

U.S. military threats aimed against Panama

Troop maneuvers violate sovereignty

BY DON ROJAS

Concern is growing throughout Latin America and the Caribbean that the U.S. military is on the verge of carrying out a major aggression against Panama with the objective of forcibly removing Gen. Manuel Noriega, chief of the country's defense forces, and replacing him and his supporters in the government and the army with a regime favorable to Washington.

In an ominous move, the U.S. government requested a special meeting on August 31 of

See editorial on page 14.

the Organization of American States (OAS) to hear "evidence" that Noriega had turned Panama into a "haven" for drug traffickers from Colombia. This move comes a week after the White House announced a \$65 million package of military assistance to the Colombian government, which it says is to be used to crack down on the country's drug lords.

As its options narrow in the wake of the failure to get the OAS to force Noriega's resignation by September 1, Washington has upscaled military action on its list of measures against Noriega and the Panamanian government.

An August 21 editorial in *Granma*, official organ of the Communist Party of Cuba, described a mid-August U.S. embassy briefing in Panama in which embassy officials warned that the U.S. government stands ready to take

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Demonstration in Panama City, May 1989.

Impact Visuals/Les Stone

Black youth lynched in Brooklyn

BY PETER THIERJUNG

NEW YORK — Yusef Hawkins, a 16-year-old Black youth, was gunned down August 23 by a gang of racist thugs in the mostly white Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn. Hawkins suffered two fatal gunshot wounds in the chest.

Witnesses said that a gang of whites gath-

ered that evening in front of a candy store below the apartment of Gina Feliciano. They heard that the woman had invited Blacks to her 18th birthday party and they were preparing, witnesses said, for a fight. The lynch mob was armed with several baseball bats and at least one gun.

A friend of Feliciano told police that prior

to the attack one of the group showed Feliciano a gun and warned her about her "nigger friends." Amid signs of trouble the woman called her friends and canceled the birthday party.

Hawkins and three Black companions, in Bensonhurst to buy a used car, happened to walk down the street where the racists were congregated. The gang of up to 30 thugs followed them shouting racial slurs and making physical threats. "The hell with beating them up, forget the bats," one of them shouted, "I'm gonna shoot the nigger." A chase began and moments later Hawkins was dead.

Two charged with murder

Police arrested six of the attackers by August 28. All have been charged with misdemeanors or felonies. Two, Keith Mondello and Pasquale Raucci, have been charged with murder. Another, Joseph Fama, who police say may have pulled the trigger, is still being sought.

Initial police reports, press accounts, and statements by New York Mayor Edward Koch attempted to blur the racist nature of the attack and killing.

They alleged that it was a result of Feliciano's ending a relationship with one of the gang leaders and dating someone else who happened to be Black. Because the thugs did not know the party was canceled, it is implied that the killing of Hawkins was a case of mistaken identity. Hawkins and his friends did not know Feliciano.

An attorney for one of the attackers denied the killing was racist and said "it was caused

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African leaders adopt ANC proposal for negotiations with Pretoria

BY GREG McCARTAN

HARARE, Zimbabwe — The August 21 meeting of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) here adopted the guidelines put forward by the African National Congress for negotiations with the South African apartheid regime.

The heads of state from 16 countries across the continent called on the Pretoria regime to negotiate directly with the ANC without the involvement of other countries. They added that in order for negotiations to take place, the regime must "release Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners and detainees; lift the State of Emergency; remove the ban on the ANC and PAC [Pan-African Congress] and all anti-apartheid organizations; and enter into a dialogue with the genuine representatives of the South African people."

The OAU "reiterated the pressing need to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions by the international community against South Africa in order to force it to renounce apartheid and accept the establishment of a united, democratic, and nonracial state based on the principle of one person, one vote."

After the meeting was over, ANC Secretary General Alfred Nzo told the press that the OAU's endorsement of the proposals "shows the Africans taking the initiative on the issue." He noted that while the stand by the OAU was a step forward, the South African government was no closer to negotiating with the liberation movement.

The next day a summit of eight African leaders met to discuss progress in implementing accords signed June 24 between the Angolan government and the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). Supported by the South African regime and the U.S. government, UNITA has carried out a 10-year counterrevolutionary war inside Angola. The agreement included a cessation of all hostilities and the integration of UNITA forces into government institutions, including the Angolan army.

Some new terms of the accord were released to the public following the summit meeting. They included the previous acceptance of UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi of "temporary and voluntary retirement" from

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Eastern strikers seek wider backing on Labor Day

BY SUSAN LaMONT

Striking Eastern Airlines workers will mark the beginning of their seventh month on the picket line September 4 by appealing to thousands of fellow unionists at Labor Day marches and events to deepen support for the Eastern workers' ongoing fight.

In New York, Philadelphia, Miami, Detroit, and other cities, Eastern strikers have campaigned to place solidarity with their strike at the center of Labor Day actions.

The International Association of Machinists is urging strikers from all over — and especially from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut — to attend the New York Labor Day march, in which Eastern Machinists, flight attendants, and pilots will be the lead contingent.

Three caravans of strikers — two from Miami and one from Boston — will arrive in New York to join the contingent. The caravans have been traveling up and down the eastern United States for several weeks publicizing the strike. Strikers from Newark International Airport will also be part of the New York action.

Washington, D.C.'s Labor Day event will be held September 6 at the Capitol. The IAM is asking participating unionists to join the Machinists' and pilots' Journey for Justice strike caravan for the last mile in its 3,000-mile "picket line," which will wind up at the Capitol rally.

Start-up of more flights

Strikers in New York, Miami, and Washington, D.C., are planning rallies, expanded picketing, and other activities for September 7 — the day Eastern plans to increase the number of daily flights from 390 to 600. Strikers in other cities are also working to get such actions called.

Strike activists plan to appeal to Labor Day marchers to turn out at the airports September 7 to join them in these protests.

"More workers in the IAM and the rest of the labor movement need to look at solidarity as direct involvement as co-fighters in our battle," said strike activist Nick Gruenberg, from Newark. "Our message Labor Day will

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New York socialists file for ballot status

NEW YORK — On August 22, some 11,400 signatures — 4,000 over the legal requirement — were filed with the Board of Elections here to get ballot status for three Socialist Workers Party candidates: James Harris for mayor, Jerry Freiwirth for City Council president, and Vivian Sahner for comptroller.

On August 24, Ezra Friedlander, a registered Democrat, filed a general challenge against the signatures submitted by the SWP, as well as those of the Workers League, New Alliance Party, and the Republican Rudolph Giuliani. According to the ballot rules, Friedlander had six days to specify the basis of his challenge. By the end of the day on August 30, he had not filed these specifications.

Frederick Engels, 'working-class fighter'

Iranian-born artist paints cofounder of modern socialism on Pathfinder mural

BY SAM MANUEL

NEW YORK — A colorful portrait of Frederick Engels, cofounder of modern socialism, now looks out over the West Side Highway in Manhattan. The portrait, done by Iranian-born artist Marjan Hormozi, is the newest addition to the six-story mural nearing completion on the Pathfinder Building at Charles and West streets.

"There are so many things about Engels that it is so difficult to say it all in one painting," Hormozi explained. "I wanted to paint an active Engels. So many people think Marx and Engels were just these guys who sat in a room and wrote. But they were active in revolutionary struggles. They were working-class fighters. That's why in the painting," added Hormozi, "I have painted Engels as if he were addressing people."

"In the background I painted a group of women. Engels is pointing to them, and on his desk is a copy of his work *The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State*. An important thing about Engels for me is his strong ideas about the rights of women," explained Hormozi.

"I also added a cold and dark industrial town, representing Manchester, where Engels did much of his research and study of the horrible plight of workers in England, which was published as *The Condition of the Working-class in England*."

