo to ask about his source, he said that the sentence about Nicaragua had been added in New York. The AP New York office would not say who added the lines.

At one point AP said that the material on Nicaragua was probably not filed by their bureau in Managua, but that "what may have happened" was that "an editor wrote a transition that wasn't accurate."

"Some transition," writes Cockburn. *Barricada*, the daily newspaper of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, gave prominent coverage to the Chinese student demonstrations from their outbreak in May.

Following the June 4 massacre, the FSLN paper carried a press release issued by the National Union of Nicaraguan Students (UNEN) and signed by the organization's newly elected president, María Ramírez.

The UNEN statement read, "Nicaraguan

university students can find no reason for an action of this nature against university students who were asking that their demands receive attention. The concerns of youth cannot be met with indiscriminate repression. . . . The military response that was given to the demands of the Chinese students does not resolve doubts, does not resolve concerns, does not placate demands. Just the contrary."

The only official response to the massacre coming from the Nicaraguan government was a brief reference in a June 9 speech given by President Daniel Ortega to an international conference of ecologists held in Managua. He said, "We cannot applaud the violence in the countries of Asia, as in China."

Cockburn reports that on June 13 "AP issued a correction saying that its June 5 story about *Barricada* had been 'erroneous' and then quoted Mr. Ortega" in terms similar to the remarks quoted above.

"Amid scrutiny of their reporting, one editor at AP said grumpily that he was getting so many calls that he was beginning to think there was some kind of 'conspiracy' to get AP," said Cockburn. "I'm against conspiracy theories myself, but figure for yourself who in this case has the most legitimate call on the notion of conspiracy."

"President Bush," adds Cockburn, "readies himself to urge Congress to give the CIA carte blanche to interfere covertly in Nicaragua's internal affairs in the months before its elections. U.S. government officials circulate any dirt about Nicaragua they can dream up. Into this charged atmosphere comes the AP, throwing Nicaragua into the worst possible light."

Cuban gov't arrests general, officials on corruption charges

BY SELVA NEBBIA

On June 14 the Ministry of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) reported that Division Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa Sánchez had been arrested and placed under investigation "for serious crimes of corruption and dishonest handling of financial resources."

Ochoa, who was awarded the medal of the Hero of the Republic of Cuba in 1984, led several military delegations to Ethiopia over the past 10 years. He also served in Angola.

Speaking on the occasion of the 28th anniversary of Cuba's western regional army on June 14, Raúl Castro, minister of the armed forces of Cuba, said that Ochoa's behavior was "incompatible with the principles of a communist and with the higher responsibilities due to the homeland, the people and the party — incompatible in other words, with the ethical conduct of a general of our Revolutionary Armed Forces."

Six other high-ranking members of the FAR and of the Ministry of the Interior were also arrested. So were Diocles Torralbas, minister of transportation and vice-president of the Council of Ministers, and Idalberto Gálvez Richardson, a functionary of Publicitur, the Cuban agency in charge of tourism.

A June 16 editorial in *Granma*, the newspaper of the Communist Party of Cuba, explained the arrests. The editorial singled out the arrest of Ochoa as being "much more serious and complex" than the others.

Ochoa was able to influence and corrupt a number of officers who worked closely with him in the armed forces, the editorial states. He "involved them in his illicit activities, and instead of informing the top military command, they became his accomplices."

Due to his rank, influence, and the tasks he was assigned to, Ochoa was also able to develop close relationships with a group of officials from the Ministry of the Interior (MININT), said *Granma*, "some of whom carried out important assignments, and who, like Ochoa, had obviously fallen into a state of moral corruption."

The Communist Party paper explains that the Ministry of the Army (MINFAR) had repeatedly called to order and criticized Ochoa for his tendency to concern himself with "matters that did not pertain to his military duties. He always justified this," *Granma* states, "by saying it was necessary to promote commercial operations to contribute resources that would help Cuba fulfill its internationalist commitments."

And "while at no time were his [Ochoa's] military abilities questioned," the armed forces assigned Division Gen. Leopoldo Cintrás Frias to the Southern Front command in Angola, to "guarantee 100 percent

the success of our troops' military operations in Angola."

Moreover, the Cuban army chief of staff "followed day by day, and hour by hour" the developments and every important military decision that had to be made in Angola, "in close collaboration with the Angolan command and with the leadership of the Cuban troops" in Angola.

"In fact," explained the editorial, "Ochoa was mainly involved in other tasks of the Cuban military operations in Angola." Thus, his "obsessive preoccupation" with economic aspects "could in no way influence military developments."

"As soon as a peace agreement was reached, he was returned to Cuba, leaving the complex and difficult task of following through with the Cuban implementation of the accord and the gradual and progressive withdrawal of our troops in the hands of Division Gen. Leopoldo Cintrás."

Since his "known shortcomings" at that point didn't prevent him from taking on important assignments in the Revolutionary Armed Forces, Ochoa had been considered for the position of head of the Western Army. Cuba has three regional armies — eastern, central, and western.

"But rumors and information, from various sources, about serious moral irregularities in Ochoa's conduct and the possible misuse of resources led to the postponement of his being put forward for the new position and to a thorough but discreet verification of this information," continued *Granma*.

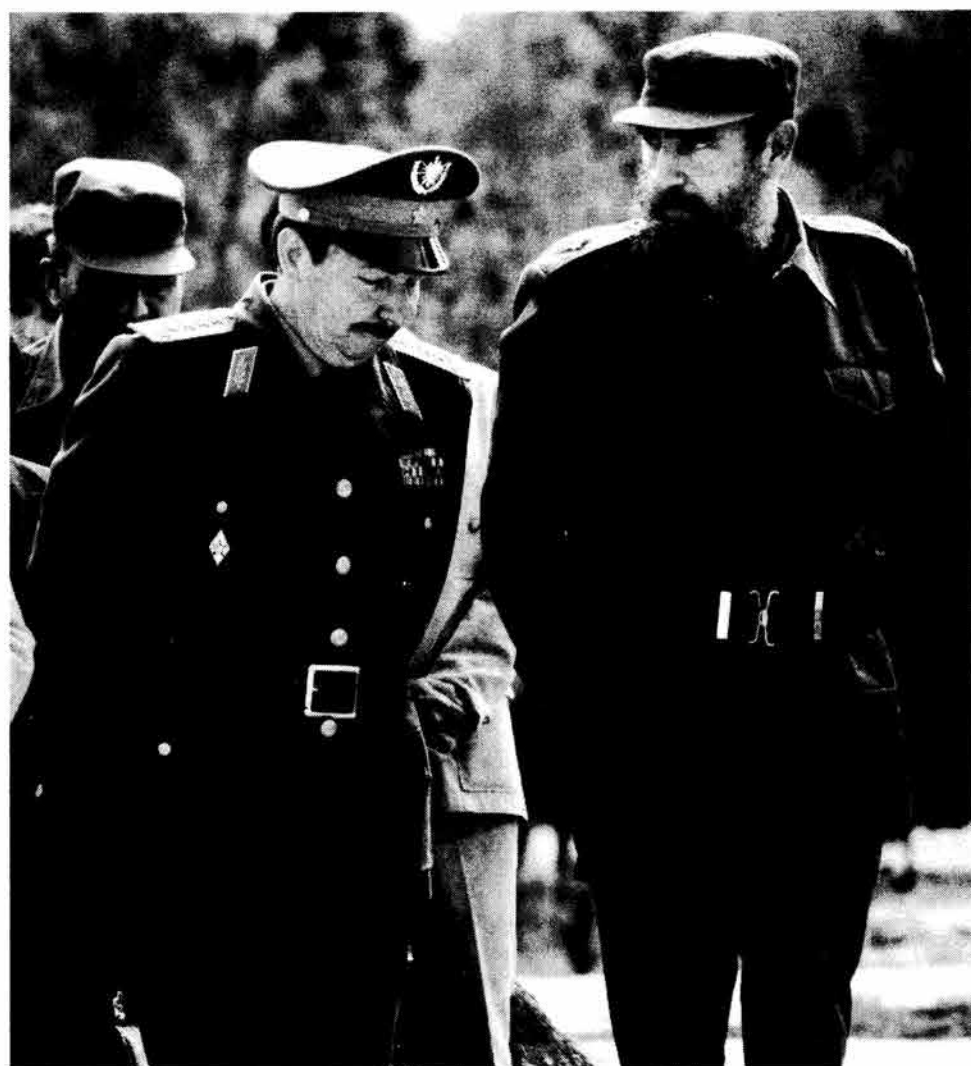
The results of the initial investigation shed enough light on the facts "to make the forthright, although painful, decision to arrest him and to inform the people as a whole of this fact, who understandably received the news with surprise and grief."

"The seriousness of the facts indicated the need to carry out an exhaustive and thorough investigation and to bring it to an Honor Tribunal corresponding to his rank, according to the norms of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and all the legal procedures in the case."

The editorial points out that "at no time had there been the slightest evidence that Arnaldo Ochoa and the small group of people of the MINFAR and the MININT had been involved in any political activity or any acts of treason against the revolution."

"Their treason has been of another and very serious type: against the morality, principles, laws, and prestige of our revolution, of our glorious and heroic Revolutionary Armed Forces, and of the combatants of the Ministry of the Interior. This type of treason sooner or later always leads to political treason."

Among the concrete charges against Ochoa are the misuse, embezzlement, and



Gianfranco Gorgoni, reprinted by permission of Pathfinder Press
Raúl Castro, left, Cuba's minister of armed forces, with head of state Fidel Castro. Acts of Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa were "incompatible with principles of a communist," Raúl Castro said.

squandering of hard currency, and a "disproportionate eagerness to accumulate and manage funds."

"Furthermore," adds the editorial, "there is something that is much more serious and has no precedent in the history of the revolution: Ochoa and some functionaries of the Ministry of the Interior connected with him made contacts with international drug traders, reached agreements, attempted to — and in fact possibly did — cooperate in some drug trafficking operations in the vicinity of our national territory."

"The investigations are now directed to this extremely serious aspect, which might have provided a basis for the insidious campaigns of imperialism against the Cuban revolution. The public, both nationally and internationally, will be broadly informed of everything that confirms this."

The others arrested were: Capt. Jorge Martínez Valdés and Col. Antonio

Rodríguez Estupiñán, both assistants to Ochoa and members of the MINFAR. The members of the MININT arrested were Brig. Gen. Patricio de la Guardia Font, Col. Antonio de la Guardia Font, Lt. Col. Alexis Lago Arocha, and Maj. Amado Padrón Trujillo.

"In spite of being extremely surprising and bitter news for our people, these facts show that among people, in matters of morality as well as in physical matters, serious ills can arise. In our homeland absolutely nobody, no matter how great their merits might be, no matter how high their position, can violate the principles and laws of the revolution with impunity."

"There are people who violate these principles and these laws, but the inexorable weight of revolutionary justice will fall on them."

"A true revolution will never permit impunity," concludes the editorial.

Meetings on China in many cities

More than 170 people heard *Militant* editor Doug Jenness speak June 17 in New York City on the student-led protests and government crackdown in China.

The gathering was one of many presentations and discussions on the events in China that have been held in cities across the country, featuring speakers who supported the demands of the Chinese protesters and denounced the massacre in Beijing.

In each area, the meeting was sponsored by the local Militant Labor Forum, established in cities across the United States by distribu-

and Socialist Workers Party speaker Arnold Weissberg, addressed an audience of 50 people. On the following afternoon, McGuire, along with George Johnson of the SWP, spoke to a meeting of more than 40 in Oakland.

In Los Angeles on June 10, Socialist Workers Party National Committee member Betsy Stone spoke about China to well over 50 people, including several activists from organizations in solidarity with El Salvador and Nicaragua.

A wide range of questions were raised by participants in the meetings. Some wanted more information about the history and economic changes taking place in China.

Others asked why the U.S. capitalist media has voiced sympathy with the students' revolt and about the claim that communism is in crisis; whether events in China have anything in common with the shifts taking place in the Soviet Union, Poland, and other countries where capitalism has been overturned; whether capitalism has been restored to China; what can be done in the United States to solidarize with the Chinese students; about the rectification campaign in revolutionary Cuba; and many other questions.

Other meetings about the events in China held under Militant Labor Forum auspices took place June 10 in Seattle; June 17 in Charleston and Morgantown, West Virginia, Miami, Baltimore, Boston, Detroit, and Austin, Minnesota; and June 18 in Cleveland.

In Montréal, Canada, Revolutionary Workers League leader John Steele spoke June 10 to a meeting sponsored by Forum Lutte Ouvrière, organized by supporters of the French-language socialist monthly *Lutte ouvrière*.

The fourth and last article in the series, "Behind Crisis in China," by Fred Feldman, will appear in next week's issue.

tors and other readers of the *Militant* newspaper. The forums sponsor public meetings at which working people, students, and others can hear speakers on a broad range of current topics and discuss freely their views.

Those who heard Jenness included Machinists union members on strike against Eastern Airlines, flight attendants who have walked out in solidarity with them, workers from the Trump Shuttle, and striking workers from the Tavern on the Green, a local restaurant. There were activists present from the Antonio Maceo Brigade and Venceremos Brigade, which organize trips and other forms of solidarity with Cuba.

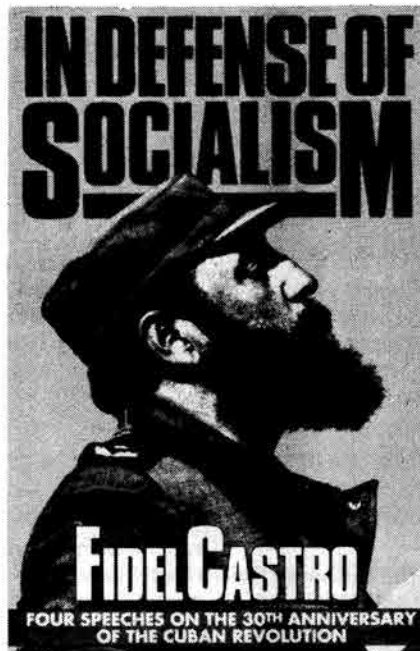
In San Francisco that night, Kevin McGuire, a free-lance journalist who returned from China on June 6 after witnessing the student-led protests and killings by the army,

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June 29 rally set in Baltimore to back strike

The International Association of Machinists struck Eastern Airlines March 4 in an effort to block the company's drive to break the unions and impose massive concessions on workers.

Backed by the 5,900 flight attendants and 3,400 pilots at Eastern, the strike by 8,500 Machinists has crippled the airline's operations since then. It has also

SUPPORT EASTERN STRIKERS!

won broad support from working people in the United States and Canada. Readers — especially Eastern strikers — are encouraged to send news of strike solidarity activities to this column.

Baltimore's first major rally to back the Eastern strikers will take place June 29 at 6:00 p.m. at the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Joint Board building, 1505 Eutaw Place.

The rally is sponsored by IAM Local 846 at Baltimore-Washington

International Airport. The 45 Eastern IAM members on strike at BWI are in that local, which has opened up its hall at the airport for union activists to build the event.

The event is endorsed by the flight attendants' and pilots' unions; ACTWU Joint Board; Metropolitan Baltimore AFL-CIO Council; IAM District 12; and United Steelworkers of America District 8.

United Food and Commercial Workers Local 27 is also backing the rally, and has recently decided to help the Eastern strikers bolster their picket lines. Speakers at the rally will include IAM District 100 President and General Chairman Charlie Bryan and Thomas Russow, president of UFCW Local 27.

At 4:30 p.m. the same day, a union-sponsored picket line will take place at Baltimore's unemployment office to protest Maryland's recent decision to deny Eastern strikers unemployment benefits.

People show their support for the strikers on the picket lines at Miami International Airport in many ways, reports striker Jeff Miller, a member of IAM Local 702 there. Many honk their horns as they drive by. Recently, one man stopped his car and gave the picketers a large bag filled with hamburgers. A nearby restaur-

ant sent over a pot of hot sloppy joes and buns on a cold night during the midnight to 4:00 a.m. shift. One woman stopped her car at the air freight facility and gave the pickets there a plate full of homemade cookies. She works for Pan Am, she told the strikers. On another occasion, a motorist stopped and gave the strikers a check for \$300 for the strike relief fund.

About 200 people attended an Eastern strike solidarity rally held at San Francisco's Union Square June 8. There are 37 striking IAM members in that city.

Machinists' Local 1781 President Jerry Nelson and Central Labor Council head Walter Johnson both urged everyone to attend a strike rally at San Francisco International Airport on July 2, the day Eastern is scheduled to resume flights there.

Ron Johnson, a striker who worked in ramp service, told the rally, "We're going to be there to send them [the flights] off and to greet them." He also reported on support the strike has received from noncontract workers at Eastern, such as ticket agents.

Hotel and restaurant workers, longshoremen, bus drivers, and other unionists participated. Also present were members of locals of

the International Union of Electronic Workers/Furniture Workers Division, including Lonnie Eldridge, president of IUE/FWD Local 376 in Athens, Texas. The 400 members of Local 376 are on strike against wage cuts demanded by Harvey Industries, a television manufacturer.

The Eastern strikers "have good, strong, solid support," said Eldridge, "which is what unionism is about—brother and sister for brother and sister."

"While Harvey Industries is not Frank Lorenzo," he added, "they are in the same league."

The Pennsylvania Labor Department has ruled that Eastern workers were locked out, and can therefore get unemployment benefits retroactive to March, the *AFL-CIO Fairness at Eastern Update* reported May 12. The agency held that workers were locked out when Texas Air Corp. Chairman Frank Lorenzo ordered all IAM members removed from Eastern property on March 3, the morning before the strike started.

More than 1,000 strikers and supporters attended a rally in Miami June 9.

"The fact that so many people are

here on a workday afternoon shows that our line is strong, and we are going to win," Sandra Mickley of the Transport Workers Union told the rally. TWU Local 553 represents flight attendants at Eastern. IAM leader Charlie Bryan and Air Line Pilots Association President Hank Duffy also spoke.

At one point a small plane flew over the crowd with a sign reading "Hold the line 'til '99." Later it was discovered this was a stunt paid for by Eastern, aimed at demoralizing strikers by implying the company didn't care how long they stayed out.

The misguided effort at psychological warfare backfired. The plane simply inspired enthusiastic chants of "Hold that line! Hold that line!"

After the rally, everyone joined a spirited sidewalk march along 36th Street, a heavily traveled road on the north side of Miami International Airport where Eastern's corporate headquarters and maintenance base are located.

Popular support for the strikers was demonstrated by the almost nonstop, ear-splitting honking of horns by passing cars and trucks.

Rashaad Ali from Baltimore, Kathleen Denny from San Francisco, and Pete Seidman from Miami contributed to this column.

Atlanta strikers solid in face of Eastern's plans

BY PETER THIERJUNG

ATLANTA — Flying into Hartsfield International Airport here the first thing one sees is dozens of grounded jets on the tarmac of the Eastern Airlines maintenance base. The huge employee parking lot nearby is almost empty.

Inside the airport, whole sections of Eastern's terminal are shut down. There is only a trickle of passengers. The strike by Machinists' union members, flight attendants, and pilots in this southern hub is solid.

Atlanta is a major target for Eastern's strikebreaking plans. From a high point of about 300 daily flights before the strike, only 21 now get off the ground every day. Picketing pilots report that flights are at 60 percent of passenger capacity. They estimate Eastern is losing almost \$2,000 per flight.

'Militant' reporters to speak at forums on Eastern strike

Roni McCann and Peter Thierjung will be featured speakers at Militant Labor Forums in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area June 24. They recently joined the *Militant* staff and have been currently reporting on Eastern strike activities in Miami, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C.

The forums are entitled, "The Stakes in the Strike at Eastern Airlines." In Los Angeles, the meeting featuring McCann will be held at 2546 West Pico Boulevard at 7:30 p.m.

The Bay Area forum will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Humanist Society, 411 28th Street (between Telegraph and Broadway), in Oakland. In addition to Thierjung, striking Machinists Local 1781 member Jeff Bettencourt will be speaking, along with Jerri Pourmand, a flight attendant and member of Transport Workers Union Local 553, who is also on strike at Eastern.

After the forums, there will be social events to send off McCann and Thierjung, who have been leading socialist political activists in Los Angeles and Oakland respectively, to their new roles as *Militant* reporters based in New York. The socials will raise funds for the *Militant*.

For more information, in Los Angeles, call (213) 380-9460; in Oakland, (415) 420-1165; and in San Francisco, (415) 282-6255.

Despite the losses, Eastern's announced goal for Atlanta is to increase the number of flights to 82 by July 2. Scab pilots, mechanics, and other employees — freed up from the sale of Eastern's northeast shuttle to Donald Trump — were shipped into Atlanta under guard during the second week of June.

Eastern has slashed fares to entice travelers and launched a big media campaign. Applications for new employees are being sought by the airline. The carrier is trying to give the appearance that the strike is over.

This challenge has only stiffened the resolve of the strikers.

On June 14 pilots — along with Machinists and flight attendants — organized a picket of almost 250 strikers and family members at the Eastern terminal. Members and officials of the United Food and Commercial Workers union and Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union also joined the picket line. Informational literature on the strike was passed out to arriving and departing passengers. "The strike is not over," was the picket line's message.

Pickets leaflet ticket counter

Inside the airport, pickets regularly leaflet Eastern's ticket counter and are visible in terminal concourses and at hiring points. Pickets are also posted outside at the terminal entrances.

"If you really believe in something, you have to fight for it," said one flight attendant. "You can't just give up." Others agreed.

"The cupboards are getting empty, but we won't go back," said one International Association of Machinists member. "The support we're getting is helping us stay strong." Only nine of the 2,400 IAM members in Atlanta have crossed the picket line to work for Eastern.

Several connected tents resembling a military field camp are located across the street from the maintenance base. "Tent City" is the IAM command center where picketing is organized. Phones, charts, bulletin boards, radios, meeting areas, a makeshift kitchen, and an outdoor stage for rallies are set up there. A van shuttles pickets to and from this command center to locations at the terminal.

Visitors and strike supporters are welcomed here. Contributions for the strike of any kind are logged. Thank-you letters are sent to all who contribute, one striker said.

'Welcome, noncontract workers'

A banner reading "Welcome noncontract workers" is draped across the front of tent city. Eastern's move to slash wages and increase hours of noncontract workers, such as

Southern hub is target for airline's strikebreaking.

gate agents and clerical employees, has met with resistance here. These workers have begun to organize a letter-writing campaign to protest their working conditions. The letters are aimed at the bankruptcy court in New York that is overseeing Eastern's bankruptcy proceedings. The three striking unions have given office space and telephones to noncontract workers so that they can organize.

Down the street from tent city, flight attendants and pilots share a 'hospitality suite' in an office building. This is where their participation in picket lines is organized.

The Machinists' union hall, located several

minutes away from the airport, is where IAM members and flight attendants have organized a food bank. An IAM official explained to visitors that one reason Texas Air Corp. Chairman Frank Lorenzo took Eastern to bankruptcy court was to starve out the strikers. But food bank activists and strike supporters from across the country are making sure Eastern doesn't succeed. More than 800 IAM strikers and nearly 200 flight attendants are signed up to receive food from the Atlanta food bank.

Aside from local donations of food, contributions in enormous quantities have been received from as far away as Michigan, Ohio, and Texas. Independent truckers have donated their time and rigs to get the food to Atlanta. Sometimes the Machinists' union rents a truck to pick up food contributions. Surplus food is distributed to strikers at smaller Eastern stations in Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, and other parts of Georgia.

Omaha: scab hiring session picketed



Militant/Diane Shur

OMAHA, Neb.—A dozen unionists picketed the Embassy Suites Hotel here June 9 to persuade people not to apply for strikebreaking jobs at Eastern. About half of the 40 or so applicants who came decided not to go in after talking with pickets. Three Eastern strikers — two flight attendants and a pilot — helped leaflet and talk to prospective applicants. The action, which was covered by local TV and radio, was sponsored by the Omaha Central Labor Council.

Eastern strikers call protests

Bigger picket lines, rallies to answer Lorenzo's plans

Continued from front page

building the action, DeMaria added.

In **Philadelphia** Machinists Local 1776 strike coordinator Phil Harris says the strikers there will be organizing expanded picket line activity on July 2.

The six Eastern IAM strikers in **Seattle**, with the help of other unionists and the King County Central Labor Council, are planning to petition passengers on June 30 to get pledges of support for the unions' boycott of Continental. On July 2 — the day Eastern plans to resume flights to Seattle to hook up with Continental's new route to Tokyo — strikers will be organizing stepped-up picketing and leafleting.

In **Milwaukee** unionists are planning a noontime rally at Mitchell International Airport on July 2, the day several Eastern flights are supposed to start up there. Representatives of some 10 unions met June 19 to get the ball rolling on the event. There are no Eastern strikers based in Milwaukee; picketing of Continental gates is being done mainly by unionists from Northwest, United, and other airlines.

Strike supporters in **Washington, D.C.**, are organizing a "Women's Day on the Picket Line" for Sunday, June 25, starting at 1:00 p.m., at National Airport. The National Organization for Women, Coalition of Labor Union Women, Communications Workers of America Local 2336, and National Association of Letter Carriers are building the event, along with the strikers.

Eastern says it aims to have 390 flights in the air by August 1 by hiring and training new pilots, mechanics, and other personnel.

With the walkout solid throughout the country, however, strikers doubt that Lorenzo can make these projections. Ex-

to sell \$1.8 billion in assets in order to raise needed cash.

On June 14 the bankruptcy court overseeing Eastern's Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings approved the sale of 15 aircraft and six engines for \$277.5 million to UAS Investment, Inc., a company that buys and resells airline equipment. Lorenzo took Eastern into bankruptcy five days after the strike started. Earlier, the court had approved the sale of the shuttle.

On June 16 Midway Airlines agreed to pay \$206.5 million for Eastern's Philadelphia gates, landing rights, and Canadian routes. If approved by the bankruptcy court, the deal will also include 16 aircraft, and landing rights at La Guardia Airport in New York and National Airport near Washington, D.C.

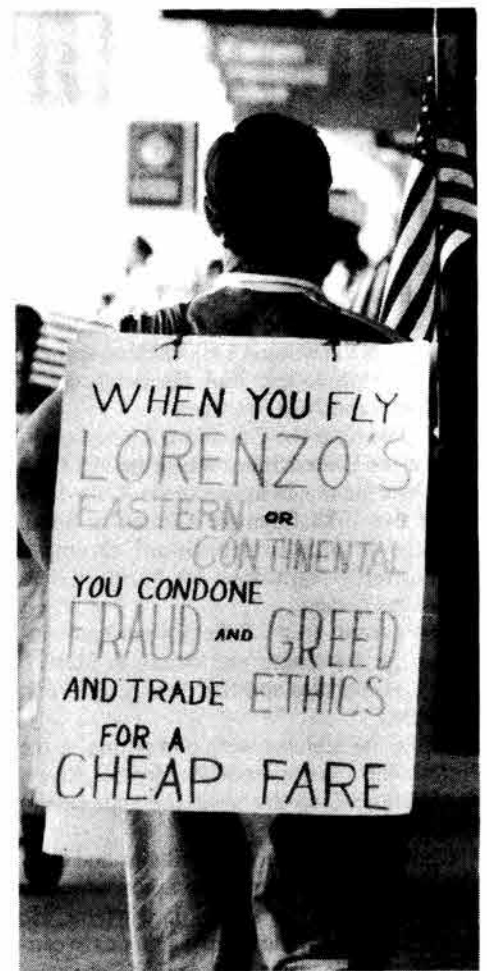
Officials of the IAM, ALPA, and TWU oppose the sale of these assets because, they say, it will make it more difficult to find someone to buy what remains of Eastern. They are hoping to revive Chicago commodities speculator Joseph Ritchie's bid for the airline. This is despite Lorenzo's statement that he has no intention to sell Eastern and despite the bankruptcy court's decision not to accept Ritchie's offer. Bankruptcy

examiner David Shapiro reiterated June 14 that "there is no viable bid" for the airline.

Ritchie's proposal to buy the airline involves wage and benefit cuts from the unions of more than \$400 million. In addition to \$210 million in concessions agreed to in an earlier buyout attempt, Ritchie demanded up to \$200 million more in wage and benefit cuts and work rule "savings" during the first six months of operations, if the carrier did not make sufficient profits. The Machinists' and pilots' unions, and the AFL-CIO, had also agreed to put up \$75 million to help Ritchie make the deal.

Ritchie himself, over the telephone, told a pilots' meeting in New York June 19 that if he bought the airline and did not make a profit — despite the massive concessions demanded from union members — he would downsize the airline along the lines currently being proposed by Lorenzo.

Meanwhile, Machinists District 100 officials report that a tentative agreement has been reached with Trump for IAM members working at the shuttle. Copies of the contract are being mailed to locals to discuss and vote on by June 29. The Machinists there have been working without a contract since June 7.



Militant/Maceo Dixon
One of 250 strikers and supporters at Atlanta airport picket line, June 14.

A visit to Boston on Trump Shuttle

BY SUSAN LaMONT

ABOARD THE AIR SHUTTLE BETWEEN BOSTON AND NEW YORK, June 19 — At 10:00 a.m. this morning, I flew from New York's La Guardia Airport to Logan Airport in Boston on the Trump Shuttle. Now I'm headed home.

The shuttle is something of an institution in the heavily trafficked Northeast Corridor, especially for the businesspeople who make up the bulk of the passengers. The hourly flights to and from both Boston and Washington, D.C., out of the shuttle terminal at La Guardia require no reservations. For \$99 you're guaranteed a seat, even if they have to roll out another plane — at least so they say.

New York financier Donald Trump recently acquired the New York-Boston-Washington shuttle from strike-bound Eastern Airlines for \$365 million. Operations were restarted June 8, and about 800 Machinists union members, flight attendants, and pilots who had been on strike at Eastern are now working for Trump.

When I got to the shuttle terminal this morning, I could see it had been largely done over, with "Trump" signs replacing the old "Eastern" ones in most spots. The planes I saw, however, remain hybrids — the silver and blue Eastern colors are still there, only with big red letters spelling "Trump" painted over the old Eastern name. Trump had pressed Machinists and flight attendants to "volunteer" for a few days, without pay, to help get the planes and terminals refurbished before the startup.

Trump plans to spend \$2 million per plane redecorating the 21-plane fleet he got in the shuttle deal. One flight attendant expressed concern that with all that money spent on leather seats and such, little will be left over to guarantee decent wages for the shuttle workers.

Flight attendants and pilots at Trump are currently working under six-month agreements that are supposed to be the same as those at Eastern before the strike started. Pilots, however, have agreed to a 90-day relaxation of work rules.

Shortly after they started working, flight attendants at La Guardia were told that they wouldn't be paid until July 15. The attendants were outraged and fired off a fax to Trump himself, demanding to be paid. The next day, Trump management told them it was all a misunderstanding — their first checks would be coming June 20. They did.

Meanwhile, Machinists union members at the shuttle still haven't seen a contract proposal, although union officials say one is on the way.

'Like your button'

I had barely sat down and fastened my seatbelt this morning when a flight attendant walked by and smiled. "Like your button," she said quietly, referring to the "Stop Lorenzo" button pinned on my jacket. "I like it a lot."

A few moments later, another flight attendant knelt beside my seat to say how good it was to see someone wearing that button on board. The first flight attendant came over, and we started talking about what it was like for them to be back at work. "Things seem to be okay," at the shuttle, one said, "at least for now." The crew on that flight lives in Boston; they make two round-trip flights a day, four days a week.

When we landed in Boston, I walked through the terminal, which was dark and empty except for the gates used by the shuttle. There have been no regular Eastern flights there since the strike started in March.