Hormozi studied painting at several universities in Britain. She has also been artist-in-residence at the Stroud Museum and at Northeast London Polytechnic College. She was assisted in painting the portrait of Engels by Los Angeles artist James Goodwin. He is studying art at the Parsons School of Design.

In an article written on the occasion of Engels' death in 1895 and published the next year, V.I. Lenin, central leader of the October 1917 Russian revolution, wrote: "Even before Engels, many people had described the suffering of the proletariat and had pointed to the necessity of helping it. Engels was the first to say that the proletariat is not only a suffering class; that it is, in fact, the disgraceful economic condition of the proletariat that drives it irresistibly forward and compels it to fight for its ultimate emancipation. And the fighting proletariat will help itself."

Engels was the lifelong and central collaborator of Karl Marx. On the eve of the outbreak of the revolutionary upheavals throughout Europe in 1848, Engels wrote with Marx the *Manifesto of the Communist Party*. Written as the program of the German Communist League, it laid down for the first time in a systematic way the foundations of scientific socialism.

When the revolutionary upsurge began, they went to Germany and published the revolutionary newspaper *Neue Rheinische*

Zeitung. With the impending defeat of the revolution, the *Neue Rheinische Zeitung* was suppressed, and Marx was deported. Engels joined the armed popular uprising and fought in three battles before being forced to flee Germany through Switzerland to London.

With Marx, Engels took an active role in the formation and work of the International Working Men's Association in 1864. Their close collaboration continued until Marx's death in 1883. Engels then took on the enormous task of assembling Marx's notes and publishing the second and third volumes of *Capital*.

The mural will be completed by the first week in November. Among the other por-

traits featured are those of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, the West African communist Thomas Sankara, Grenadian revolutionary Maurice Bishop, Argentine-born leader of the Cuban revolution Ernesto Che Guevara, Nicaraguan fighters Carlos Fonseca and Augusto Sandino, U.S. communist and working-class leaders James P. Cannon and Farrell Dobbs, Polish-born German communist Rosa Luxemburg, and U.S. working-class fighters Mother Jones and Eugene V. Debs.

Funds to complete the mural are urgently needed. For more information or to send a contribution, write Pathfinder Mural Project, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

'Militant' supporters ready for international sales drive

BY SUSAN LaMONT

Militant supporters around the world are mapping plans to get the nine-week international circulation drive for the socialist press off to a strong start during the kickoff week September 9-16. Orders for larger bundles of the *Militant* for that week have already started coming in.

The *Militant* is planning several special features for the issue to be sold during the eight-day target week. These include:

- Four pages of coverage on the Eastern strike, which will mark its 190th day September 9. Included will be on-the-scene reports from Miami, Philadelphia, and New York; a news analysis article about where the strike stands and its significance; a strike chronology; coverage of the pilots' walkout in Australia; an article on air safety; and more.

- A firsthand report from Greg McCartan and James Harris, the *Militant* reporting team attending the Fifth Annual Zimbabwe Bookfair in Harare, Zimbabwe, August 28-September 2. McCartan and Harris will be traveling to Zambia following the bookfair. Their coverage of developments in southern Africa will be featured for the next several weeks.

- An interview with United Mine Workers member John Hawkins from Birmingham, Alabama, on the current stage of the coal miners' strike at Pittston Coal Group and its significance for United Mine Workers unionists across the country.

- The scoreboard listing goals for each city, town, and/or country for the circulation drive.

The special, 40-page September issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* will also be available, featuring coverage of recent developments in Cuba.

During the international circulation drive,

supporters will be campaigning to win 9,000 new readers for the socialist press.

This breaks down to 5,800 introductory or renewal subscriptions to the *Militant*; 1,400 subscriptions to the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*; 400 subscriptions to the French-language quarterly *Lutte ouvrière*, and 1,400 copies of the Marxist magazines *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale*.

Supporters are already warming up for the target week. At the demonstration of 25,000 in support of affirmative action, held August 26 in Washington, D.C., supporters from a number of East Coast cities sold 17 *Militant* subscriptions, more than 200 single copies of the paper, and \$1,100 in Pathfinder literature.

On September 4, thousands of unionists in many cities will be marching in Labor Day parades. In New York, Detroit, Miami, and other cities, support to the Eastern strike, along with the Pittston and telephone strikes, will be the theme of the actions. *Militant* supporters will be selling subscriptions and staffing socialist literature tables at these events.

On the same day, tens of thousands of working people will be gathering in Brooklyn for the annual Caribbean Day festival. Teams of *Militant* supporters will be introducing festival participants to the socialist press and literature that day.

Supporters of the paper in Canada, Iceland, New Zealand, Australia, Britain, France, Puerto Rico, Sweden, and the United States will be participating in the international circulation drive. *Militant* readers everywhere are urged to take part. If you would like to take on a goal, or order copies of the publications, write to the *Militant* at the address on this page.



Marjan Hormozi painting Engels' portrait on Pathfinder mural.

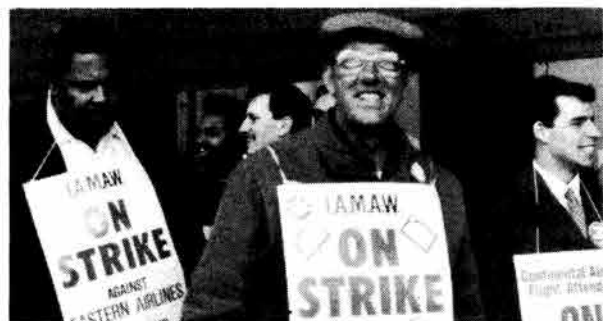
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The Militant

Closing news date: August 30, 1989

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

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

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

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

ANC leader on Namibia: acts by S. Africa 'highly unacceptable'

BY RONI McCANN

NEW YORK — "We would like to see a situation where Namibia becomes free. This is important not only to the extent that it provides inspiration to the people of South Africa, who are locked in battle with the apartheid regime, but also we feel the people of Namibia have the right, after centuries of colonial oppression, to independence and self-determination, so therefore no effort should be spared."

In an interview here, Tebogo Mafole, the African National Congress of South Africa's chief representative to the United Nations, discussed a range of issues regarding southern Africa and South Africa. The process under way in Namibia was a focal point.

A political battle is unfolding today in Namibia as the Namibian people, led by the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), fight for the implementation of UN Resolution 435.

This resolution outlines measures to be taken in Namibia during the transition to independence from 73 years of colonial domination by South Africa. It was adopted by the UN in 1978 but it took a major military defeat of South African forces at the hands of SWAPO, Angolan troops, and Cuban internationalist fighters in southern Angola last year before South Africa acknowledged the agreement.

Continued pressure needed

"The South African government, in taking the decision to comply to Resolution 435, did not have a change of heart," said Mafole. "It was forced on South Africa through pressure."

"It is logical then to say," he continued, "that since South Africa went to the negotiating table, kicking and yelling as it were, as a result of this pressure, we can conclude that if the pressure were removed South Africa would not hesitate to take the entire agreement and throw it out the window."

A key part of the agreement calls for elections to be held in Namibia, for the first time in the history of the country. They are scheduled to take place in November. An elected constituent assembly will then be charged with the task of drafting a constitution. A political party winning a two-thirds majority can establish a new government.

From the very first day the South African regime has tried to derail this process. On July 21 Pretoria's Louis Pienaar, South African administrator general in Namibia, issued two draft proclamations regarding the constituent assembly and the elections.

"Looking at the draft one cannot escape the conclusion that it is an electoral law guaranteeing anything but a free and fair election," said Mafole.

Climate of intimidation

"A fundamental thing about elections in any democratic society is that the person

casting their vote should be guaranteed the secrecy of the ballot," he explained, "but in these provisions one comes across an arrangement whereby the identity of the voter will be revealed in a climate where intimidation and repression exist."