The strikers are only allowed to have a few pickets in front of the terminal doors; the rest of the pickets have to stay by the edge of the parking lot and departures ramp. When I got there, several of the pickets were pilots who had gotten off the previous shuttle flight.

In Boston the strikers' headquarters is located in International Association of Machinists Local 1726's hall in East Boston, not far from the airport. It was bustling.

Strike activists Ann Gallagher, a Transport Workers Union member from Eastern, and Kip Hedges, an IAM Local 1726 member from Northwest Airlines, showed me around.

Out on the parking lot, a volunteer was working in the food bank, which is set up in the trailer of a semi. A crew had just left to go shopping. Next week, Gallagher said, Teamsters union members are driving down from

Portland, Maine, with 1,000 10-pound bags of potatoes for the strikers' food bank, donated by farmers in that state.

Trump flight attendant Marilyn Ciardiello, who worked at Eastern for more than 14 years, was talking with some strikers near the food bank. She described what it was like to go back to work after three months on strike. "The pickets were still up at the terminal, so we were very upset," she recalled. She described the return to work as "bittersweet," and stressed the need to continue fighting for all the strikers to get back to work. Meanwhile, she hopes that Trump will be better to work for than Texas Air Corp. Chairman Frank Lorenzo.

Upstairs in the strike headquarters is a kitchen and meeting room. This afternoon a group of flight attendants was sitting around a table, filling out forms to indicate what they are owed by Eastern in back pay for overtime, vacations, expenses, and so on from before the strike started. These were for the bankruptcy proceedings Eastern is involved in.

Downstairs, a steady stream of strikers came in and out of the offices and meeting rooms. When I was there, the busiest part of the hall was the office the IAM has donated to the TWU for use by the flight attendants.

There are about 1,300 IAM members in Local 1726. Vice-president Bob Turcotte explained. About 350 are Eastern strikers; the rest work for Trans World Airlines, USAir, Northwest, and other carriers.

Still show solidarity

Some of the 60 or so IAM members who went to work at Trump in Boston signed over their last week's strike benefits to the strike fund, Turcotte said, and many have been out on the picket line.

Both Gallagher and Turcotte expressed confidence in the strike's strength and ability to weather Lorenzo's threat to start up more flights.

Strikers in Boston were discussing the possibility of Chicago commodities speculator Joseph Ritchie buying Eastern, despite the bankruptcy judge's June 5 decision not to accept his offer. Some of the strikers still have hopes that this offer may somehow come through and be one that union members could live with.

Back at Logan, I had a chance to speak briefly with Trump flight attendant Gertrude Cowan before getting on the 3:00 p.m. shuttle to New York. "It feels good to be back at work," she said, "but of course I have mixed feelings."

"The strike has given me a chance to spread my wings," Cowan explained. She attended the big April 9 prochoice demonstration in Washington, D.C., and has spoken before various groups in the Boston area about the issues in the unions' fight at Eastern. She plans to stay active in the strike, she said.

Actions from Seattle to Milwaukee will greet resumed flights.

panded strike activity is aimed at keeping those flights that do take off as empty as possible.

On June 20, ALPA reports, there were 80 flights. Most of these have been able to start up because Eastern transferred personnel who had been working on the New York-Boston-Washington, D.C., shuttle over to regular flights after the shuttle restarted under Donald Trump's ownership June 8. Before the strike began, Eastern flew 1,640 flights daily to more than 100 cities.

The carrier has cut fares sharply to try to lure passengers onto the new flights. These money-losing flights have drawn some more passengers, strikers report.

In April Lorenzo announced plans to restart Eastern — which has been virtually paralyzed since the strike began — as a smaller, nonunion carrier. Part of the plan is

500 at Los Angeles rally

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

LOS ANGELES — The largest solidarity rally held here to back the Eastern strikers since the walkout began March 4 took place June 17 at Los Angeles International Airport — LAX. Some 500 workers from more than 20 unions rallied in an airport parking lot and marched to Terminal 6, home of both Eastern and Continental airlines.

The action was organized by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and the L.A./Orange County Organizing Committee of the AFL-CIO.

A sizable contingent of marchers were United Teachers of Los Angeles members, whose recent nine-day strike ended in a victory for the union. UTLA Vice-president Marv Katz told the crowd that the teachers could not have won "without the support of all the unions." He urged the unionists present to "do the same" for the Eastern strike, to "stay together, fight together."

Another union facing strike action is the Communications Workers of America. CWA leader "T" Santora told the rally that CWA

officials are recommending rejection of a contract offer from GTE telephone company. "We may be calling on you," he said.

International Association of Machinists members from District 720 at McDonnell Douglas aerospace plants organized a contingent for the LAX rally, as did a number of other IAM districts. Garment workers, auto workers, paperworkers, electronic workers, farm workers, Teamsters, and members of other unions also were there. A group of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union members brought a large donation of food for the strikers.

Greg Amodei, IAM chief steward at Eastern, spoke at the rally. Since the strike began in March, no Eastern planes have tried to fly out of LAX. But the carrier plans to try to change that on July 2, Amodei pointed out, when the "new Eastern Airlines" will begin service. The labor movement should do "whatever is necessary" to keep Eastern shut down, he said.

A leaflet distributed at the demonstration by the Eastern strikers urged unionists to come out to the airport again July 2.

Cuban athletes compete in Oregon

BY JANET POST

EUGENE, Ore. — Four members of Cuba's track and field team competed with athletes from 12 other countries here at the Prefontaine Classic on June 3. From Cuba were Ana Fidelia Quirot, ranked the fastest in the world at the women's 800 meters; sprinter Roberto Hernández; and discus throwers Luis Delis and Juan Martínez.

The last time the Cuban track team competed in the United States was at the 1987 Pan American Games in Indianapolis. Cuba boycotted the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul because of the International Olympic Committee's refusal to let North Korea cohost the games.

The current tour of the Cuban team includes the meet here and others in Mexico City; Los Angeles and San Jose, California; and Spain.

While the athletes were competing in the Prefontaine Classic, coaches Hermes Riverí and Leandro Civil discussed the approach to sports in Cuba.

Civil is a former Olympic finalist and Central American 800-meter champion who currently teaches high school in Havana. He compared the attitude toward athletics in capitalist countries with that found in Cuba.

"In Cuba, the main objective of participation in sports is the health of the people," Civil stated. "The main objective of international competitions is solidarity with other countries. In capitalist countries, the main objective is to make money."

The coach explained that the Cuban government, the sports committees, and the universities work together to politically and financially support the athletes. "Athletic practice is free; medical attention is free; food, books, and university attendance is free," Civil explained.

Another issue discussed was the recent controversial proposal by the National Collegiate Athletic Association in the United States to deny athletic scholarships to students with low academic achievement test scores. Opponents point out that the tests are culturally biased and that the potential ruling would discriminate against minority athletes and those from poor school districts.

Not a problem in Cuba

When asked about the proposal, Civil responded, "This is a difficult question for me to answer, because we don't have that problem in Cuba. Everyone should have the right to study — the child of an engineer or the child of a coal miner. In Cuba, everybody has the same right to study. This is a problem of the capitalist system. There is no chance of equality in a system that is unequal."

Civil noted that athletes in Cuba, like all students, take aptitude tests before entering the universities. "I'm going to give you an example," he said. "You are a student, but not an athlete. You score five points above me. I'm an athlete, so I have to put a lot of time into practice. I can be given five points for being such a good athlete. So you and I will be on the same scale. We are each given five points for what we do well."

"We have an education system that is integral. In our system, we need different kinds of expertise. We need people who are expert engineers, expert lawyers, and we need athletes."

In August of 1991, the Pan American Games are scheduled to be held in Cuba. In the tradition of Cuban athletics since the rev-

olution, there will be no admission charge to the events for the Cuban people.

José Ramón Fernández, president of the Organizing Committee of the Havana '91 Pan American Games, stated in the Cuban newspaper *Granma*, "Our country has established the principle that sports is a right of the people and they are entitled to practice sports massively and do so free of charge, and I don't think we should change this."

Tourists from other countries will be charged a small amount to attend the events, but the Ministry of Education is working to minimize visitors' expenses by providing some housing at area schools.

Fernández also explained that preparations for the games will be modest. He told *Granma*, "We do not plan to compete with Munich, Montreal, or other big cities that have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on vainglorious games. And this is so with us not just because we lack the resources — even if we had them we'd do the same."

At the Eugene meet, Cuban discus coach Hermes Riverí agreed that preparations for the upcoming Pan American Games would be "humble," and yet "organized to make the athletes feel at home."

Preparing 'best games we can offer'

"We are constructing an Olympic stadium, a velodrome, and five tennis courts," he reported. "We have completed a route for canoeing and accommodations for basketball. We are going to be ready to have the best games we can offer to the American continent to show the Cuban revolution and its socialist advancement. We can show that a country that does not have a lot of money can sponsor the Pan American Games and fulfill its objective."

Riverí added, "As a matter of fact, all the installations and the hotels that are being built for the Pan American Games are going to be given to the Cuban people after the games are over."

At the Classic, Roberto Hernández placed first in the men's 200 meter race. Luis Delis placed second in the discus, and Juan Martínez came in third.

Ana Fidelia Quirot set a meet record, which was also the fastest time in the world

this year for the women's 400 meter at 50.14 seconds.

After her race, Quirot was asked if there were any sports that Cuban women preferred. She started to list a few such as basketball and volleyball. But as the list grew longer, she laughed and said, "No, we enjoy and participate in every sport. Athletics are for all the people of Cuba, men and women alike."

Quirot was named "best Cuban athlete" in 1987 and 1988.



Roberto Hernández, left, winning the 200-meter race at Prefontaine Classic in Eugene, Oregon.

Militant photos by Janet Post

Nicaragua collective farm fights for land

BY JUDY WHITE

TIPITAPA, Nicaragua — "Before this, we thought that no one could touch the collective farms and cooperatives," said Amulfo Pichardo. Pichardo is a field organizer for the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG) in Tipitapa. "Now that they have touched the first one, we see things differently."

He was speaking about a recent struggle here between the small peasants who belong to the Juan José Urbina collective farm, on one hand, and Mario Hannón, one of Nicaragua's biggest capitalist farmers, and the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Reform (MIDINRA) on the other.

The struggle in Tipitapa broke out in November 1988, when MIDINRA announced it was going to take 200 of the 1,000 acres the 10 partners of the collective farm were using for their cattle ranch and turn it over to Hannón.

Permit to work land

The group had received a five-year authorization to work the land from MIDINRA in 1986, but held no title to it.

When MIDINRA granted the permit, the ranchers were told that if they did not work the land efficiently, it would be taken back. "That was the pretext they used in November," explained Roberto Ramírez Domínguez, president of the collective farm.

It was not true that the land was lying idle, Ramírez stated. "We have 300 head of cattle on our land, and we have made improvements there."

"MIDINRA had taken 100 acres from Hannón in another area, and they offered to give him our land in return," he continued. But Hannón would not accept this, demanding more land until, in April, the ministry ended up giving him half of the ranchers' land.

MIDINRA promised to pay the collective farm for the improvements they had made to the land. "But two months have passed, and we haven't seen anything," noted Ramírez.

Nor did MIDINRA offer the partners another plot of land to compensate for the 500 acres they turned over to Hannón. "We were faced with having to kill off a good part of our herd," the president of the collective farm reported.

However, due to the efforts of UNAG in the region and to the solidarity of small peasants in Tipitapa, another collective farm agreed to provide the ranchers with 500 acres

Agrarian reform agency gave land in Tipitapa to capitalist farmer.

of their land. "We are in the process of getting the transfer formalized," Ramírez said.

"The land isn't of the same quality," added Teodoro León, the group's production secretary, "but we had no alternative." In his opinion, "there was no arguing with the facts" once the land had been turned over to Hannón. León noted that the new owner has already planted sorghum on the acreage.

'Fight not over'

The farmers don't consider the fight over, although they lost this round, Ramírez said. "We want to increase the size of our herd," he stated, and for that they will need more land or to plant feed grains on part of what they had been using for pasture.

Pichardo said that "UNAG's relationship

with MIDINRA has changed" as a result of this struggle. "They treat us with more respect now. They have begun to respond to some of our demands. For example, we now have a fulltime technician from the ministry assigned to Tipitapa."

"The cooperatives themselves also learned something," the UNAG field organizer continued. "Before, they expected the professional staff of UNAG to resolve all their problems. Now, they know better. We told them, 'You take the lead on this, and we'll give you support.' That is, UNAG's style of work has changed somewhat through this experience, drawing the farmers themselves more into leading the struggle."

"The peasants learned they have to examine things closely," he continued. "They learned to fight, to speak up. Before, they hardly said anything."

"This collective farm can be an example to others that they shouldn't accept everything the government institutions tell them," Pichardo said, and that the fight for the land does not end when it is distributed under the agrarian reform.

Northwest lumber workers end strike

BY GENE LAWHORN

ROSEBURG, Ore. — The four-month-long strike by lumber workers at 15 Roseburg Forest Products mills in southern Oregon and northern California ended in mid-May.

Workers at the struck mills are organized by two unions: some 3,600 are in the Western Council of Industrial Workers — Lumber & Sawmill Workers and around 900 are in the International Woodworkers of America (IWA). The strike began January 11 after the company refused to back away from concession demands that included wage cuts averaging \$1 an hour.

On May 15, Western Council members voted 1,399 to 1,199 to approve a new contract offer. At the same time, IWA members voted by a 77 percent margin to reject the proposal.

Two days later, the IWA took another vote. This time, 75 percent voted to ratify. "It's as if you were at war," said Woodworkers business agent Verdo Ligon. "If six battalions are out fighting a battle and all of a sudden five leave and you're the only one left, you have to reconsider your position."

If the IWA and Western Council votes had been counted together, the contract would not have been ratified. This was the first split voting by the two unions since they began bargaining jointly in 1963.

When some 1,400 workers from the Roseburg mills in Dillard, Oregon, met the morning of May 15 to vote on the contract proposal, the mood was high-spirited and angry. After the vote was counted, Beverly Ross, chairperson of the food bank committee, said, "We're all very disappointed. A lot of us put our hearts into this strike."

The new four-year contract will run through May 1992. Wage cuts average \$.60 an hour, plus a \$.10 cut in shift differential. Paid holidays were reduced from 12 to nine, and Sunday overtime pay has been eliminated.

A \$1,400 signing bonus offered earlier was excluded. A minor gain was made in the two-tier wage scale in place since 1985: new hires will work their way up to parity with senior employees in one year instead of two.

Gene Lawhorn is a member of WCIW-L&SW Local 2949.



'Best Cuban athlete' Ana Fidelia Quirot.

Growing crisis of apartheid

Interview with Peter Mahlangu, head of ANC in Canada

BY MARGARET MANWARING
AND HEIDI ROSE

TORONTO — The economic and political crisis of the apartheid system in South Africa is growing, said Peter Mahlangu, newly appointed African National Congress representative to Canada, in a recent interview here. But noting Canada's increasing trade with South Africa, he pointed to the need for more effective international solidarity to bring about mandatory sanctions against the South African regime.

Mahlangu once worked at Richard's Bay Minerals in South Africa, owned by a Canadian multinational corporation, Quebec Iron and Titanium (QIT). There he gained firsthand experience of Canada's corporate exploitation of Black labor in South Africa. He said he was paid the equivalent of 38 to 40 Canadian cents an hour.

Mahlangu, who helped to organize a union at QIT, was driven from his job in 1981 after helping to lead major strikes in the area. He then began working fulltime as a union organizer in Durban, South Africa.

Targeted for harassment and persecution by South African authorities, he eventually had to flee to the neighboring Frontline States, where he continued to play an important role in working to unite South Africa's many newly formed independent Black trade unions into one central body, which was later formed as COSATU — the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

In 1986 Mahlangu was selected to come to Canada as the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) coordinator.

Today, under the continued "state of emergency" imposed by the apartheid regime, Mahlangu said, "it is true that coming out and demonstrating on the streets has been stifled by the government. But the [anti-apartheid] movement is still alive and kicking. The people have not stopped defying the government. In June of last year more than 3 million people for three days stayed away from work."

Last year 18 organizations were banned, and COSATU, with a membership exceeding 1 million, was restricted. "But COSATU has had a number of summit meetings," Mahlangu pointed out. Thousands of people have turned up at those meetings, he said, and adopted resolutions that apartheid should go.

Namibian independence struggle

Speaking about the developments in the fight for Namibian independence, Mahlangu pointed to the many common experiences of the South African and Namibian people under apartheid rule, including development of the trade union movement, the churches, and the fraternal ties between the ANC and the South West Africa People's Organisation. "They are our brothers and sisters, and if the Boers [South Africans] are defeated in Namibia it means they are weakened inside our country."

"If we look at the other side," Mahlangu said, "the ruling Nationalist Party in South Africa is in total chaos. More than five senior ministers have resigned."

Mahlangu explained that the apartheid regime faces increasing economic difficulties.

"South African President Pieter Botha has been going around the world calling on bankers and those who identify with apartheid to help them. Yet they say sanctions don't hurt them — and these are very minimal sanctions. If mandatory sanctions can be enforced against South Africa, it won't take a long time before South Africa really feels it."

Role of Canadian government

Commenting on the role of the Canadian government, Mahlangu said, "In 1985 Prime Minister Brian Mulroney was out there as an advocate of sanctions. He made a very famous statement that if South Africa doesn't do anything about its problems, then Canada will impose mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa and go further toward cutting all diplomatic ties. This has not happened. The situation has deteriorated in our country. People are still being killed and detained. Organizations get banned. But we see backtracking

from the Canadian government's commitments."

So-called voluntary sanctions have no effect on trade relations with South Africa, Mahlangu said. "How do you say to a businessman, 'You must stop exploiting the labor of somebody in South Africa'? The main motivation of anybody who starts a business, in my understanding, is profit — so how do you say to a person you must voluntarily not get involved in where you can get as much profit as you want? The sanctions that have been imposed are ridiculous because now we see an increase in trade with South Africa."

"There is also backtracking by the Canadian government on recognition of the ANC," Mahlangu pointed out. "We get told every day that we must renounce what is called violence, that is, the armed struggle. I think if we did that we would become a toothless organization. On the other hand," he said, "we don't get much of a call by these same people demanding that the South African regime renounce racist violence — rather what we get is increased trade."

W. Virginia campaign put socialists 'on map'

BY SELVA NEBBIA

"From the point of view of the socialist campaign, the experience of the Socialist Workers Party in West Virginia was great," said Dick McBride. "People took our campaign seriously. It helped put us on the map."

McBride recently concluded his campaign for City Council in Morgantown, West Virginia. He was one of more than 30 candidates nationally running in state and municipal elections this year on the SWP ticket. Some of these races are over, such as the one in Morgantown. Many will be held in October and November.

"My campaign is a good example of how socialists can use this arena to involve ourselves in the fights that working people are a part of right now," explained McBride in a telephone interview. "I focused on the economic crisis we are facing today, on solidarity with the Eastern Airlines strikers, and in posing the need for new politics, working-class politics," he added.

McBride, a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 347, is a stocker at the local Kroger supermarket. He ran in the 6th Ward against Mayor Kenneth Randolph and obtained 20 percent of the vote. The City Council elects the mayor from among its members.

McBride's campaign was a big victory for democratic rights. This was the first time in more than 50 years that a working-class, socialist candidate for city office has been on the ballot in Morgantown.

Morgantown is a small city located in the heart of one of the most productive coalfields in the world. It is the home of West Virginia University, a large state-funded college with a student population nearly equivalent to the city's year-round resident population of 20,000.

"Many people listened," McBride said. "They were receptive to what we were saying, and the campaign became the focus of a lot of attention. This is an area of very high unemployment, where budget cuts by the state have hit the schools and hospitals hard, and where people sense that things are going to get even worse in the future. I found many people trying to think out politics, many for the first time in their lives. It was encouraging and exciting."

Cuba, Third World debt

"The first place I got to speak at publicly during the campaign," explained McBride, "was from the floor at a meeting in solidarity with El Salvador sponsored by the Latin America Solidarity Project, a local solidarity group. I announced that I was certified, that my campaign went out one Saturday afternoon and got more than 200 signatures to assure my place on the ballot."

"I described to those present that when petitioning we explained that the socialist campaign was in solidarity with Cuba and for the cancellation of the Third World debt

"We have gained quite a lot in our country, and the government is in crisis because of our political activity coupled with the armed struggle."

Solidarity activity

Speaking of the need for more effective solidarity activity, Mahlangu said, "We must organize a way of bringing pressure to bear on the government and those who still have businesses in South Africa. The trade unions must be involved, the churches must be involved, rank-and-file organizations, women's organizations, all must be involved. We must look for ways and means to coordinate to have the maximum effect. We must look for more nationally coordinated efforts toward the fight against apartheid."

Mahlangu cited plans to have a large event in Toronto commemorating Nelson Mandela's birthday on July 16, including broad participation.

"We are prepared to work with everybody across the political spectrum, different beliefs, religious groups, everybody — let's all sit down and talk about how we can



Militant/Salm Kolis

Peter Mahlangu

make the ANC well represented in this country. People from the grass roots should participate. We are here on Canadian soil, and we think the Canadian people are going to be responsible for our failure or success."

and that these ideas were well received. I told them that all of us could look to my campaign as being our campaign and we would be fighting for and opening up more political space in Morgantown for all," he added.

People at that meeting and at others that McBride addressed welcomed the socialist ideas and the boldness of the campaign in getting them out, explained McBride.

One of the tools the socialists in Morgantown used were timely statements put out by the candidate on various issues that came up in the course of the two months of campaigning. Many of these were picked up by the local media.

During his campaign, McBride was able to speak to students at West Virginia University. He was invited by several professors to address their classes. A group of students organized a "Socialist Awareness Week" on campus that gave the candidate a further opportunity to express his ideas before student audiences.

"One of the focuses of awareness week was to be a debate on radio between me and the editor of the student newspaper," explained McBride. The student newspaper's racist editorial policy had sparked big campus protests earlier. "Our campaign was to become the champion of the cause against this racist editor," continued the candidate.

Pressure from city officials

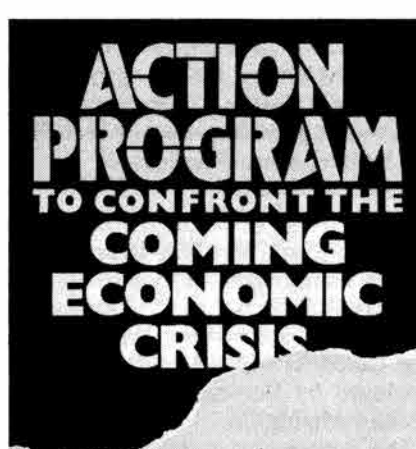
"The students were very excited about this idea of a debate. But the administration

and the city began to put pressure on the students to limit the scope of the week's activities," explained McBride.

"They were worried that our campaign was going to influence these students. In spite of the pressure, the debate took place. In a last attempt to stop the debate, the night before we were to go on the air, the city manager called the station and threatened to sue them if I mentioned anything about local issues or the campaign on the air," McBride said. "So we concentrated on broader philosophical questions, such as what is communism. I took the opportunity to speak on Cuba and used it as a way to help people understand how they fit in the world perspective. I explained how in Cuba through the voluntary work brigades workers and farmers are participating in society," McBride went on.

"There was a call-in period, and people asked all sorts of very good questions. The debate was very successful."

"We also campaigned at the plant gates in the area, like at the Sterling Faucet plant where we met with a very good response," said McBride. "My coworkers at the supermarket were very supportive also. They thought that the vote was pretty good and were worried that I might get upset because I did not win the election and that I might give up. They kept encouraging me; they think it's great that someone would stand up for working people," he concluded.



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Miners' strike expands to 11 states

Continued from front page

ers in southern Illinois' District 12 went out.

Other districts appear ready and waiting to add their support. John Burke, UMW District 26 president in Nova Scotia, Canada, told the *Charleston Daily Mail* that the 2,300 working miners in his district "wouldn't have a problem" with walking off the job in support of the Pittston miners.

The walkouts, which aren't officially called by the UMW, began several hours after mine union President Richard Trumka ad-

miner's back is against the wall, that's when he's best."

Origins of Pittston, New Beckley strikes

Pittston Coal Group is the largest U.S. coal exporter. UMW miners have been trying to win an acceptable contract at Pittston mines for more than two years.

The previous contract expired Feb. 1, 1988. At that time Pittston cut off health benefits to more than 1,500 pensioners, surviving spouses, and disabled miners. The

on Sundays; and cuts in health care and pension benefits.

On April 5, 1989, following preliminary National Labor Relations Board rulings charging Pittston with unfair labor practices, the UMW called a "selective strike" against several mines owned by Pittston.

At the New Beckley mine in Glen Daniel, West Virginia, 130 UMW members have been on strike since January 23.

The current owner bought the bankrupt Beckley Mining Co. last fall for \$100, prom-

union charging that the strikes violated their contracts with the UMW. The companies are demanding that the union reimburse them for money lost due to the strikes.

Island Creek Coal, for example, says it is losing \$136,000 a day and names several UMW locals in its suit. U.S. District Judge Dennis Knapp set a June 22 hearing for the union to address these charges.

At a June 19 hearing, Knapp ordered striking Island Creek miners back to work, warning them of possible fines and imprisonment if they stay out. "Despite what some redneck may say, the courts are not on the side of industry or the rich," Judge Knapp told some 30 miners in the Charleston courtroom as he rendered his decision.

Pittston is asking that UMW District 17 officials and 40 union members be found in contempt of court for blocking traffic. The company also wants a limit on the number of pickets.

New Beckley Mining has filed a petition in Raleigh County asking that pickets be limited to three at a gate with only one gate picketed, and that the union be found in contempt of court for violating previous court-imposed limitations. The company is also demanding that a cop car be present at the mine 24 hours a day.

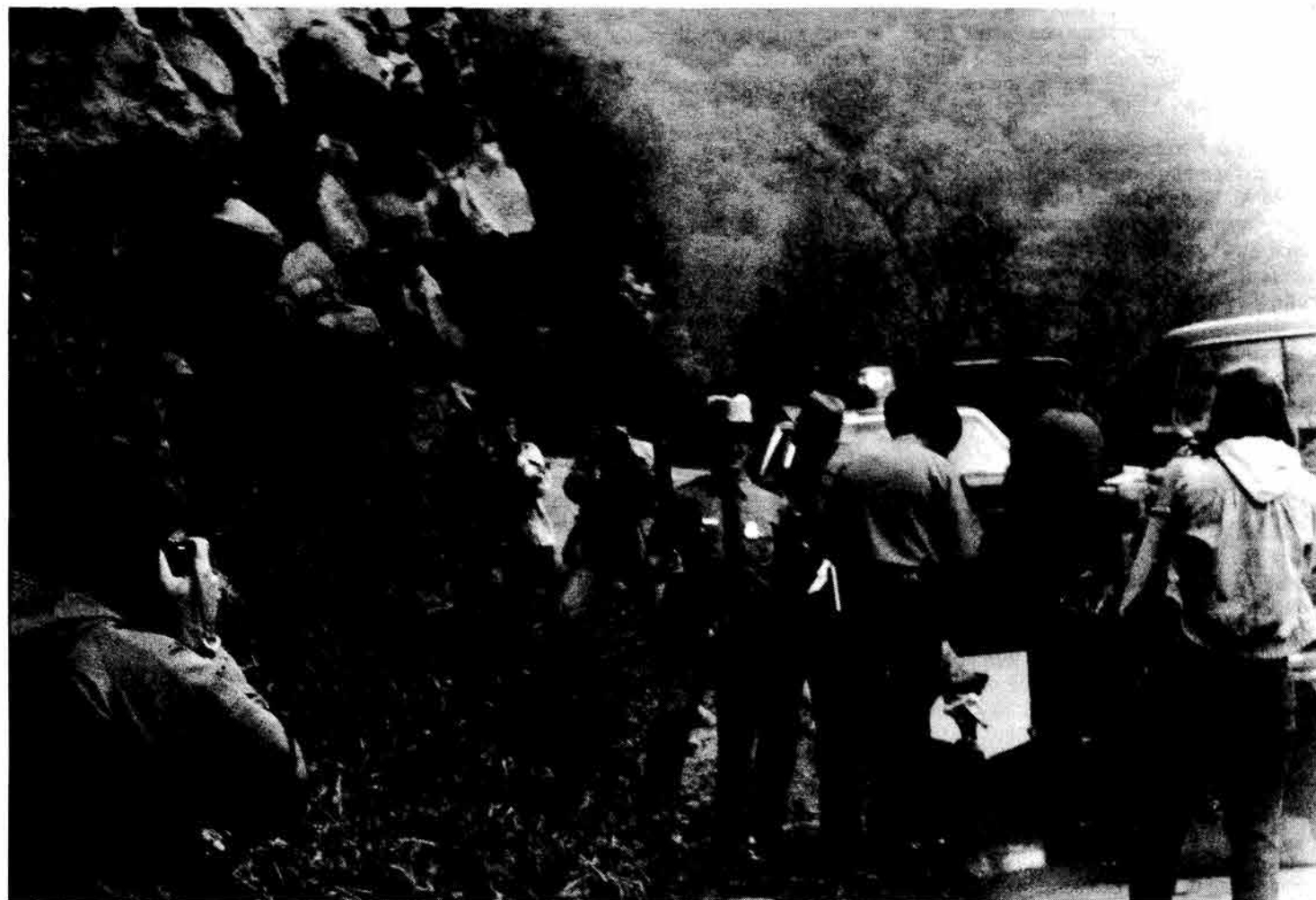
New Beckley striker Linda Freeman described how more than 30 police officers are on hand to intimidate the Beckley pickets. Referring to the several-thousand-strong March for Justice solidarity march held here June 11, she said, "That rally in Charleston was just the beginning. We're not about to give up." Emphasizing the importance of the fight for a union contract she added, "I'm not about to risk my life mining coal for \$6 an hour."

The United Mine Workers already faces fines from Federal District Judge Ronald McGothin of close to \$3 million, with future violations costing \$700,000 a day, to be doubled each day of the violation.

Speed-up, layoffs, attacks on health and safety, and the growth of nonunion operations throughout the coalfields in the past several years have fueled the anger and determination that has led to the largest miners' strike since 1981.

Prior to provoking the strike, Pittston's owners tried to figure out what they could expect from negotiations with the union. In January 1989 Wall Street analysts predicted that a UMW strike would do no longterm harm to the company and that union miners would likely cross picket lines, given high unemployment rates in Appalachia.

As one retired miner in Whitesville who remains active in the UMW commented, "In the army they told us to take care of our rifles because they could get more men but they couldn't get more rifles. That's how these coal companies are. They think they can replace a man when they want, but I don't think they'll get by with that for long."



Danny Chaffin

May 2, 1989: Russell County, Virginia, near Pittston's Moss No. 3 coal preparation plant. Pickup truck driven by scab coal hauler struck several miners standing on picket line. State trooper holding shotgun protects driver, who is sitting on ground.

dressed thousands at a labor rally here June 11 in support of the striking Pittston and New Beckley miners and Eastern Airlines strikers.

Other employers in this area, in addition to the coal operators, are feeling the pressure of the strikes and are saying they will be forced to lay off workers as a result.

Virtually no coal trucks are moving along the roads that wind through the hollows. Barges ride high on West Virginia's Kanawha River, unloaded. Empty coal cars are lined up on railroad tracks, no engines in sight. Many companies have not even attempted to have coal delivered from nonunion mines that are still working. Most coal-fired plants are running on reserves.

Nonunion strip mine shut down

The biggest nonunion strip mine in this area announced it was shutting down during the strike. Some 200 strikers picketed the mine.