Interested political parties won't be allowed to be present at the point of voting all the way through to when results are announced. As well, South Africa has cooked up a complex method of gathering and counting the votes. "In Namibia the votes will be cast at polling stations scattered around the country" and then transported to Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, for counting. "Given the country's transport situation," he added, "it could obviously take two weeks before they reach the central point."

"It's anybody's guess what is going to happen in between," said the African National Congress representative.

As far as the constituent assembly is concerned, Mafole explained the South African administrator general has not only appointed himself chairperson of the body but also wants veto power as well.

"All of this is highly unacceptable," stated Mafole.

The ANC leader also reviewed the string of violations committed by South Africa in their refusal to disband their paramilitary units called Koevoet (crowbar), which continue to terrorize the Namibian people.

Colonial governor issues statement

Administrator General Pienaar "issued a statement on August 15, in anticipation of the debate scheduled to take place at the Security Council meeting August 16, that he would confine certain Koevoet units to their barracks," Mafole reported.

According to Resolution 435, however, these units are to be dissolved and their command structures dismantled.

"We recognize this as a move on the part of South Africa to try and steer the international community into thinking that everything is fine," said Mafole.

At the August 16 meeting, called on special request by the African countries in the UN, charges were leveled against South Africa for sabotaging the independence process.

Ghana's Ambassador James Victor Gbeho asked the Security Council to adopt a resolution giving the UN peacekeeping force now



Militant/Sam Manuel
Tebogo Mafole, African National Congress chief representative to UN.

in Namibia greater powers to supervise and control the preparations for the elections.

"Our concern, as part and parcel of the African countries in the UN, as South Africans, and as members of the ANC, is that this situation might well lead to a Namibia that is not truly free," Mafole concluded.

New York event marks Namibia Day



Militant/Margrethe Siem

Rapu Molekane (left) at Puerto Rico independence rally and Hinyangerwa Asheeke of South West Africa People's Organisation. Both spoke at Namibia Day event.



Militant/Osborne Hart

BY RONI McCANN

NEW YORK — "The intensification of the struggle in South Africa will only increase the chance of victory in Namibia," said Hinyangerwa Asheeke, Chief representative of the South West Africa People's Organisation

to the United Nations. Asheeke was addressing a meeting here August 26 to celebrate Namibia Day and the 23rd anniversary of the launching of the armed struggle in that country.

"We have a rich history of struggle by men

and women who have stood firm," the SWAPO leader continued. "We are a very small population and have dared to challenge the racist regime."

Asheeke painted a picture of sabotage, violence, intimidation, and harassment taking place on a daily basis as the South African government tries to continue its 73 years of colonial rule over Namibia.

Today this political fight involves Pretoria's attempts to halt the process of independence by placing every obstacle it can in the way of SWAPO winning the November elections.

SWAPO leader Asheeke outlined the long list of violations by South Africa of UN Resolution 435, which stipulates measures to be followed in the transition process.

The meeting was organized by the Namibia Day Committee and held at the hall of Hospital and Health Care Employees Local 1199. More than 100 people attended, and Rosemary Mealy of WBAI Radio and the National Alliance of Third World Journalists chaired the event. She urged everybody present to recommit themselves to defending the Namibian peace process.

Enthusiastic applause greeted Rapu Molekane, general secretary of the 1.5-million-member South African Youth Congress, who is winding up a two-week tour of the United States.

"Inside South Africa today we are inspired by the people of Namibia," said Molekane.

He discussed the defiance campaign unfolding in South Africa as anti-apartheid fighters challenge Pretoria's laws and the state of emergency under which the regime banned more than 34 organizations last year alone.

"They are racist laws and must be destroyed. To make it easier for de Klerk, Bush, and Thatcher we have decided to unban ourselves," said the youth leader.

F.W. de Klerk is South Africa's acting president until the September 6 parliamentary elections, which Blacks are barred from participating in.

"We have shared trenches with the Namibian people and shared prisons with SWAPO fighters. That is why Namibia's victory will be our victory," stated Molekane.

"South Africa wants to have a situation in Namibia whereby it can have its puppets and can continue to rule by remote control," said Tebogo Mafole, chief representative of the African National Congress to the United Nations.

The ANC leader reminded the audience of the South African government's poor track record in adhering to agreements and the pressure it took to force South Africa to accept 10-year-old Resolution 435.

"The best way we can help is to intensify the struggle inside South Africa so that when the apartheid regime gets out of Namibia it will come home to confront us," said Mafole to cheers.

Youth leader hits apartheid during U.S. tour

"Under apartheid law I'm not supposed to be talking to you," said Rapu Molekane to a crowd in Harlem, New York, on August 24.

Molekane, general secretary of the 1.5-million-member South African Youth Congress, has just completed a 19-day tour of the United States. At every meeting the youth leader used his actions as an example of how anti-apartheid fighters are defying Pretoria's laws.

Molekane visited Washington, D.C.; Birmingham, Alabama; Los Angeles; and New York. At meetings in each city he gave firsthand reports on the situation in South Africa.

At the Harlem meeting, sponsored by the Patrice Lumumba Coalition, 70 people gathered at the Harriet Tubman School on a few days' notice.

During a question-and-answer period, several people asked about Cuba's role in Africa. Molekane explained that despite intensive anti-Cuba propaganda by the South African government, many, particularly youth, are coming to view the Cuban troops who fought in Angola and Cuban President Fidel Castro as heroes.

Rosemary Mealy of WBAI Radio taped the meeting to air at a later date.

Molekane spoke at several other meetings in New York, including a Namibia Day celebration and a demonstration for Puerto Rican independence. A press conference held on the steps of City Hall was attended by five newspapers. Two radio stations interviewed Molekane, as well as two TV shows, "South Africa Today" and Gil Noble's "Like It Is."

In Albany, New York, he addressed a meeting in support of the Namibian freedom struggle.

While in Alabama, the youth leader spoke at a rally in Birmingham and addressed a conference of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, an organization of mainly Black farmers, in Epes on August 19.

When Molekane arrived in Los Angeles he was met at the airport by more than a dozen supporters, including trade unionists and South African students.

A highlight of the visit was a meeting of more than 150 people at the Trinity Baptist Church August 21 sponsored by the African National Congress, South African Interna-

tional Student Congress, Los Angeles Student Coalition, and Young Socialist Alliance.

In response to a question on the military defeat of the South African forces in Angola, Molekane explained that the impact was substantial. He said that although he was in a South African prison at the time, he and other prisoners joyfully read Castro's statement, "Next time you meet a white South African, ask him what happened at Cuito."

Striking garment workers from La Mode were present to hear Molekane and striking Eastern Airlines worker Joe Mos.

In the discussion period Mos took the floor to welcome Molekane and present him with an "I walked the line at Eastern" button. "We're fighting for the same thing," Mos told the youth leader, "justice, dignity, and self-respect."

Molekane was interviewed by five radio stations, two television stations, and three newspapers.

Marea Himelgrin from New York and Geoff Mirelowitz from Los Angeles contributed to this article.

Haitian unionist protests prison's non-English ban

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 Committee is leading an international campaign to fight for justice for Curtis. For more information about the case or how you can help, write to the Mark Curtis

restrictions on Curtis and other prisoners from receiving non-English literature and materials.

They sent a copy of it to Curtis along with a note explaining the different languages spoken in their workplace, including Chinese, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Urdu, and Greek.

They noted the challenge of communicating with each other. As an

DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa, 50311; telephone (515) 246-1695.

If you have news or reports on activities in support of Mark Curtis from your city or country, please send them to the *Militant*.

Yves Antoine Richard, general secretary of the Independent Federation of Haitian Workers (CATH) in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, sent the following message to the warden at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory where Curtis is incarcerated:

"We demand Mark Curtis and other prisoners be allowed to receive literature in any language, because that is a democratic right. We think this is a violation of freedom of speech.