West Virginia's railroad workers, most of whom are unionized, have refused to cross picket lines at Pittston mines in Logan County in the southeastern part of the state. The trains go in and out of the mines staffed by supervisors.

Roving pickets have turned up at barge-loading depots along the Kanawha and at plants that run on coal. At some, coal loading was halted.

Some 17 members of the United Steelworkers at Amherst Industries, a river transport firm, stayed home after pickets appeared. Another half dozen workers stayed off the job after miners picketed Hatfield Dock and Transfer.

Throughout the hollows of this region, visible expressions of support for the strike are frequent.

In Whitesville south of here, where many miners walked out on Peabody Coal, several Main Street store windows proudly display signs declaring their support for the UMW.

George and Betty Cantley are strong supporters of the Pittston and New Beckley miners. George is recording secretary for UMW Local 2271 at the Sundial mine, which is owned by Peabody. "We've been pushed around long enough," he said. "When a coal

company also refused to make payments into the UMW Health and Retirement Fund.

One week after the Pittston contract expired, other major coal operators in the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) signed a new, five-year agreement with the UMW covering more than 60,000 miners. Pittston pulled out of the BCOA before the contract was signed.

Pittston miners worked 14 months without an agreement in hopes that a settlement could be reached. Last November Pittston threw its "best and final" offer on the table. The company demanded elimination of certain jobs; unlimited overtime, including running coal

is to hire off the UMW seniority list when it reopened. Eventually about 130 miners were recalled, but they walked off the job after four months of fighting to get a contract with the new owner.

About 350 active and retired miners lost medical insurance when the old company shut down. Most of the money set aside by court order to pay accumulated medical bills remains frozen.

Using the courts and the cops, the coal bosses are pressing their offensive against the UMW.

To date at least 16 companies in West Virginia have filed suit against the miners'

4,000 at Pennsylvania support rally

BY BRUCE KIMBALL

WAYNESBURG, Pa. — "This is a rally for the UMW and for all organized labor. Our future is at stake." With these words, Ed Yankovitch, president-elect of District 4 of the United Mine Workers of America, opened a spirited rally of 4,000 union miners and their supporters.

The rally, held here June 18 at the Greene County Fairgrounds, was jointly sponsored by UMW districts 4 and 5 in southwestern Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia. It was called in support of striking miners employed by Pittston Coal and the New Beckley Mining Co.

The participants were overwhelmingly coal miners and their families. Many wore anti-Lorenzo buttons to show support for the unions on strike against Eastern Airlines.

The purpose of the rally was best symbolized by one action — when Yankovitch poured a cup of water from the stage onto the ground. Miners, recognizing that as a traditional signal to strike, cheered loudly.

The Sunday action came in the midst of a rapidly spreading strike by miners, and it was a serious effort to unite and further organize the strike.

Eugene Claypole, president of District 31 in north-central West Virginia proudly an-

nounced to the crowd, "UMW District 31 is not working." He continued, "This union will be here when every scab is gone."

Miners in District 4 are also on strike in solidarity with the Pittston and New Beckley

'This is a war. We can win,' United Mine Workers leader told crowd.

miners. Since the rally, those in District 5 have also gone out.

Frank Planinac, president of International Association of Machinists Local 1044 that is on strike against Eastern Airlines at Pittsburgh International Airport, was well received. The rally responded most when Planinac shouted, "Eastern is grounded, grounded!"

Also speaking was Don Cartier, a striking Eastern pilot. He pointed to Eastern's plans to begin a series of new flights on July 2. "This time labor's not going to blink," he concluded.

The facts behind the Eastern strike weren't new to many of the unionists in

attendance. Striking Machinists union members and pilots had recently finished a 10-day tour of the area, speaking at nearly 25 engagements. These included many union meetings, plant-gate collections, and public meetings. This tour culminated in a caravan of nine buses from the area to the June 11 March for Justice in Charleston, West Virginia. This action supported the Pittston and New Beckley miners' strikes.

The rally here also featured Bob Rogers, a striking miner at New Beckley; Bo Willis, a striker against Pittston in Virginia; and Ray Watts, a Pittston striker from Logan County, West Virginia. When Willis, a member of UMW Local 2274 in District 28, concluded by saying, "An injury to one is an injury to all," several unions in the crowd shouted, "We're going to come down!" to help support the strike.

Also addressing the rally were three Pennsylvania state legislators. Several Greene County commissioners who paid for the fairground rental fee were introduced.

The final speaker was Donny Redman, president of UMW District 5. "This is a war," he said. "We can win. We have been through this before. We're not just striking for the sake of striking — we're striking for the union."

Miners in Britain mark union's 100th year

International rally of thousands welcomes delegation of striking U.S. miners

BY DOREEN WEPPLER

BARNSELEY, England — Thousands of miners and their families marched in this Yorkshire town on June 17 to celebrate 100 years of struggle by the National Union of Mineworkers. The procession carrying colorful NUM lodge banners from every area of Britain wound its way through Barnsley's sunny streets. They were accompanied by working-class brass bands, jazz bands, and Scottish pipe bands.

The march was joined by contingents from Women Against Pit Closures and from a sprinkling of other unions that were indicated by their banners. There were several contingents of striking seamen and dockers.

Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, delivered the keynote speech. He first introduced the platform, which was filled with delegations from miners' unions around the world. Officials were present from Australia, Hungary, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Canada, Chile, Nicaragua, the United States, and France. The International Miners Organisation was represented by Alain Simon, its general secretary.

When Scargill introduced the delegation from the United Mine Workers of America, he made special mention of the Pittston strike. He said 2,000 arrests had occurred and three miners were in jail because they demanded the right to work five days, rather than being compelled to work a seven-day week. Noting that the delegation was comprised of a union official and nine women miners, four of whom were on the platform, Scargill suggested they would doubtless have lessons for women going down the pits in Britain. A recent bill expected to pass the British Parliament will remove restrictions on women's right to employment underground.

One seat on the platform was empty, reserved for Cyril Ramaphosa, the general secretary of the NUM of South Africa. Ramaphosa's passport was seized by the apartheid regime and his visa withdrawn. Scargill called on the rally to approve sending a letter of protest.

The international character of the platform was reflected in the presidential address. "Our struggle is international in concept — we are internationalists," Scargill stated. "We stood shoulder to shoulder with the Russian workers in 1917 and alongside those in Spain fighting for democracy and freedom. We supported the Nicaraguans, the Cubans, and the

Vietnamese." He stressed the importance of the International Miners Organisation, set up in 1985, and which today has affiliates from 44 countries.

"With 3 million unemployed — and that's after the government has fiddled the figures 23 times," Scargill said, "the pressure is on to agree to a six-day workweek. In these circumstances, we should be fighting for a four-day workweek."

Scargill highlighted the achievements of the epic miners' strike of 1984-85 and insisted to spirited applause that the only answer to the Coal Board's plans to further slim the industry down to "50 pits, 50,000 jobs, and 50 million tons of coal" remained one of industrial action. After massive closures since the defeat of the miners' strike, 74 pits remain open in Britain.

Scargill looked critically at the policy review under way in the Labour Party. This exercise is shifting Labour's program to the right "supposedly in preparation for taking office."

In Scargill's view several items should be at the top of the list of the policy review. "The Labour Party should reopen every pit that has been closed — unless it was done on grounds of safety or exhaustion — with the same conviction that the Coal Board has closed them."

"Secondly, on its first day in office, Labour should reinstate every miner who remains sacked," the mine union leader said.

Calling for a shutdown of the nuclear energy program on grounds of safety and cost, Scargill also attacked the importing of cheap coal. "Margaret Thatcher preaches about moral values," he said, "But importing coal from apartheid South Africa — that is immorality."

The rally was also addressed by Tony Christopher, the chairman of the Trades Union Congress, and Dennis Skinner, a Labour Party member of Parliament who is sponsored by the NUM. Peter Heathfield, the general secretary of the NUM, was the final speaker.

A number of literature tables were set up by Women Against Pit Closures, Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign, Mark Curtis Defense Committee, the energy union, fired members of the National Union of Seamen, and others. At the Pathfinder Books table £78.30 worth of literature and 171 copies of the *Militant* were sold during the day, as well as three subscriptions to the paper.

people in Burkina Faso during the revolution, in particular the gains made by women. She pointed to the increasing role of women in the government as a remarkable experience.

London explained the international importance of the Burkinabè revolution and of Sankara's ideas. They should not only be studied by African revolutionaries, he said, but by those in countries such as France and the United States who are fighting racism and dealing with the effects of the growing capitalist crisis, and demanding the foreign debt of the semicolonial countries be canceled.

The presentations were followed by a debate. Some in the audience were very critical of Sankara. One person who had been a teacher in Burkina Faso, for example, sharply criticized Sankara for having blocked raises in teachers' salaries. After a teachers' strike, he said, Sankara had hired "unqualified personnel" to take part in a campaign against illiteracy.

Only highly qualified, well-paid, college-educated teachers should have been engaged in such an effort, he maintained.

Others in the audience did not agree. Some used the examples of the literacy campaigns in Cuba and Nicaragua to show what Sankara was trying to accomplish. It would not be possible to solve the problem of illiteracy in Burkina Faso, it was argued, if the country had to wait until it had a well-trained teacher corps. Only mass mobilizations could begin solving that problem.

A large Pathfinder literature table drew a great deal of attention.



G.M. Cookson
Contingent of women's support at 1984 march for striking miners. Women in Britain have won right to work in mines.

Meeting discusses legacy of African communist Sankara

BY F.L. DERRY

LYON, France — Some 80 people met here to discuss the role and the historic legacy of the African revolutionary Thomas Sankara. Most of those present were Africans, including from the Cameroons, Burundi, Comoro Islands, Ivory Coast, Mali, and Burkina Faso.

Sankara led the revolutionary government in Burkina Faso from 1983 until he was assassinated and the revolution overthrown by a coup in 1987.

Many of those at the meeting, held here on April 22, were students. There were also African immigrant workers present who had helped organize for the meeting in the numerous dormitories for immigrant workers in the Lyon area.

The meeting was called by the African revolutionary journal *Coumbite*, published in Paris. David Gakunzi, the editor of *Coumbite*, was one of the three speakers. Germaine Pitroipa, a high official in the Sankara government, and Nat London, representing Pathfinder Press, also spoke. Pathfinder has published *Thomas Sankara Speaks*, a book in English with speeches and interviews by the Burkinabè leader.

An interview with Sankara done by Phillip Rapp for Swiss television was shown at the meeting.

Gakunzi pointed to Sankara's uncompromising struggle against the Third World debt, as well as against the South African apartheid regime, as an example of what should be done elsewhere in Africa.

Pitroipa spoke of the advances for working

— WORLD NEWS BRIEFS —

Former colony, Nauru sues Australia

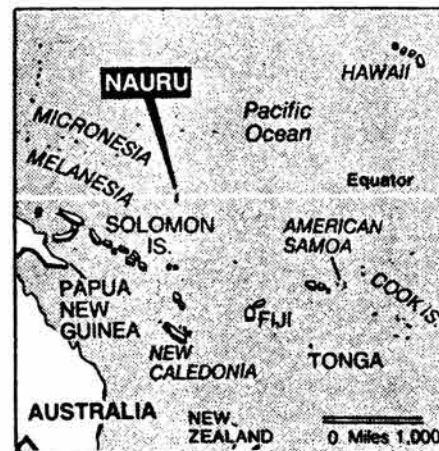
The central Pacific island of Nauru has begun a suit at the International Court of Justice charging Australia with exploitation and neglect in removal of Nauruan phosphates earlier in the century.

The eight-square-mile island of 7,500 people was claimed by Germany in 1888. Nauru was ruled by Australia under a League of Nations mandate and later as a United Nations trusteeship from 1920 until the colony's independence was granted in 1968.

The island's outcropping of phosphates was discovered in the early 1900s after a British chemist analyzed a rock that had been taken from the island to be used as a doorstep. A British consortium obtained rights to mine the phosphate.

Under an agreement made formal when Germany was forced to yield its colonies after World War I, the Nauruan phosphate was sold at cost in Australia, New Zealand, and Britain, far below its world market value. Later a small royalty was paid to individual Nauruans who owned the phosphate land. According to the Nauru suit, that royalty stood at only 5.1 percent of market value by 1939.

In addition, the suit states that nothing was done to rehabilitate the mined-out land. The phosphate area is described as a dust bowl punctuated by 30-foot pinnacles of limestone. Nauru has asked compensation for the ruined land, for the artificially low price imposed by the consortium, and an award for "aggravated or moral damages." Nauru estimates its loss in royalties alone at \$250 million.



Omar al-Qassem dies in Israeli prison

Omar al-Qassem died in an Israeli prison hospital June 4. He was 48 years old. A fighter for Palestinian liberation, Qassem had been jailed in 1968 and by the time of his death had served more time than any other political prisoner in Israel.

Suffering from kidney failure and related complications, he was admitted to the prison hospital only after a public protest. At his burial, police teargassed members of the funeral procession.

A native of the West Bank, he sought to establish guerrilla bases there after the Israeli takeover in 1967. In a clash, he was captured by Israeli troops in October 1968. He was a member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, an affiliate of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

His kidney difficulties began in 1980 when he joined in a prison hunger strike. After not eating for 28 days, he was hospitalized with bleeding kidneys.

Nuclear weapons clutter ocean floor

Accidents involving Soviet and U.S. naval ships, bombers, and rockets have left at least 50 warheads and nuclear reactors scattered on the ocean floors since 1956, according to a study released June 6. The study was done by the environmental group Greenpeace, and the Institute for Policy Studies.

Information on the U.S. naval accidents was obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, which also included U.S. intelligence assessments of Soviet naval accidents. The majority of the accidents detailed in the report involved U.S. ships. A spokesperson for the navy strongly disputed the study and a navy statement said, "We are extremely proud of our track record in this area."

Last month the U.S. confirmed information disclosed by Greenpeace that a U.S. nuclear bomb lost at sea near Japan 24 years ago probably leaked plutonium on the ocean floor. The report says that the worst accident occurred on Oct. 6, 1986, when a Soviet submarine sank 600 miles northeast of Bermuda, leaving 32 nuclear warheads and two reactors on the ocean floor.

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Rally Against Racism. A gathering to condemn the April 20 defacement of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., monument in Kelly Ingram Park. Sat., June 24, 12 noon. Kelly Ingram Park. Sponsors: Birmingham chapter Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women; Alabama chapter, National Organization for Women; National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression; Young Socialist Alliance; students from Parker, Ramsay, Vestavia Hills, Berry, and Huffman high schools.

Pathfinder Bookstore Open House. Speaker: John Hawkins, Socialist Workers Party candidate for city council. Sat., June 24, 3 p.m. following the antiracist rally. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

Oakland

Eastern Airlines Strike: What's At Stake for Working People. Speakers: Jeff Bettencourt, member International Association of Machinists Local 1781 on strike at Eastern; Jerri Pourmand, member Transport Workers Union and Eastern flight attendant; Peter Thierjung, *Militant* correspondent. Sat., June 24, 7:30 p.m. Humanist Society, 411 28th St. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 420-1165.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

China: Behind the Demonstrations and Massacre in Tiananmen Square. Speaker: representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., June 24, 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

Cuban Women Today. A presentation by Carolina Aguilar and Catherine Ribas, representatives of the Federation of Cuban Women. Tue., June 27, 7 p.m. DuSable Museum of African American History, 740 E 56th Pl. Donation: \$2 to \$5. Sponsors: U.S.-Cuba Women's Exchange, Venceremos Brigade, Women's Commission of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, Women of Color for Caribbean Interchange. For more information call (312) 243-2777 or 947-0600.

The Third World Debt Crisis and the Latin American Economic Crisis. 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. Wed., June 28, 6:30 p.m. Casa Aztlan, 1831 S Racine Ave. Sponsors: CISPES, Nicaragua Solidarity Committee, Chicago Religious Task Force on Central America. For more information call (312) 666-5508 or 243-9380.

One People, One Destiny: 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. Thurs., June 29, 7 p.m. Center for Inner City Studies, Northeastern University, 700 E Oakwood. Sponsors: National Black United Front, All African Peoples Revolutionary Party, Pan African Revolutionary Socialist Party, Free South Africa Movement, Socialist Workers Party, 21st Century Books, Third World Press. For more information call (312) 268-7500 or 363-7322.

IOWA

Des Moines

U.S. Immigration Policy: A Political Weapon. Speakers: Daniel Abang-Ntuen, South African living in Des Moines fighting for political asylum; Héctor Marroquín, Mexican-born member of Socialist Workers Party who won 11-year fight for right to live in United States. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 24, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Big Mountain: Native American Fight for Human Rights. A slideshow presentation by Bob Livesey, Veterans for Peace coordinator. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 8, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

El Salvador: An Eyewitness Report and Slideshow. Speaker: Matt Ostrander, staff organizer, Detroit Central America Solidarity Committee. Sat., June 24, 7:30 p.m. 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 831-1177.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

Miners' Strike in Appalachia Coalfields. Speaker: Steve Marshall, *Militant* correspondent, member United Transportation Union Local 1435. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 24, 7:30 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Coal Miners Fight Back in Appalachia. Speakers: unionists who participated in March for Justice solidarity action in West Virginia. Translation to Spanish. Fri., June 23, 7:30 p.m. 464 Bergen. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (718) 398-6983.

Haiti Is Not for Sale. Exposé on sale of Haiti's Tortuga Island to American investors and threat of a U.S. base being built at Môle St. Nicolas. Speakers: Jean-Baptiste Chavannes, leader of Papaye Peasant Movement; Robert Duval, president, League of Former Haitian Political Prisoners; François Pierre-Louis, coordinator National Popular Assembly; Yves Antoine Richard, general secretary, Independent Federation of Haitian Workers. Music by Sakad. Sun., June 25, 6 p.m. Wingate High School, 600 Kingston Ave. Sponsor: Committee to Defend La Tortue and Môle St. Nicolas. For more information call (718) 434-3940.

Manhattan

Victory to SWAPO. Farewell salute to South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia delegation to the United Nations, departing for Namibia after exile. Sat., June 24. Reception 8-10 p.m., addressed by Helmut Angula, SWAPO's chief representative to the UN; 10 p.m.-2 a.m., party, music provided by D.J. Bernard White. District 65, United Auto Workers, 13 Astor Pl. Sponsors: African National Congress; Friends of ANC, SWAPO, and Frontline States; American Committee on Africa; others. For tickets or information call (212) 690-7180.

The Irish Liberation Struggle Today. Speaker: Mairead Keane, head of Sinn Féin's Women's Department, member Sinn Féin National Executive. Translation to Spanish. Mon.,

June 26. Video on Irish women leaders, reception, 6:30 p.m.; Talk 8 p.m. Washington Square Methodist Church, 135 W 4 St. Sponsor: Irish Women's Studies Group. For more information call (718) 253-6640.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

U.S. Hands Off Panama! Speakout against U.S. intervention. Speakers: Rev. Jim Barnett, Veterans Peace Convoy; Sharon Mujica, Institute of Latin American Studies at University of North Carolina. Sun., June 25, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OREGON

Portland

Timber Monopolies vs. Working People—The Fight to Protect Jobs and the Environment. A panel discussion on the log-export referendum, fight to protect old forests, and how to defend jobs. 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.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Panama: Eyewitness Report. Speaker: Cindy Jaquith, *Militant* reporter on Panamanian elections. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 24, 7:30 p.m. 9 E Chelton Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (215) 848-5044.

Crisis in China. Speaker: Fred Feldman, *Militant* reporter on China. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 8, 7:30 p.m. 9 E Chelton Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (215) 848-5044.

Pittsburgh

Behind the Demonstrations and Massacre in China. Sat., June 24, 7:30 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave., Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Houston

Behind the Demonstrations and Massacre in China. Speaker: Randy Warren, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America. Sat., June 24, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Report Back from 20th Anniversary Venceremos Brigade to Cuba. Slideshow presentation on Cuba today. Sun., June 25, 5 p.m. 923 27th Ave. Sponsor: Venceremos Brigade. For more information call (206) 325-9548.

Petition to Put Socialist Workers Party Candidate Robbie Scherr on Ballot. Sun., June 25, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 17th and E Pike. Petition and participate in 1989 Lesbian-Gay Pride Parade, March, and Freedom Rally. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

The Crackdown in China. Speaker: Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., July 1, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Solidarity with the Eastern Strikers. Panel of speakers. Sat., June 24, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

New York

The Struggle for Puerto Rican Independence: A New Stage

Speakers:

Olga Sanabria,

Central Committee, Puerto Rican Socialist Party.

Luis Miranda,

representative, Casa de las Américas. Others.

**Fri., June 30, 7:30 p.m.
191 7th Ave. (at 21st St.)
Manhattan**

Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum.

Donation: \$3. For more information call (212) 675-6740 or (718) 398-6983.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

Freedom Struggle in Southern Africa. Sat., June 24, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Cuban Women Today. Speakers: Carolina Aguilar and Catherine Ribas, representatives of the Federation of Cuban Women. Mon., June 26. Reception 6:30 p.m.; program 7 p.m. Friends Meeting House, 3224 N Gordon Pl. For more information call (414) 933-2458.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

The Second Frame-Up of Tim Andersen. Speaker: Tim Andersen, political activist framed by cops over Hilton bombing murder charges after previous release and pardoning. Public meeting, Sun., July 2, 5 p.m. Pathfinder Bookroom, 2nd fl., 181 Glebe Point Rd., Glebe. Sponsor: Supporters of Mark Curtis Defence Committee. For more information call (02) 660 1673.

BRITAIN

London

Politics in Ireland Today. Eyewitness report from Wolfe Tone commemoration at Bodens-town, Ireland. Speaker: Bob Buchan. Fri., July 3, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forum. For more information call 01-928-7947.

Sheffield

The Right to Strike. Speaker: member of National Union of Railwaymen. Wed., June 28, 7:30 p.m. Sheffield and District Afro-Caribbean Community Association, 48 The Wicker. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forum. For more information call 0742-583641.

SWEDEN

Stockholm

Behind the Demonstrations and Massacre in Tiananmen Square. Speaker: Catharina Tirsén. Sat., July 1, 3 p.m. Folkets Hus, Rm. 204 (entrance Wallingatan 21). Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call 08-722-9342.

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

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Sydney: 181 Glebe Point Rd., 2nd floor, Glebe. Postal address: P.O. Box 153 Glebe, Sydney NSW 2037. Tel: 02-660 1673.

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

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

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

ICELAND

Reykjavík: Klappartíg 26. Mailing address: P. Box 233, 121 Reykjavík. 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.

It figures — To tout his "clean air" scheme, Bush traveled to the richly scenic Grand Tetons area of the Rocky Mountains. Meanwhile, his administration plans to open up



Harry Ring

95 percent of the neighboring Bridge-Tetons National Park to oil and gas exploitation.

Can't ignore the law — After learning that the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant in Colorado had il-

legally dumped toxic chemicals into a creek that ran into its reservoir, the town of Broomfield began digging a ditch to divert the polluted stream. Federal officials promptly blew the whistle. They said the town first had to get a permit.

Safety patrols — In Britain, police car chases have resulted in 12 accidents since March 1, killing 15 people.

Justice, Puerto Rico — For 16 days the family of Edgardo Martínez Torrado of Santurce looked desperately for him. He was finally found, in prison. He had eaten a \$15.45 meal at a restaurant, realized he had no money with him, and asked to call his family. Instead

the restaurant called the cops. Unable to post bail and denied a phone call, he was jailed and beaten. Martínez is suing.

Justice, USA — Jay Turoff, New York's former taxicab commissioner, was caught with his hand in the till and convicted of tax fraud and mail fraud. A federal judge gave him seven months, house arrest. He can go to his office, but nights and weekends he's confined to his two-story home. He can use the backyard pool and sun-deck, but his housekeeper has to do the shopping.

Stern justice — A Cohasset, Massachusetts, chiropractor was convicted on two counts of indecent assault and battery on a female

patient. The prosecutor proposed a six-month jail term. Rejecting this, the judge gave the man two-and-a-half years on each count — and then suspended all but 30 days.

See, it's not so bad — We never heard anyone say a good word about New York's Rykers Island jail until multimillionaire mayoral candidate Ronald Lauder visited there. He says they have TVs at regular intervals in cell block areas so everyone can watch and the "nicest gym" he's ever seen, including a well-equipped weightlifting room.

P.S. — We should add that Lauder was p.o.'d, not pleased, by what he saw. He would knock off the TV because prisoners "should hate

their time there," not enjoy it. Also, he shrewdly notes, pumping iron only toughens inmates up for their return to the street.

How to run a railroad — New York's Metro-North Railroad will have to replace about 8,000 "state of the art" concrete railroad ties. Recently installed, the ties are supposed to last 50 years, as opposed to 30 for wooden ones. But a check showed some 14 percent were already crumbling.

Thought for the week — In 1960 the average chief corporate executive received 41 times the average wage of a factory worker. By 1988 the ratio was 93 to 1.

Dozens are executed for role in China protests

Continued from front page or other demands. And it aims to traumatize an entire generation of students, writers, and journalists.

700 killed

Eyewitnesses have said that 700 people were killed in the military operation. Some estimates run much higher. The regime of Deng Xiaoping has denied the massacre, claiming that 300 people were killed, most of

them soldiers, in putting down a "counterrevolutionary rebellion." Shrines and other memorials have been set up in Beijing to honor soldiers said to have been killed.

At least one Chinese citizen who described the killing of civilians by troops has been arrested for doing so.

People's Daily, the Communist Party newspaper, has called on the population to study a speech by top government leader Deng Xiaoping justifying the crackdown.

Support for the student-led demonstrations in Beijing among workers included widespread expressions of sympathy from the sidelines as youth marched and rallied beginning April 27. In addition, groups of workers joined the marches and the gathering in Tiananmen Square.

Largest workers' action

The biggest single action by workers took place in Shanghai after the massacre, when about half the work force stayed home and thousands joined demonstrations for several days.

Shanghai is the biggest city in China with 12 million people. The Shanghai region is where a Chinese working class began to be forged in sizable numbers in the early 20th century, as imperialist domination eroded feudal traditions and relations. Workers there

have a long tradition of struggle.

As an outgrowth of the student-led demonstrations, some individuals initiated attempts in Shanghai and Beijing to form unions independent of the government-controlled bodies. These have now been ordered to dissolve and leaders have been arrested.

Former leading members of the party are also targets of repression.

Zhao Ziyang, the general secretary of the Communist Party, has not appeared in public since shortly before the proclamation of martial law in parts of Beijing on May 20. In response to a question about him by a U.S. reporter, regime spokesman Yuan Mu stated:

"It is true that certain individuals in the top Chinese leadership are guilty of supporting the counterrevolutionaries, of supporting turmoil. Their questions will be dealt with soon and will be made public."

Two Cuban women on U.S. tour get warm welcome in New York

Continued from front page difficulties. They want women to "return to the home."

Cuban women, the Cuban Communist Party, and the FMC reject this perspective, she said.

"Society has the responsibility to assume domestic tasks and childhood education," Aguilar said, to ensure the full participation of women in social life.

She and Ribas explained how the Cuban revolution has implemented this perspective. Among the accomplishments they stressed were the following:

- The big increase of women in the labor force. Nearly 39 percent of the Cuban work force is female.
- A campaign that has ended all "official barriers" to "nontraditional" work for women. This includes the recent involvement of 25,000 women in construction jobs, including work as masons, plumbers, and carpenters.
- The return to voluntary labor and the

minibrigade movement, which mobilizes Cubans to donate work for socially beneficial projects. Ribas said that this meant the construction of 111 day-care centers in Havana in 1987-88.

- Regular armed forces detachments composed solely of women have assumed anti-aircraft defense duties in Havana and in Cuban territory bordering the U.S. military base at Guantánamo.
- The right of Cuban women to choose whether to have children, which includes free and legal abortion, easy access to inexpensive birth control, child care, and health care.

The two FMC leaders spoke about Cuba's rectification process, in which working people are being mobilized to advance the construction of socialism and root out corruption, bureaucratic mismanagement, and inefficiency. They also took up Cuba's need to deepen the integration of peasant women into the work force, break down the concentration of women in the lowest-paid jobs, and overcome woman's "double workday," in which she holds an outside job and also has the main responsibility for tasks in the home.

They reported that the FMC has called its fifth national congress for March 6-8, 1990, where many of these questions will be discussed.

Aguilar and Ribas are scheduled to be in Madison, Wisconsin, June 21-25; Milwaukee, June 26; Chicago, June 27; and St. Louis, June 30.

Export ban debate

Continued from back page for 40 hours' pay. This would open up many new jobs.

"A massive public works program can be implemented on the land. Tens of thousands of workers could be employed in a massive reforestation program to plant new trees and repair damage done to the land by the giant timber monopolies. Such a program could help forge unity among unions, working farmers, environmental organizations, and others.

"Working people should support demands to restrict the harvesting of old-growth timber to biologically sustainable levels.

"This perspective of fighting for the interests of our class as a whole," the SWP statement concluded, "is the only road forward and the way to defend and unify ourselves against future attacks the boss class has in store for us."

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWS WEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
June 29, 1979

Forty-six years after U.S. Marines first fastened the dictatorship of the Somoza family onto a bleeding country, the Nicaraguan workers and peasants are moving forward to throw off that hated tyranny.

As of June 20, rebel forces were firmly in control of León and Matagalpa, Nicaragua's second- and third-largest cities, and were fighting their way toward the city of Rivas in the south. Large sections of Managua, the capital, were also in rebel hands.

Using artillery and aircraft, Somoza's National Guard tried to dislodge the rebel forces in Managua.

In a June 19 dispatch, the *New York Times* reported that "in the poor sectors held by the guerrillas but being bombed by United States-made planes, anti-American sentiments are probably stronger today than at any other time since the marines ended their intervention here in 1933.

"What happened to Carter's human rights policy?" a woman shouted at a group of foreigners. "It's all the fault of the Americans."

Recognizing the prohibitive political price of trying to intervene militarily in Somoza's behalf, U.S. President James Carter is seeking to halt the revolutionary upsurge in Nicaragua in other ways.

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance called for "mediation" of the conflict by the Organization of American States June 13, warning that otherwise "the chances of a radical solution are great."

Apparently hoping to organize some type of OAS intervention in Nicaragua under the cover of these regimes, Washington requested an urgent meeting of the OAS the following day.

But a broadcast from Radio Sandino rejected the U.S. proposal.

Charging that Washington was attempting to set up a commission aimed at "frustrating our struggle, at snatching away our victory," the Sandinistas warned, "The United States and its accomplice countries in this antipopular maneuver have confirmed that if the commission fails in nego-

tiations with the dictator, it could send OAS troops to pacify Nicaragua.

"We do not accept, nor will we ever accept, a commission of this type," the broadcast declared.

Meanwhile, in a June 17 announcement, the Sandinistas named a five-member committee that is to be responsible for forming a provisional government.

Although the committee includes pro-capitalist political figures, the U.S. ruling class has not been reassured.

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People
June 29, 1964

NEW YORK — "We need an organization that no one downtown can dictate to . . . that no one downtown loves," declared Malcolm X at his Sunday night Harlem rally June 21. Such an organization will announce its formation at the next rally at the Audubon Ballroom, June 28, he said.

"We'll let you know what its aims are — and we think they're your aims," he told the enthusiastic audience. He explained that the organization would be broad enough for all Afro-Americans who wanted to fight for freedom and human dignity "by any means necessary." Not only individuals but other organizations will be able to join as long as they endorse the motto: "By any means necessary."

Malcolm X explained that no matter how much other people may claim to know what the black people need, "no one will go as far as we will in fighting for our freedom." He pointed out that once the black people were active in the new organization at the grass-roots level, no one from the outside would be able to dictate what it would do.