"After being unjustly condemned to 25 years in prison, you are now trying to pressure Mark more. We in CATH condemn the abuse of this progressive person. This is an attack against the whole progressive movement in the United States."

Several workers at the Pincus Brothers garment shop in Philadelphia also sent a letter protesting the

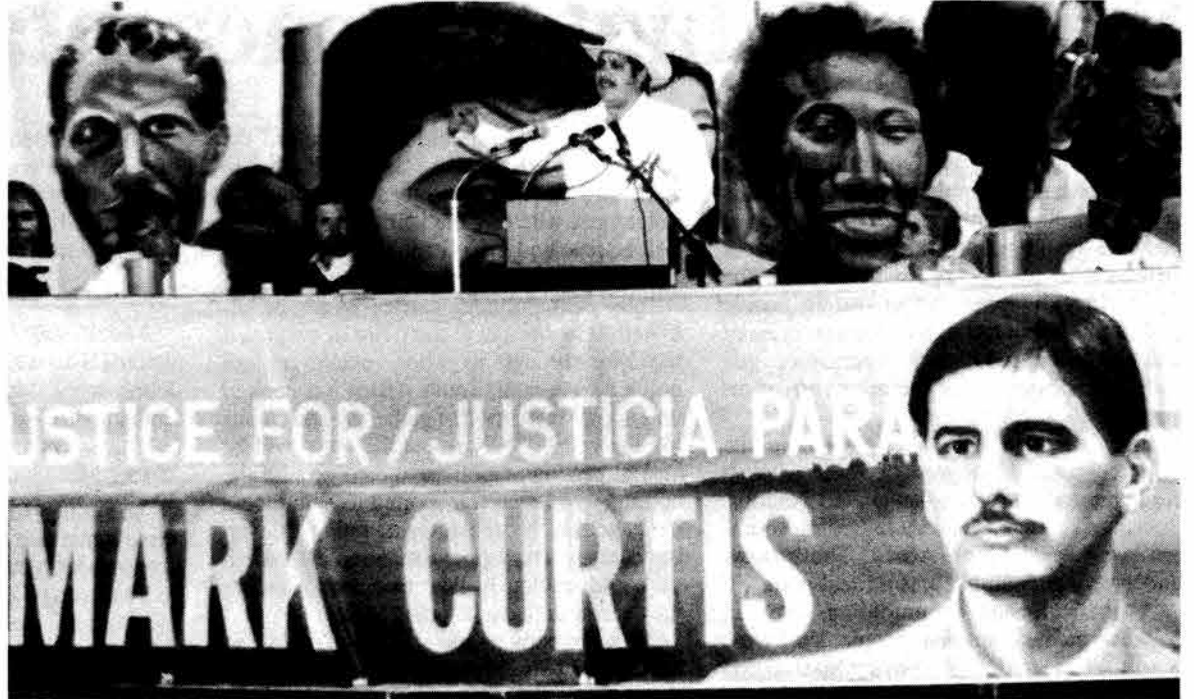
example of the effort they are making, they attached a leaflet in Chinese expressing their union's support for the Eastern Airlines strikers.

Last week Curtis reported that prison authorities denied him a letter from some garment workers because it was written in Chinese or Korean.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee has launched an international protest campaign to get Iowa prison authorities to lift their ban on prisoners receiving non-English language materials and correspondence, and the right of prisoners to share literature among themselves. You can help by sending a message of your own or from your organization.

Protests should be addressed to: John A. Thalacker, Warden, Iowa State Men's Reformatory, Anamosa, Iowa 52205.

Copies should be sent to: Attorney General Thomas J. Miller, Hoover State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319; Paul Grossheim, Director, Department of Corrections, Capitol Annex, 523 E. 12th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309;



Gil Sierra, an alderman in Davenport, Iowa, where he is a packinghouse worker, speaking at August 6 Mark Curtis rally in Ohio. Sierra recently participated in Curtis defense at a national Chicano conference in Kansas City.

and the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Many participants at the National Council of La Raza conference, held July 15-19 in Kansas City, learned of the Curtis defense campaign from supporters in that city who set up a literature table.

Gil Sierra, a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) union and an alderman in Davenport, Iowa, helped introduce Curtis supporters to conference participants and staffed the table.

Hundreds of leaflets introducing

the case were distributed; \$41 in contributions were collected; six copies of the Pathfinder pamphlet, *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis: A Packinghouse Worker's Fight for Justice*, were sold; and 16 people signed up for more information. Almost 2,000 people attended the conference.

Two supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee in Madison, Illinois, hosted a barbecue fund-raiser. Tickets at \$10 each were sold in advance. Supporters at the Granite City Steel mill nearby collected \$100 in contributions through ticket sales.

Twenty-five people attended the affair and photos taken were sent to Curtis. A total of \$422 was raised for the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

The defense committee has projected raising \$100,000 by November 1 to help cover the costs of legal expenses, travel by defense committee representatives, the production of literature, and other publicity costs. Funds are urgently needed and can be mailed to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Raúl González from Kansas City, David Rosenfeld from St. Louis, and Halket Allen from Philadelphia contributed to this week's column.

In N. Carolina mayor race it's incumbent v. socialist



Militant/Holbrook Mahn
Yvonne Hayes, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Greensboro.

GREENSBORO, N.C. — The "citizens deserved another candidate," the *News & Record*, this city's daily paper, wrote. The incumbent mayor, Victor Nussbaum, faces only one opponent in November's election: Yvonne Hayes, a textile worker at Cone Mills Corp. and member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. She is the candidate of the Socialist Workers Party.

"Hayes will broaden the debate into irrelevance... if she pursues her Socialist Worker [sic] Party's platform of 30-hour workweeks and unemployment benefits at union scale," wrote Ron Miller, the *Record's* editorial writer. "Local government has more to do with sewer lines and zoning spats than workers' rights."

"I disagree," wrote Hayes in a guest column. "The problems facing working people in this city are local, national, and international. The assaults on workers' rights; lack

of decent housing, medical care, and public transportation; the resegregation of our schools, neighborhoods, and workplaces; pollution; toxic wastes; and deteriorating public services — all these are symptoms of a deepgoing international economic crisis of the capitalist system."

Hayes pointed to the strike by Machinists, flight attendants, and pilots at Eastern Airlines as an example of workers responding to the effects of this crisis.

"These conditions are daily life in the Greensboro of working people like myself. These conditions are the price we pay to keep the other Greensboro afloat: the Greensboro of the well-fed and well-housed... represented by the mayor.

'Seeing Greensboro in the world'

"We need to begin by seeing Greensboro in the world — a world being shaken by a coming social crisis created by the ruling rich and their drive for profits, a crisis signaled by the 1987 stock market crash."

Hayes explained how working people internationally pay for the crushing Third World debt. She pointed to the crisis faced by working farmers. And she used the example of recent factory closings in North Carolina and layoffs, which resulted from the takeover frenzy and leveraged buyouts engineered by big business.

"My campaign is an activist campaign aimed at beginning to organize working people to fight in our own interests," wrote Hayes. She pledged to help mobilize support for actions in defense of affirmative action, the November 12 march for abortion rights, and the October march to end homelessness. Already workers at the cotton mill where Hayes works have approached her about organizing support for the homeless.

Hayes' response to the *News & Record* explains the central points in the Pathfinder pamphlet, *An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*. These include a call for cancellation of the Third World debt, the demand for enforcement of affirmative action, and a call for a reduction of the workweek with no cut in pay, to combat unemployment.

Hayes pointed to Cuba as an example of the gains that can be made, even in a small

country, when workers' rights are placed at the top of the list of priorities. Cuba is the country "that has done the most to guarantee the well-being of all its citizens" while "defending Angolan working people from South Africa's apartheid regime, aiding the Nicaraguan people in their battle against a U.S.-sponsored war, and championing the campaign to end the Third World debt."

Hayes' coworkers at Cone Mills have responded positively to the socialist's column in the paper.