One part of the organization will be a department of education. One of its projects, Malcolm X suggested, would be the rewriting of school textbooks for black children.

"We want our children to go to school and read about Patrice Lumumba. We want them to read about how the State Department was responsible for his death," he said.

from Pathfinder Fidel Castro Nothing Can Stop the Course of History

"Undoubtedly the longest and most wide-ranging interview ever conducted with Cuban President Fidel Castro. In it, Castro speaks directly to the people of the United States on questions of vital importance to citizens of both our countries.

"It spans dozens of topics: U.S.-Cuban relations, the Reagan administration's foreign policy, the New International Economic Order, unity and disunity in Latin America, Cuba's relations with Africa, the events in Afghanistan. . . ."

From the preface by Rep. Mervyn M. Dymally, who with Jeffrey M. Elliot conducted the interview. 276 pages, \$8.95.

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

Imperialism and democracy

At a recent New York City meeting on the events in China sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum, a Puerto Rican airport worker who is actively involved in supporting the Eastern Airlines strike made an apt comment.

How, he asked, can people in the United States claim to defend democracy in China or anywhere else if they aren't fighting U.S. imperialism? He stressed the importance of opposing U.S. colonial rule over and attacks on democratic rights in Puerto Rico.

Washington and Wall Street rule a world empire that maintains its domination over much of the world through massive bloodshed. Massacres even larger than the one in Beijing are a routine part of imperialism's "peacekeeping" around the world.

In El Salvador, the U.S. government bankrolls a military-dominated government and organizes a war against workers and peasants. At least 70,000 people are believed to have died in this "counterinsurgency" campaign.

The government of Venezuela, without a word of criticism from Washington, slaughtered hundreds of working people protesting price increases in February and March. The killings were part of the cost that the government of Carlos Andrés Pérez has had to pay for meeting the demands of U.S. and other imperialist bankers for payments on the country's suffocating debt.

In South Africa, U.S. support helps prop up a regime that denies all democratic rights to the Black majority and has gunned down thousands and jailed countless more for the crime of demanding those rights.

More than 500 Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem have been shot or beaten to death since December 1987 by Israeli soldiers and cops carrying U.S. weapons.

The same U.S. government that refuses to halt aid to Israel or to impose effective sanctions on South Africa has the arrogance to threaten China with sanctions and present this as a defense of democracy.

U.S. imperialism, a foe of democratic rights all over the world, has no interest in advancing the democratic goals sought by the Chinese workers and students.

As in Palestine, South Africa, Venezuela, and Puerto Rico, U.S. policy toward China aims at increasing the profits and expanding the power of U.S. big business. The primary target of any sanctions against China are not the murderers in Beijing, but the Chinese workers and peasants who threw off imperialist domination four decades ago.

To effectively defend democratic rights at home or abroad, U.S. working people and their allies must struggle against the blood-drenched rulers of the U.S. world empire.

Bush's 'clean air' bill

President George Bush has declared that by early in the next century, "every American in every city will breathe clean air."

His current proposals for revising the Clean Air Act are supposed to realize that grandiose promise.

In the United States, and internationally, there is growing recognition that the escalated fouling of the air, earth, and water is a menace to human life and the well-being of the planet itself.

There also is a growing realization that toothless laws and couldn't-care-less enforcement agencies have permitted capitalist polluters to poison the atmosphere unchecked.

With his "clean air" proposal, Bush hopes to curb the mounting public anger and, in the process, pick up some political capital.

The bill his administration will introduce into Congress has three principal focuses: reducing the present high levels of ozone pollution, lowering the emissions of cancer-causing chemicals, and cutting the amount of acid rain created by power utilities.

Even at face value, the Bush plan is very modest. The goals, many factory owners note, are "flexible." And, it can be safely assumed, in Congress they will be watered down even more.

Ozone, created by chemicals belched into the air, is the main ingredient in the smog that now chokes every major U.S. city.

From now to the year 2000, the Bush bill would require 20 cities with the most dangerous ozone levels to reduce them by a paltry 3 percent a year.

Reduction of other air pollution would center on improving motor vehicle performance and encouraging the use of cleaner fuels, such as alcohol and natural gas. At least some of the cost would be passed on to working people through higher prices for gas and cars.

Increasingly, acid rain is destroying forests, lakes, and streams. The U.S. northeast and neighboring areas of Canada have been especially hard hit. Responsibility for this rests mainly with power utilities in the Ohio valley whose giant smokestacks pour out the sulphur that creates acid rain.

The Environmental Protection Agency, no zealot in protecting the environment, has singled out 20 utilities in that area as the worst offenders and those that should be required to make the biggest cuts in sulphur emissions.

The Bush bill would spread that reduction among 107 power plants in 18 states.

"We are pleased," responded an Ohio utility executive, "that the president has decided against putting the most severe burden on the state of Ohio and the Midwest."

Testimony to the nature of the Bush proposal is that it won early endorsement from Rep. John Dingell. Chairperson of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, the Michigan Democrat is notorious for his bitter opposition to any environmental proposal that might increase costs for the Detroit auto magnates.

The Clean Air Act has been on the books since 1970, and air quality has grown steadily and dangerously worse. It would be a serious mistake to assume that the Bush plan will bring meaningful relief.

Round-one victory over censorship

Prisoners at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory in Anamosa have won an important victory in defense of their democratic rights. On June 13 authorities finally turned over to incarcerated political activist Mark Curtis his Spanish-English dictionary and 501 Spanish Verbs.

The decision to deny him the Spanish- and French-language magazines *Perspectiva Mundial* and *Lutte ouvrière*, as well as letters in languages other than English, has not yet been reversed, however.

For example, the prison denied Curtis a card sent to him from former coworkers at the Swift/Monfort meat-packing plant in Des Moines, Iowa, on the grounds that it was written in a "foreign language" and that it was "from several people." The message on the card was written in Lao, Spanish, and English.

The decision to prevent Curtis from receiving non-English language literature was the biggest challenge to the international campaign to defend Curtis since he was incarcerated in September 1988 after being falsely convicted of rape and burglary. This ban affected not just Curtis, but other prisoners at Anamosa and potentially at other state prisons in Iowa as well.

The authorities' aim with these restrictions is to cut the inmates off as much as possible from the world outside the prison, so that their "world" increasingly becomes the prison.

This restriction was a weak move by Iowa prison authorities and one they are paying a high political price for

as Curtis supporters carry out a worldwide protest campaign that has already won broad support.

It's this public outcry that compelled Anamosa Warden John Thalacker to issue a letter on June 2 addressed to "fellow Iowans" justifying this censorship on security grounds. And it is this campaign that is responsible for the initial victory.

Granting Curtis his verb book and dictionary is a political vindication of the protest campaign. At the same time, practically speaking, a dictionary and verb book don't do much good if Spanish literature is barred.

The job now is to press ahead, based on the momentum and impact of this partial success, with all supporters of democratic rights raising their voices louder than ever to lift the ban on non-English language magazines and correspondence and on the right of prisoners to exchange written materials.

We urge all our readers to write letters of protest and get others to do the same.

They 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 Bldg., Des Moines, Iowa 50319; Paul Grossheim, Director of the Department of Corrections, Capitol Annex, 523 E. 12th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309; and the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

What happened in Hungary in 1956?

BY DOUG JENNESS

The recent reburial ceremony of Hungary's former prime minister Imre Nagy has spurred some reminiscences of the 1956 revolution in that country. Sifting through them one might get the impression that what the freedom fighters shed their blood for 33 years ago is being carried out by the current regime in Budapest.

The *New York Times*, in a June 16 editorial, for example, said that the honoring of Nagy, who was defamed and hanged as a traitor in 1958, "coincides with changes in

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Hungary's Communist system that are unfettering speech and opening the way to multiparty elections. These are an outgrowth of the 'New Course' program for liberalization put forth by Mr. Nagy as Prime Minister in 1956. Moscow felt so threatened by the New Course that it sent in tanks."

There's a great deal more to why the Soviet government invaded Hungary than this. And the true story isn't being told.

Recounting some of the high points of the 1956 uprising will show this.

On October 21 of that year, Wladyslaw Gomulka, a popular symbol of resistance to Moscow's domination, became head of the Polish Communist Party. He replaced Soviet military commander Konstantin Rokossovsky as the chief political figure when the latter was removed from his position as Polish minister of defense.

This move was a concession to a mounting struggle by Polish workers that was growing into an uprising. Gomulka immediately demanded greater independence from Moscow. In response, the Kremlin began mobilizing troops on the Polish borders.

Inspired by the Polish workers, solidarity meetings were organized in Budapest, Hungary's capital city, on October 22. The protesters demanded restoration of Nagy, who had served as prime minister from 1953 to 1955 and had tried to carry out a liberalization program. They also demanded the withdrawal of Soviet troops stationed in Hungary.

The protests inspired even larger marches the next day. As a delegation, followed by some 100,000 protesters, marched to the radio station to get their demands broadcast, a statue of the hated Soviet tyrant Joseph Stalin, who had died three years before, was torn down in the City Park. At the radio station, police arrested the delegation and began machine-gunning the demonstrators. This sparked a massive uprising throughout the country.

To try to contain the protests, the CP officials co-opted Nagy into the government as prime minister. Then, in his name they asked for help from Soviet military units stationed in Hungary.

Working people took up arms to defend themselves. Nagy responded with appeals to lay down arms and surrender on the promise of amnesty. But these bleatings were swept aside as much of the Hungarian army came over to the side of the workers, and as many Soviet troops began expressing sympathy with the struggle. On October 25 the workers launched a general strike.

Throughout the entire country, councils made up of democratically elected delegates were formed. Peter Fryer, a correspondent for the British Communist Party paper, the *Daily Worker*, was in Hungary at the time and described these councils. His dispatches were suppressed by his editors, but he later published his account in a book, *Hungarian Tragedy*.

Fryer wrote that these committees, "in their spontaneous origin, in their composition, in their sense of responsibility, in their efficient organization of food supplies and of civil order, in the restraint they exercised over the wilder elements among the youth, in the wisdom with which so many of them handled the problem of Soviet troops, and, not least, in their striking resemblance at so many points to the soviets or councils of workers', peasants', and soldiers' deputies which sprang up in Russia in the 1905 revolution and again in February 1917, these committees, a network of which now extended over the whole of Hungary, were remarkably uniform.

"They were at once," Fryer continued, "organs of insurrection — the coming together of delegates elected by factories and universities, mines and Army units — and organs of popular self-government, which the armed people trusted. As such they enjoyed tremendous authority, and it is no exaggeration to say that until the Soviet attack of November 4 the real power in the country lay in their hands."

An armed working class taking over Hungary and exercising its sovereign will, and the inspiring example this set for working people throughout Eastern Europe and the USSR, was a mortal threat to the heirs of Stalin in Moscow. That is why they sent in troops. Under pressure from the popular revolt, Nagy opposed this invasion and called on the United Nations for help.

Working people of Hungary put up a fierce resistance and some 20,000 lost their lives and tens of thousands more were wounded. At least 3,500 Soviet troops were killed and large sections of Budapest were devastated in the conflict.

Some important lessons from China and Grenada

BY DON ROJAS

Almost six years ago the popular revolutionary government in Grenada led by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was overthrown by a Stalinist clique led by Bernard Coard and Hudson Austin. Bishop and many others were murdered.

While there are fundamental differences between the counterrevolutionary coup in Grenada in 1983 and the crackdown this month on the Chinese students demand-



CARIB NOTES

Don Rojas

ing democratic rights, there are also noteworthy similarities. Examining these similarities can provide a lesson in the modus operandi of Stalinism around the world.

The most striking parallel is the character of the orchestrated campaign of lies and falsifications emanating from Beijing and those hatched by Coard and his gang in September and October of 1983.

The official line of the Chinese regime is that hundreds of thousands of protesting students and workers in Beijing, Shanghai, and other cities were a "small group of thugs and counterrevolutionaries." This is as false as Coard's allegations that the thousands of Grenadians who demonstrated Oct. 19, 1983, in favor of Maurice Bishop's release from house arrest were counterrevolutionaries and right-wing opportunists.

Bishop had been arbitrarily arrested several days before by the Coard clique after resisting a maneuver to oust him from the leadership of the New Jewel Movement.

The Chinese government's big lie was that no demonstrators were killed when the army attacked the students in Tiananmen Square. This is akin to the lie promoted by Coard's supporters that no innocent people were killed when a company of Grenadian soldiers loyal to him and Hudson Austin attacked Fort Rupert in St. George's, the Grenadian capital, where a mass of demonstrators had gathered.

The Grenadian Stalinists, in an obscene abuse of the mass media similar to the cover-up being perpetrated now on Chinese television, claimed that Maurice Bishop and the other revolutionaries who died with him on October 19 were killed in the cross fire of a shoot-out between the army and armed civilians. The brutal fact, however, was that Bishop and his comrades were summarily executed by a firing squad.

The bureaucratic caste that governs China claims that the demonstrations for democratic rights were instigated and manipulated from abroad. The Coardites tried to shift the blame for their coup and killing of Bishop and their many other errors onto the CIA.

Imperialism and its agents reaped a propaganda windfall from the internal crises in both countries. In the case of Grenada, U.S. imperialism used the massacre at Fort Rupert as one of the pretexts for the criminal invasion and occupation of the island. But it is not true that some sinister foreign hand fomented the tragic events.

The thousands of Grenadians who demonstrated in support of Bishop that October were not demanding an overthrow but rather the restoration of the People's Revolutionary Government, which had actually been ousted by Coard's coup. Neither did they call for the abdication of the ruling New Jewel Movement. They were calling instead for justice for Bishop and his comrades and for democratization of the party. This did not make them counterrevolutionaries.

The demonstrating Chinese students were not spearheading a counterrevolution to restore capitalism but merely seeking democratic rights. From that standpoint, any illusions some of them may harbor about bourgeois parliamentary democracy are beside the point. The very source of such illusions is the blatant denial of basic rights by the Chinese government.

The official commendations to army commanders who carried out the Beijing massacre is a chilling reminder of the emulation ceremony organized by Coard's group for the "heroic" soldiers who assassinated Bishop and gunned down many unarmed, patriotic Grenadians.

The savage setbacks that the Grenadian and Chinese Stalinists have dealt to the masses in these countries inflicted immeasurable harm to the cause of socialism in the

Caribbean and around the world and damaged the credibility of the international working-class movement. Their actions have provided plenty of ammunition for the capitalist propaganda campaign that cites developments in China, the Soviet Union, and Eastern Europe as proof of the "terminal crisis" of communism.

Indeed, there is a crisis, but not of communism. What is in crisis is Stalinism, the rule of a bureaucratic caste in a country where capitalism has been overthrown. This phenomenon emerged and took power in the Soviet Union under the leadership of Joseph Stalin in the late 1920s.

Major defeats of revolutionary struggles by working people in Germany, China, and other countries in the early 1920s isolated the new Soviet regime set up as a result of the October 1917 revolution. This reinforced the pressures from imperialism bearing down on the young revolutionary government, thus helping to create the conditions for the rise of a privileged bureaucratic caste in the Soviet Union following V. I. Lenin's death in 1924.

The abandonment of communist internationalism in practice — as well as the administrative, arbitrary, and brutal methods of Stalinism — influenced many political parties and individuals around the world who called themselves communists. But these methods also served to alienate workers and peasants and distort the popular conception of socialism.

Stalinists are neither Marxists nor revolutionaries. They are party and state bureaucrats who usurp the political power of working people and who feel threatened by any demand of workers, farmers, and students for democratic rights and for democratic participation in running their countries.

The capitalist mouthpieces propagate the false notion that socialism and democratic rights are inherently contradictory. But socialism must not be confused with Stalinism. Democratic rights do not threaten socialism. On the contrary, democracy for the majority, for the popular masses, for workers and farmers can only thrive under socialism.

Neither capitalists nor Stalinist bureaucrats can guarantee democracy of, for, and by the working people.