Coworkers' response

"This is so true," exclaimed one woman who works alongside Hayes in the spinning room, "how the rich just run things and don't give a damn about us."

"You really gave them a piece of your mind," said another. "You're not afraid to tell the truth, are you?"

"That article really told the truth about how

things are," said one worker, "but I think you're running in the wrong party. Why not say you're a Democrat and ease on in there? All the rest of them lie to get elected."

Striking Eastern Airlines workers also agreed at a rally in downtown Greensboro that workers' rights are the heart of the matter, not irrelevant at all to local, national, or international politics. They were not surprised to hear that one of the few lines cut from Hayes' column by the *News & Record* was a challenge to the incumbent to join her on the Eastern picket line. "Naturally that would be what they left out," one striker commented.

The Socialist Workers campaign has announced plans to take advantage of the debate about the relevance of its program to get out as many copies of the Action Program as possible in the coming weeks. A campaign flyer reprinting Hayes' column invites people to "read for yourself" the ideas the *News & Record* ridicules.

British Columbia coal mine workers win gains after two-week strike

BY G.W. LeBLANC

TUMBLER RIDGE, British Columbia — More than 1,100 members of the United Steelworkers of America returned to work here recently after a two-week strike against their employer, Quintette Coal, Ltd.

The members of Local 9113, who represent maintenance and production workers at the open-pit coal mine in northeastern British Columbia, withdrew services June 30 after talks between the union and company broke down. The previous contract expired on May 31.

This was the first strike involving the four-year-old local, and several features made it significant in the context of the antilabor climate fostered by the employers in the province. Most important, the strike vote, job action, and ratification vote were conducted without supervision of the Industrial Relations Council. The IRC is the council created by the Social Credit government's antilabor Bill 19 to oversee "union-management relations."

The B.C. Federation of Labour has asked all its affiliates to boycott the IRC when possible. Many unions have been unsuccessful in conducting strike action without interference from the council, but Local 9113, with the use of local clergy to oversee the strike vote, managed to realize that goal.

The three-year agreement, which was ratified by a 74 percent majority, saw gains in wages, a tool and boot allowance, increases in weekly indemnity, improved contract language, and the implementation of a joint savings plan.

LeBlanc is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 9113 in Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia.

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Poland's new prime minister calls for more belt-tightening

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Tadeusz Mazowiecki, a leader of the Solidarity union movement, officially became Poland's prime minister August 24 when the parliament, in a near unanimous vote, approved his nomination for the post.

In the wake of his election, Mazowiecki and his advisers began to outline their priorities and policies to meet Poland's economic crisis in a series of speeches, meetings, and interviews.

The new prime minister indicated that increasing reliance on capitalist methods, combined with belt-tightening measures for working people will form the basis of his government's approach. He said the government would take immediate steps to "make it possible for different economic organizations to be formed in the direction of the reform of the system of property."

Lech Walesa, another leader of the Solidarity union movement and adviser to Mazowiecki, elaborated further. "Nobody has previously taken the road that leads from socialism to capitalism," he said. "And we are setting out to do just that, to return to the prewar situation when Poland was a capitalist country."

About 90 percent of Poland's industries have been state owned since 1946 when capitalist property relations were overturned. Some 75 percent of Poland's fields are farmed privately, while the distribution of seed, fertilizer, and farm machinery are controlled by the state.

'I want a bank'

In a meeting with a U.S. congressional delegation, Walesa said the kind of aid Poland needs is for a U.S. bank to be opened in Poland. "I want a bank, and it will have a big

'Nobody has previously taken the road that leads from socialism to capitalism.'

sign that says American Bank, and computers that link it directly to the United States," he was quoted as telling the delegation.

The new Mazowiecki administration is expanding measures already proposed or begun by the Communist Party-led regime. These include reducing government subsidies for industry, enacting currency reforms, and creating a market-oriented economy for most commodities.

"I am counting on understanding in Solidarity that unpopular decisions will be necessary," Mazowiecki said referring to the impending measures. "This will not be a government with unlimited filled pockets that will just distribute money from nowhere," he warned workers seeking wage increases.

The International Monetary Fund has begun talks with government officials on formulating economic policies, which the IMF insists include wage cuts and the closing of inefficient plants, which will lead to layoffs. Solidarity opposed such measures under the previous Communist Party-led administration.

Pressed by deputies of the Peasant Party for his views on unemployment, Mazowiecki replied that there were "voices" that said it was "unavoidable," but added that "social shields" were necessary to protect affected workers.

Asked how he would respond to resistance from workers to measures such as unemploy-

ment, he said, "if necessary, I will address myself directly to public opinion."

Calls for strike moratorium

Mazowiecki has called for an "anticrisis pact" with the Solidarity unions and with the Communist Party-affiliated National Alliance of Trade Unions to cooperate in preventing strikes.

On August 28 Walesa urged workers to accept at least a six-month moratorium on strikes "to give the new prime minister time because great chances lie with him."

Hoping for an infusion of capital to spur economic growth and to provide a financial cushion to soften the blows of higher prices and cuts in social services, Polish officials have asked the U.S. and other imperialist bankers to declare a three-year moratorium on Poland's debt payments in return for the economic measures the government plans to implement. They have also asked the IMF and World Bank to extend \$1.6 billion in immediate loans.

Polish Communist Party leaders pledged cooperation with the new prime minister at the urging of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. In the new government they will retain control of the interior and defense ministries, which govern the police and army.

Mazowiecki's election was hailed by U.S. President George Bush, who vowed "strong support" for Poland and reiterated his promise to encourage "democracy" and capitalism in Poland.

U.S. government officials are now discussing ways of setting up a private commercial banking system in Poland. Seeking other forms of assistance, the State Department has been in contact with a foundation, established by David Rockefeller, that is already aiding



Lech Walesa, leader of Solidarity union movement and adviser to Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

Polish hog farmers in exporting hams to the United States. U.S. officials are also pushing to expedite two loans totaling \$325 million that have been under consideration by the World Bank for the last several years.

Mazowiecki and other officials are concerned that this aid will not be enough to stave off social explosions that may be brewing in Poland.

Rail workers

On August 25 thousands of rail workers in Lodz, Poland's second-largest city and a textile center, went on strike. Mazowiecki and rail workers began talks the next day, ending the strike and averting a general rail strike.

Suspension of their strike was "proof of our support and trust" for Mazowiecki the rail workers said. In return, they asked him to satisfy their demands for wage increases "immediately" saying, "We trust that as prime minister you represent the interests of working people."

Work stoppages and walkouts have rippled throughout the country since food prices were deregulated August 1 by the previous prime minister. Prices skyrocketed soon after.

Solidarity leader Walesa appealed to the rail workers to end the strike and suggested that it was the work of agitators outside Solidarity. He declared the strike a "provocation" against the Solidarity-led government.

Meeting separately with U.S. Sen. Robert Dole and West Germany's labor minister, Norbert Blum, Walesa warned that if the new Solidarity-led administration did not improve living standards within six months to a year "then everything will collapse." He said another wave of strikes could result, or working people would lose confidence in Solidarity's ability to bring about change.

Improper storage of PCBs in Québec poses danger to working people

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

MONTREAL — On Aug. 23, 1988, a fire broke out at a St-Basile-le-Grand warehouse 30 kilometers from here. The warehouse contained 1,500 tons of the highly toxic substance polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Thick black clouds of poisonous smoke bil-



Militant/Holbrook Mahn
Michel Dugré, Revolutionary Workers League candidate in September 25 election.

lowed into the atmosphere. Almost 5,000 residents were evacuated from their homes and could not return for nearly three weeks.

One year later working people in Québec — and in other parts of the world — are still grappling with the safe storage and destruction of the PCBs from St-Basile-le-Grand and the 20,000 tons of PCBs at more than 500 other sites throughout the province of Québec.