Now, more than ever, the principles and ideals of socialism must be defended and promoted.

LETTERS

China

Thank you for your coverage. The focus on China by the mainstream media is driving me nuts. They see the rebellion as a call for capitalism and believe, falsely, that democracy is inherent to all capitalism.

M.H.
San Francisco, California

"Too little, too late"

A *Militant* reader in Kodiak, Alaska, sent the Seattle Pathfinder Bookstore an article from the *Kodiak Daily Mirror*. The article reports on a May 26 demonstration of 1,200 to 1,500 held there to protest Exxon's "too little, too late" cleanup efforts.

The March 24 oil spill has threatened this year's salmon season there, which has already been postponed past the June 9 scheduled opening.

According to the Alaskan daily, protesters wore black arm bands, chanted anti-Exxon slogans, and tarred and feathered an effigy of the tanker *Exxon Valdez*.

Ann Barker, a fisherman and leader of the protest, explained, "Exxon seems to put the emphasis on the amount of money spent and not on the amount of beach cleaned up." She added that the "cleanup should be done by man, not by nature."

Robbie Scherr,
Socialist Workers Party
candidate for mayor
Seattle, Washington

Smooth trip for Quayle

I read the news item about Vice-president Danforth Quayle and his family taking a whitewater rafting trip down the New River in West Virginia. To insure the Quayles a smooth trip, the Army Corps of Engineers lowered the water level, decreasing the flow from a dam upriver.

I wondered how the people felt who planned to have a *real* whitewater raft trip that day.

Next the rich will find a way to alter weather patterns for their convenience.

Ann Wilcox
Los Angeles, California

West Virginia ballot

Your June 9 issue has a letter to the editor asking whether the Libertarian Party was on the ballot in West Virginia. An editor's note follows that says, "The Libertarian Party was on the ballot in 1988 in every state except West Virginia."

Actually, the Libertarian Party was not on the ballot in three states in 1988: West Virginia, Indiana, and North Carolina. Also, in Missouri, although the party was on the ballot, its presidential candidate was omitted from the ballot.

Richard Winger
San Francisco, California

Seabrook protest

With the Seabrook nuclear power plant looming in the distance, 5,000 protesters gathered June 3 at Hampton Beach State Park to express their opposition to the opening of the facility.

The operators were expected to start low-power testing, which was approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, within a few days following the Clamshell Alliance demonstration. The owner's plan is to have Seabrook operating at full power before the end of the year. However, faulty valves have caused a delay in the startup.

The June 3 rally was the largest since 1978, when 20,000 people gathered in peaceful protest.

The town of Seabrook had declared the area across the road from the plant off-limits for the weekend unless a bond of \$3,600 was posted and a fee of \$300 paid.

Clamshell refused, citing the constitutional right of free speech. However, a judge upheld the city.

On June 4 some 1,000 protesters assembled near Seabrook Station, 627 of whom were arrested after scaling the fences surrounding the plant in an act of civil disobedience.

Demonstrators were charged with criminal trespass.

Gary Cohen
Boston, Massachusetts

Exxon spill

Recently I arranged for Robbie Scherr to speak to people in Ventura, California, interested in hearing about her experiences in the Prince William Sound area observing the damage and cleanup effort resulting from the Exxon oil spill of March 24.

It so happened that coinciding with Scherr's visit to Ventura was a visit by Lenny Kohm, an environmentalist and photographer who was presenting a multiprojector slideshow. His presentation was about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge on the coastal plain of Prudhoe Bay in the northeast corner of Alaska.

The event took place on May 11, with a crowd of about 100. Kohm spoke about the threat to the Native American population, as well as the wildlife and environment that make up one of the world's only remaining complete ecosystems. He explained the threat that comes from the current and planned exploration and drilling by oil companies.

Scherr spoke about the outrage of the local working class in Alaska and shared what she saw as conscious neglect on the part of Exxon in the spill. She also pointed to the responsibility we all have to impose our will, the will of the people, over that of the profit-motivated capitalist system that allows our environment to be plundered time and again.

Marcy Greenhut
Ventura, California

Right to bail

I was investigated by an assistant U.S. attorney who arrived in Salt Lake City from California as head of the Drug Task Force in Utah.

This same U.S. attorney let his law license run out in California and neglected to gain bar membership or get a license in Utah to



practice law. This novel condition in which the U.S. government was represented by an assistant attorney who was unlicensed lasted four years — from 1983 to 1987.

I was indicted by a grand jury on possession of cocaine with intent to distribute and was not allowed to appear before that body to defend myself.

On July 1, 1985, my front door was smashed to pieces. FBI, Drug Enforcement Agency, IRS, and other agents dragged me in chains to jail.

I was held without bail. Even though it is mandated under the 1984 Bail Reform Act that you must be a "flight risk" or a "threat to the community" in order for bail to be denied, the courts are using pretrial detention arbitrarily.

In the seven and a half months I was in detention, I spent all the money my family and I owned to obtain lawyers for bail hearings.

The Bail Reform Act not only nullifies the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, due process, right to bail, right to counsel, and the fact that you are innocent until proven guilty, but articles 8 and 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well.

A prisoner
Safford, Arizona

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.

Log-export ban debated in Oregon

Socialists: voting on measure 'is trap for working people'

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

PORTLAND, Ore. — On June 27 voters here will be deciding on a much-publicized referendum that amends the state constitution to ban the export of logs from state lands.

In 1988 one out of every four logs harvested were exported from Oregon and Washington. Log exports primarily go to Japan, China, South Korea, and Canada.

While the number of logs exported from Oregon's state-owned lands is relatively small — only 7 percent of the 1988 export total — this issue has become a controversial one.

Spearheading the campaign for a ban is liberal Democratic Congressman Peter DeFazio from Oregon's 4th Congressional District. "The issue is very simple," states DeFazio. "Will the Pacific Northwest develop into an industrial economy exporting its finished products to Japan and other nations, or will it remain a colony, selling its natural resources and its heritage at bargain basement prices?"

Other proponents of the export ban claim it would save up to 16,000 mill jobs in Oregon.

SWP statement

A statement issued here by the Socialist Workers Party argues that these views are false and politically disorienting.

"Voting for or against this export ban is a trap for working people. It diverts workers and their allies from understanding and acting on the real issues involved — the deepening profits crisis facing capitalism, including the timber industry, and its effects on working people," the statement says.

The capitalist offensive over the past decade, the SWP states, has led to increased attacks on working people and the destruction of the environment.

"Woodworkers, like many other workers throughout the country, have been forced to accept concession contracts that weaken their unions by imposing major wage cuts and attacking health and safety rights," the SWP points out. "Woodworkers throughout the Northwest have begun fighting back through strikes, yet they are still suffering some heavy blows."

"Thousands of mill workers have been thrown out of work. Thirty-four mills in Washington, Oregon, and northern California closed in 1988. The pace of shutdowns has accelerated in the first five months of 1989."

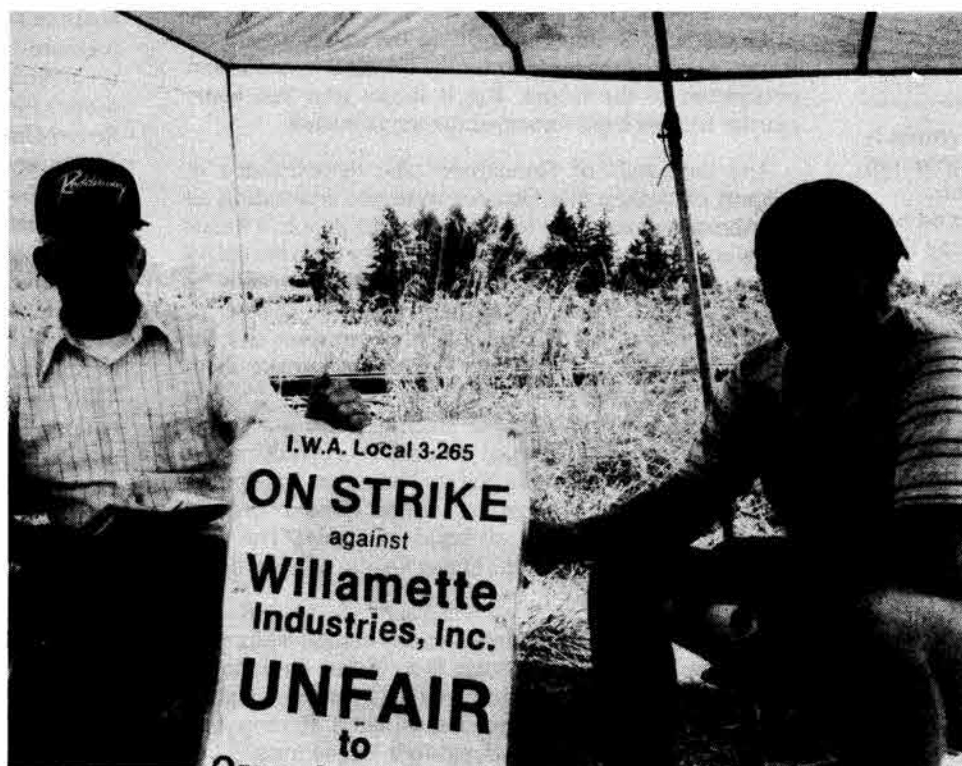
"The bosses' drive for profits," the statement continues, "has not only taken its toll on working people but has also resulted in wide-scale plundering of the land. Nationwide, most timber land is privately owned by giant corporations and other capitalist institutions that care nothing about protecting natural resources. Many forest lands, for example, are being purchased by insurance companies and pension fund groups as 'secure' investments."

Redwoods cut for junk bonds

Michael Milken, the recently indicted multibillion-dollar junk bond financier, "also got into the act," the SWP states. In 1985 Milken bought out northern California's Pacific Lumber Co. To cover \$82 million in yearly junk bond interest payments, massive clear-cutting of the invaluable redwood trees was begun. The oldest, most valuable trees were the first to go.

Internationally, the capitalist owners aim to privatize as much publicly owned land as possible. In Brazil, for example, there has been "massive destruction of the rain forests," the socialists explain, "as international corporations gain access to land in exchange for slightly lowering the crushing debt Brazil owes to bankers in New York, Paris, Tokyo, and other financial centers."

In the United States, timber companies



Strike last summer by International Woodworkers of America resisted attacks on union rights and living standards. Socialist Workers Party in Oregon challenges claim that export ban is effective way to fight for workers' interests.

have been cutting down trees in federally owned national forests at an ever-growing pace.

Prior to World War II, virtually no timber was cut from these forests. In 1987 the amount of timber stripped from the 156 national forests reached an all-time high of 12.7 billion board feet. In the Pacific Northwest alone, which encompasses the vast majority of what remains of the ancient forests, 5.5 billion board feet were logged from 19 national forests in 1988.

According to the Wilderness Society, at the present rates of deforestation these virgin forests with their unique plant and animal life will disappear in 15 years.

Thrust to the center of the controversy over logging in the national forests is the northern spotted owl, which lives only in old-growth forests of Washington, Oregon, and northern California.

Under political pressure from the timber monopolies, the U.S. government's Fish and Wildlife Service doctored up a scientific

report so as to exclude the spotted owl from a list of endangered species. The Fish and Wildlife Service reversed its original decision in April, in response to public outrage over this report.

Unions support ban

Both major woodworker unions, the International Woodworkers of America and the Western Council of Industrial Workers, support the export ban. Also backing it are the environmental organizations Wilderness Society, Audubon Society, and Oregon Natural Resource Council.

Union leaders argue that the ban would mean more logs for domestic lumber production, thus saving jobs in Oregon. Environmental organizations contend the amendment would simply mean less trees are cut down.

"By casting their interests on the side of the mill owners and joining up with one of the capitalist trade associations on this question," the SWP argues, "the woodworkers'

unions weaken their ability to effectively unite with other workers in defense of their own class interests for jobs and protection of the environment.

"Taking sides on the log export ban cuts across much needed working-class solidarity," the socialist statement says.

"While woodworker unions in the United States line up in support of the log export ban, the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union has joined up with a coalition of timber exporting companies such as Weyerhaeuser to oppose the ban."

"Members of the International Woodworkers in the United States find themselves blocking with their bosses in opposing log exports from the United States to Canada instead of solidarizing with the just struggles of IWA Canada union members against the takeback drive of Canadian capitalists."

"The ban is an obstacle to woodworkers in the United States seeing workers in Japan and South Korea as fellow workers who have a common interest in fighting against capitalist exploitation and oppression."

Attempts to adjust capitalist trading policies, the SWP states, might temporarily give certain businesses a slight competitive edge over others, but it cannot solve the effects on workers of the deepening crisis the capitalists face today.

Labor productivity

"The truth is that job loss in the timber industry results mainly from increased labor productivity," the SWP explains. "From 1979 to 1989, some 13,000 woodworkers in Oregon lost their jobs because of new machinery or organization of work that increased productivity. Today a work force that is 15 percent smaller than 10 years ago is producing more lumber and plywood."

"The next recession will create even greater unemployment, devastation, and suffering for all working people," the SWP states.

"What's needed is a fighting program for jobs and maximum unity among working people and their allies worldwide. Workers should benefit from increased productivity, not be thrown out of work as a result of it. What's needed is a fight for a shorter work-week with no cut in pay — 30 hours' work

Continued on Page 13

Dominican workers hold two-day strike

BY SELVA NEBBIA

A 48-hour protest strike in the Dominican Republic June 19 and 20 expressed the mounting anger of working people to worsening conditions there.

In a telephone interview the day after the strike, Sucre Reyes, the administrative secretary of the General Workers Federation (CGT) of the Dominican Republic explained, "Production was stopped at all the factories. For example, in the free-trade zone of San Pedro de Macoris, the main industrial area in the eastern part of the country, all 35,000 workers took part in the strike."

"Of the 13 state sugar mills," he said, "only one was in operation with half the personnel, and none of the four private mills was in operation."

Demands

The demands of the strike included: a 100 percent raise in the minimum wage; exemption from income taxes for workers receiving salaries at the minimum wage level or below it; resolution of the 42-day teachers' strike in favor of the teachers; government subsidies of 18 food products, including rice, beans, oil, yucca (cassava), and other staples in the Dominican diet.

While the minimum monthly salary in the Dominican Republic is 500 pesos (6.5 pesos = US\$1), the Central Bank has estimated that 3,000 pesos is needed to feed a family of six, explained the CGT leader.

Other demands of the strike are the cancellation of the foreign debt and that the government hand over 154,000 acres of idle state-owned land to peasants and offer them affordable credit and technical assistance.

"This strike is the expression of the terrible popular discontent that exists in the Dominican Republic due to the economic policies of the government," explained Rafael "Fafa" Taveras, general secretary of the Bloque Socialista. "This economic policy responds to the demands of adjustments directed by the International Monetary Fund in all the countries of the region."

"While the official unemployment rate is 30 percent, and 50 percent of the capital city, Santo Domingo, lacks electric services," Taveras added, "the government is paying \$650 million a year to service the foreign debt."

"If you add this to the terrible conditions of the health services, education, and transportation, working people burdened by increasing hunger began to organize the gen-

eral strike," he concluded.

"The general strike took place on a national level," José González Espinosa, president of the Dominican Workers Party (PDT), said. "It was carried out in an organized and peaceful manner. The only incidents of violence were those carried out by the repressive government forces."

"The majority of the population, heeding the call of the unions and political organizations that directed the strike, remained in their homes during the strike," said the PDT leader. "The large presence of the army also served to scare people into staying at home. Hundreds of people were arrested throughout the country."

"As a result of the strike," he continued, "the government of President Joaquín Balaguer has promised that it will implement some of the demands, but so far nothing has been done. The 32,000 public school teachers are still on strike."

Workers', farmers', and student organizations will be meeting in the following days to map out how to proceed on their demands, he added.

On June 22 about 75 people demonstrated in the heart of New York City's Dominican community to support the general strike in the Dominican Republic.