Michel Dugré, candidate for the Revolutionary Workers League in the Montréal riding (district) of Laurier in the September 25 Québec provincial elections, condemned the irresponsible policies of the Québec government — under both the Liberals and the Parti Québécois.

Dugré explained that the warehouse owned by Québec businessman Marc Levy — originally designed to contain 4,500 liters of PCBs — had been authorized to store

90,000 liters by 1988. And at the time of the fire there were more than 160,000 liters in the warehouse. Neither the sprinkler nor alarm system functioned.

Levy amassed \$2 million in storage fees from the Québec government for this warehouse from 1981 to 1986.

Immediately after the fire, Levy — who operated two similar PCB warehouses in other parts of Québec — fled to Florida. To date the Québec government has not moved to charge or extradite Levy for his crimes. "Pollution laws must be toughened and strictly enforced," Dugré, the socialist candidate, emphasized.

The Québec government has spent the past year trying to dump the PCBs elsewhere rather than giving a priority to the safe destruction of all PCBs in the province. Most recently the toxic wastes were shipped to Britain for destruction. However, dockworkers in Liverpool, England, refused to unload what they judged to be unsafe cargo. The Québec government then arranged to transport the containers to a Hydro Québec storage facility near Baie-Comeau.

This decision has sparked a large protest movement in Baie-Comeau. A coalition of 23 groups, including Québec's main union federations and leaders of the 2,000-member Native community, quickly began organizing to stop the PCBs from being dumped in the region.

On August 23 as the PCBs arrived at Baie-Comeau, at least 1,000 of the town's 30,000 residents demonstrated. About 200 people were prevented from entering the docks by a beefed-up police force. Protesters then obtained an 11th-hour injunction against the unloading of the shipment for 10 days. Several dozen remained at the docks all night. A heavy fog prevented them from seeing police aid 10 nonunion longshoremen hired by the shipping company Tessier Ltd. as they unloaded the PCBs in defiance of the injunction. Unionized dockworkers and Hydro Québec workers are still refusing to handle the PCBs, which remain sitting on the docks.

Revolutionary Workers League candidate Dugré, who is also a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers

Union, extended his solidarity to those fighting to force the Québec government to dispose of the PCBs in a safe manner. "Working people have the right to know about the effects of toxic wastes and other forms of pollution," he said. "Workers like the longshoremen and Hydro Québec workers have the greatest interest in eliminating toxic pollutants. Workers must have the right to discuss and act collectively on these questions without victimization," Dugré stressed.

Garment workers in Los Angeles strike for union recognition

BY LISA AHLBERG
AND BARRY FATLAND

LOS ANGELES — Garment workers here at the La Mode company have been on strike since July 17 to win recognition for the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

The strike was called in response to the company's firing of 36 union supporters after refusing to negotiate with the ILGWU.

Organizing efforts began last April and resulted in 90 percent of nearly 175 workers signing up for representation by the union. The company went on a campaign to break the organizing drive by firing one worker and suspending two others in June.

Most of the strikers are women and immigrants from Mexico, Central America, and Asia. Many did not even receive minimum wage from La Mode, a company that machine embroiders golf clothing.

By winning union representation and a contract the workers hope to counter the company's abusive treatment, improve job conditions, increase wages, and get health benefits.

"They [supervisors] yell and scream at some people, make them feel like fools," Raquel, a striker with 15 months at La Mode, explained. "They'll kick them out and humiliate people. Some of us need our jobs, so we swallow all those bad times."

Since the strike began, some workers have

crossed the line to go back to work. Together with some that have been hired recently, strikers estimate that about 75 people are now working.

A spirited daily picket line has convinced a majority of those answering La Mode newspaper ads not to apply for jobs there.

Strikers and their supporters have also picketed shops and golf tournaments where La Mode products are sold. ILGWU organizer Rudolfo Gutierrez said that more than 30 businesses will not carry La Mode products until the strike is resolved.

On August 4 more than 300 strikers and their supporters staged a noon picket line at a Hollywood golf shop. This included 150 ILGWU warehouse workers from K-Mart Apparel West Coast Distribution Center, who had three hours off work with pay for union business.

Over the last several weeks the strikers have organized large contingents to join the picket lines of Eastern Airlines strikers.

More than 100,000 garment workers in this city are unorganized. The ILGWU's membership here has been declining, while many garment bosses impose sweatshop conditions.

Lisa Ahlberg is a garment worker and a member of ILGWU Local 44. Barry Fatland works at the ILGWU-organized K-Mart Apparel West Coast Distribution Center.

Eastern's mechanic-hiring sessions met by pickets

Some 8,500 International Association of Machinists members struck Eastern Airlines March 4 in an effort to block the company's drive to break the union and impose massive concessions on workers.

Backed by flight attendants and pilots, the walkout crippled Eastern,

SUPPORT EASTERN STRIKERS!

ern, grounding a big majority of its 1,040 prestrike daily flights.

Since July Eastern has been trying to restart operations. By August 15 it was scheduling 390 daily flights.

The Eastern workers' fight has 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.

Strikers and supporters setting up picket lines at Eastern's scab-hiring sessions around the country are continuing to have an impact. In recent weeks the airline has stepped up efforts to recruit mechanics — desperately needed to get and keep long-idle aircraft in the air if the company's strikebreaking "reorganization" plan is to move ahead.

In Greensboro, North Carolina, striking Eastern Machinists from Piedmont Triad International Air-

port were joined by IAM members from USAir, textile workers, and rail workers at a picket line outside an August 16 Eastern "open house" for scab mechanics.

About 25 people came, expecting to find the \$18-an-hour jobs that had been advertised. Instead they found starting wages would be about \$10 an hour, and the jobs were in Miami and Atlanta.

Two strike supporters who got into the session relayed these facts to the potential new-hires. Outside, picketers handed flyers to those who came.

Two Teamsters union members who had come to the session sat in their car for several minutes reading the material. Then they walked over to the picket line. After a short discussion, they thanked the strikers and said they would honor the picket line.

On August 18 some 40 strikers and supporters picketed a mechanic-hiring session held at the Holiday Inn near San Francisco International Airport.

Many of those driving by — especially truck drivers — honked and waved in support. "Hang in there," several yelled. Most trucks entering the motel slowed to find out what the picket line was about. One bread truck driver refused to drive inside, saying he would never cross a picket line.

Picketers handed out leaflets and urged would-be applicants to apply at other airlines. Some protesters went into the room where Eastern management was speaking and passed out mechanics' applications

for other airlines. Several interviewees left when they heard about the real wages and benefits offered by Eastern.

Interviews for mechanics were also held at National Airport near Washington, D.C., August 10. Strikers from IAM Local 796 set up a picket line outside Hangar 4 and talked to every applicant who walked through.

One man said Eastern had offered him a job as a mechanic's helper at \$8 an hour. "You don't need an A and P (airframe and power plant) license to repair planes," an Eastern spokesman told him. "A foreman will sign off your work in the log." Strikers explained that National is not a maintenance base for Eastern. Most mechanical work is done "on line" — under time pressure — with almost nothing checked by foremen.

Another applicant was offered a starting rate of \$11.50 an hour, with promises of up to \$14 an hour. (Top mechanics' pay before the strike was more than \$20 an hour.)

An El Salvador-born applicant was offered \$9.50 for the same job. "It's outright racist discrimination," said one picketing flight attendant. The would-be applicants "better not just talk to us pickets. They should be talking to each other about what Eastern is doing to them."

Striking Machinists and flight attendants from New York's La Guardia and Kennedy International airports got a good response from would-be applicants when they picketed recruiting sessions for mechanics, flight attendants, and reser-

vation clerks held at both airports from August 21 to 23.

A Joint Eastern Strike Support Committee has been organizing members of four Steelworkers locals at National Steel's Granite City, Illinois, division to join the fight against Eastern's union-busting.

The JESSC was initiated by half a dozen United Steelworkers of America members who had been out to the Eastern strikers' picket lines at Lambert Airport in nearby St. Louis.

The USWA members got union backing for a plant-gate collection for the Eastern strikers in May. Nearly \$1,450 was collected and presented at a USWA District 34 convention where Eastern strikers gave a talk. A resolution backing the strike and urging all locals to set up strike support committees was passed at that convention.

The JESSC was set up in June. Members signed up coworkers to help out on Eastern picket lines and in building solidarity with the strike on the job and at Steelworkers' union meetings.

Since then two dozen USWA members have picketed at the airport; a number have done so regularly. For some, it has been their first time on a picket line.

The JESSC explained to other Steelworkers that the July startup of more Eastern flights did not mean the strike was over. They brought a delegation of USWA members to a July 9 Eastern strike support rally.

A second gate collection was held at National Steel August 3. The JESSC put out a fact sheet titled

"Why Eastern Airlines strike is Steelworkers' fight" and distributed it a few days before the collection. Other workers at the mill helped with the collection itself. Workers were asked to sign up to help the Eastern strikers picket and to sign the AFL-CIO pledge not to fly Eastern or Continental.

Three Eastern strikers also helped with the collection. Some \$1,500 in cash was donated, along with food.

A number of Steelworkers commented that they were impressed with the staying power and unity of the Eastern strikers and now want to help out on the picket line.

A contingent of 50 Eastern Machinists, flight attendants, and pilots joined a march of 2,000 construction trades union members in Atlanta August 10.

The action was organized to demand that the projected \$210 million Georgia Dome sports arena be built with union labor. Charles Key, from the North Georgia Building and Construction Trades Council, estimates that 1,200 members of the building trades are out of work in Atlanta.

Machinists Local 1690 President Mike Flynn spoke to the marchers and thanked them for backing the Eastern workers' strike.

Striking IAM Local 796 member Nancy Brown from Washington, D.C.; Amy Belvin from San Francisco; Peter Brandli and Ellen Haywood from St. Louis; Yvonne Hayes from Greensboro; and Liz Ziers from Atlanta contributed to this column.

Strikers seek wider backing at Labor Day events

Continued from front page

be: This isn't just an 'Eastern' strike. Broader involvement of the labor movement is needed to beef up daily picket lines and to fight to quarantine Eastern planes and personnel. The labor movement's approach should be 'It's our fight, even if it isn't our strike.'

Virtually grounded March 4 after 8,500 Machinists walked out and were joined by pilots and flight attendants, Eastern began in July to start up flights again, using scab crews. The company's goal is 800 flights by the end of the year. By mid-August, the carrier had 390.

"We're still on strike!" says the leaflet from IAM Local 796 at Washington, D.C.'s National Airport, appealing for strike supporters to join a "walk-through" at the airport set for 6:00 p.m. on September 7.

"A slick media campaign by Eastern has confused many people into thinking the strike is settled," the leaflet says. "Visible, large actions on the picket line, like the walk-through, will help convince the public not to fly Lorenzo's Eastern or Continental airlines."

In recent weeks the Eastern strikers' fight to defend their unions has been given a boost by the walkout of thousands of telephone workers around the country, the strikes by hospital workers in New York, the ongoing battle by coal miners at Pittston Coal Group in Appalachia, and other local strikes.

'New' Eastern weak

The renewed determination of many Eastern strikers to continue — and make more effective — their fight comes as signs are growing that the airline's management remains in a weak position, despite its vaunted "reorganization" plan.

Eastern filed for bankruptcy March 9, five days after the strike paralyzed its operations, and the following month submitted to federal bankruptcy court in New York a "reorganization" plan.

The plan aims to break the strike by restarting operations as a somewhat smaller, nonunion carrier. Resumption of flights — with enough paying customers — and the sale of a projected \$1.8 billion in assets to finance operations, repay debts, and make it possible to withstand the blows dealt by the strike are at the heart of Eastern's scheme.

The July 2 start-up of 226 flights marked the first time since March 4 that more than a



August 25 walk-through at Washington, D.C.'s National Airport drew 100 strike supporters.

small number of Eastern flights got into the air. Before the strike, the airline had 1,040 daily flights.

As a result, Eastern lost \$129.3 million on sales of \$89.6 million in the second quarter of 1989. Pension fund payments and other costs brought its losses to \$243.4 million for the quarter — \$348 per passenger flown during that period.

Major assets have already been sold, including the Northeast shuttle; planes, engines, and other equipment; and landing slots. Losses would have been even greater without cash realized from these sales.

The August 30 *Wall Street Journal* reported that Eastern "faces a possible \$400 million shortage in its cash projections and is preparing to revamp its bankruptcy-law reorganization plan."

Unable so far to complete the sale of its South American routes to American Airlines, valued at \$365 million, Eastern's shortfall may have to be made up, at least in part, by parent company Texas Air Corp., headed by Frank Lorenzo.

Texas Air announced August 24 that it was

considering selling some or all of its interest in Continental. Since then talks between Scandinavian Airline System (SAS) and Texas Air have opened.

SAS owns nearly 10 percent of Texas Air, following a marketing agreement reached between SAS and Continental last fall. However, U.S. Department of Transportation regulations prohibit non-U.S. companies from owning more than 25 percent in a U.S. airline, so a deal to acquire more than that of Continental by SAS would require a buyout in which it was a minority holder.

Talks between New York real estate and gambling speculator Donald Trump — who purchased the Northeast shuttle — and Lorenzo about buying Continental have also been reported.

Continental, which sustained massive losses in 1987 and 1988, showed a slim profit in the second quarter of 1989.

In a recent filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission to raise money, management described Continental as "highly leveraged."

Its substantial debt and high fixed costs,

"make Continental vulnerable to declines in revenue arising from general economic conditions, increasing competition, and job actions by employees," they say.

Lorenzo recently told the Associated Press that the long Eastern strike had hurt traffic on Continental. Strikers in many cities have been picketing Continental, as well as Eastern, and unions are urging passengers not to fly either airline.

Not enough mechanics, planes

The strike is causing Eastern and Texas Air other problems as well.

Only a few hundred of the 8,500 Machinists union members who struck have crossed picket lines and returned to work, and the company has been unable to recruit enough scab mechanics.

As a result, Eastern is hurting for mechanics to repair and service the planes used for the flight build-up — many of which have been sitting for months at airports in Miami, Atlanta, and elsewhere.

Striking IAM Local 1776 member Josefina Otero from Philadelphia reports that Eastern is badgering mechanics at home, trying to get them to come back to work.

"They even told mechanics here, 'Look, we'll put you to work in New York, and we'll fly you back to Philadelphia to picket, and no one will ever know,'" she said. No one crossed. Strikers in other cities have made similar reports.

The lack of trained pilots is another problem. Even with the crossover of more than 200 pilots in early August, the big majority of the 3,400 Air Line Pilots Association members who walked out in support of the Machinists remain out.

So Eastern has been scrambling for months to hire and push through training enough pilots to make its reorganization possible. Although it now says it has enough pilots, most are inexperienced, adding to the serious questions about the safety of the airline's operations.

Despite the Federal Aviation Administration's August 25 report that Eastern is meeting federal safety standards, strikers in New York, Newark, and other cities say unreported accidents, such as "heavy" landings and collisions with aircraft by ground equipment, are happening. In Atlanta a scab worker was killed when a tug she was riding on flipped over.



Militant/Steve Marshall
Supporters of United Mine Workers of America demonstrating in Pittsburgh in August. Recent rally in Virginia drew 4,000 people.

Solidarity day activities back striking Pittston miners

Int'l union presidents, others, arrested at Virginia courthouse.

BY GREG NELSON

ST. PAUL, Va. — Striking Pittston miners and their supporters, numbering 4,000, rallied here August 23 around the theme of unity within the labor movement. The event capped a day of solidarity activities by strike supporters, AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland, and 15 other international union officials, which took place throughout the state of Virginia.

The United Mine Workers of America has been on strike against Pittston Coal, whose mines are concentrated in Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky, since April 5. Sympathy strikes by 44,000 UMW members took place earlier this summer.

Spirited welcome

A spirited welcome greeted Kirkland, UMW President Richard Trumka, and others at the evening rally, which lasted more than three hours despite rain showers.

Focusing on the strikes at Eastern Airlines, the regional telephone companies, and Pittston, the speakers called for unity and praised the miners for their staying power through the five-month fight.

Besides Kirkland and Trumka, speakers included representatives from six international unions, including the International Association of Machinists. A representative of the Air Line Pilots Association also spoke. The secretary-treasurer of the International Miners' Organisation, representing 5 million miners in 44 countries, participated.

Two striking Eastern pilots received a warm welcome as they circulated Eastern strike leaflets throughout the crowd.

Sit-in

Earlier in the day 1,200 people rallied in Richmond, Virginia, to welcome the "Journey for Justice" caravan of Eastern strikers on its way from Miami to Washington, D.C. Afterward several strikers set up tents and demanded to meet with Virginia Gov. Gerald Baliles. The governor, on vacation in Virginia Beach, has authorized spending \$1 million a month on state troopers in the coalfields.

That afternoon strike supporters held a sit-in at the Russell County courthouse in Lebanon, Virginia. Kirkland, Trumka, and

other union officials were arrested for blocking passage. They were released a short time later after posting \$500 bonds. Thousands of striking miners have been arrested and arraigned at this courthouse since the strike against Pittston began in April.

Negotiations between the mine union and Pittston have taken place off and on. The latest round began August 29 after Pittston called a 10-day halt.

Health benefits

A battle with Pittston over health and retirement benefits has emerged as a central issue in the strike. Pittston stopped paying into the mine union's industrywide pension fund in 1988 and now demands miners pay 20 percent of their health benefits.

Mine union officials have charged Pittston with trying to bust the union altogether.

According to an interview with Pittston Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Paul Douglas that appeared in the August 22 *Wall Street Journal*, Douglas was hired "to salvage Pittston." This includes not only a coal division but Brink's Armored Cars and Burlington Air Express — all of which were losing money.

The article points to what Douglas achieved at Brink's when he found "a company run by the Teamsters union rather than management." Douglas says he refused to negotiate with the Teamsters, relying on a court ruling prohibiting one union from representing both guards and drivers. Wages and benefits were cut. Employees were given a profit-sharing plan. Brink's is now profitable and expanding into new markets, according to the article.

Pittston miner tours western states

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

PRICE, Utah — Mark Kennedy, one of 1,700 miners on strike against Pittston Coal Group, has just completed a tour of the western coalfields, talking with miners and other workers about the fight against his employer.

Union miners struck Pittston Coal in April and were joined for five to six weeks by 44,000

miners who walked off their jobs earlier this summer in solidarity with the strike.

Accompanying Pittston striker Kennedy on his tour was Ernie Roybal, a Sheridan, Wyoming, miner trying to get his job back after a nine-month strike last year against the Peter Kiewit coal mine.

The pair toured throughout United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) districts 15 and 22 speaking to workers in Kayenta and Window Rock, Arizona; Gallup and Raton, New Mexico; and Sheridan. Kennedy also spoke to workers in Price, Utah; and Hayden, Colorado.

UMWA locals in these districts struck in 1987 and held off mine bosses demanding concessions. Several of their contracts expire in the spring of 1990, and some miners say their locals are anticipating another fight.

In Price, Kennedy spoke to 70 people at the UMWA District 22 headquarters on August 14. A video on the Pittston strike was shown, and Kennedy fielded questions. Representatives of the Utah AFL-CIO and members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union were introduced from the audience.

Kennedy wound up his tour by speaking at a UMW-organized Jobs With Justice rally in Hayden August 19. The Pittston striker appealed for unity and solidarity among unions. He urged support for other strikes like the one against Eastern Airlines.

"Guys like Frank Lorenzo and other bosses at Pittston are out drinking beer together trying to figure out how to bust all our unions," Kennedy said.

Along with miners, members of the Denver area Communications Workers of America and the Newspaper Guild came to the rally. A highpoint was the announcement that false rape charges brought against a UMW striker in Sheridan had been dropped. Although not highly publicized, the case was well known among strikers in the region, and the news was enthusiastically received.

Plans are under way for a union-organized caravan to Camp Solidarity from Denver in September. These camps are in Virginia, set up by striking miners and supporters during the summer's sympathy walkouts.

The sympathy strikes didn't extend to the western coalfields, but the response to Kennedy's tour shows miners are interested in the fight against Pittston.

Labor news in the Militant

The Militant stays on top of the most important developments in the labor movement. You won't miss them if you subscribe. See the ad on page 2 for subscription rates.

Judge sides with Mine Safety Administration, keeps unsafe mine open

BY JIM ALTENBERG

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — In an open display of government-assisted strikebreaking and disregard for mine safety, a federal judge and the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) have joined with Pittston Coal to keep one of its major mines running with scab labor.

Recently MSHA had determined that the rate of air flow in Pittston's McClure No. 1 mine in Dickenson County, Virginia, was insufficient to clear out concentrations of methane gas.

Pittston says it will increase air flow rates. Officials of the United Mine Workers of America oppose the company's plan, because the changes would prevent methane and fire-detection equipment, already in the plant, from working properly. MSHA then ordered the mine closed until the air flow issue was resolved.

In many coal mines, highly explosive methane gas is released as coal is mined. Miners must test for methane regularly while working, and mines must be adequately ventilated to prevent dangerous amounts of methane from building up.

Pittston's McClure No. 1 mine is a particularly gassy one. A 1983 methane explosion there killed six miners and a foreman, including the first woman miner to lose her life in a Virginia underground mine.

McClure No. 1 is also one of Pittston's most important operations. Since the miners' strike began, the company has run the mine with scabs. As police have escorted them on and off the property, large confrontations between strikers and state troopers have taken place.

Despite the MSHA order, Pittston immediately reopened the mine. U.S. District Judge Glen Williams, who has handed down innumerable rulings barring union strike activity and fined the UMW millions of dollars, granted a temporary restraining order preventing MSHA from closing McClure No. 1. MSHA officials then agreed with Pittston that the mine could be run in its present condition until a decision on air flow was reached.



Militant/Nancy Boyasko
Union coal miner during 1987 strike against Peabody in Kayenta, Arizona.

Weakening union in Pittston's coal division is company's aim.

At Burlington, "we had to slash a lot of jobs," says Douglas. As a result Burlington "will probably be the jewel of our crown," he continued.

The interview goes on to outline the situation with the company's coal division, "the final task in rebuilding Pittston." Foreign coal producers keep getting more contracts, it reports, which is a problem for the entire U.S. coal industry.

Douglas explains that when Pittston bought Paramount coal company, which is not organized by the UMWA, it convinced him that Pittston no longer needed the Bituminous Coal Operators Association. The BCOA is the industry group that bargains with the UMWA. Since then, he says, Pittston has gone after concessions from the mine union.

Washington, D.C., airport walk shows strikers remain united

BY NANCY BROWN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Nearly 100 Eastern Airlines strikers and supporters participated in a "walk-through" of National Airport on the evening of August 25.

The walk-through was to show other airline workers and passengers that Machinists, flight attendants, and pilots remain united in their strike against Eastern. It was organized by International Association of Machinists Local 796 and Transport Workers Union Local 553, representing flight attendants.

Prevented by authorities from carrying picket signs inside the terminal, marchers wore special shirts that read "ALPA, IAM, TWU: On strike against Eastern Airlines." (ALPA is the Air Line Pilots Association.)

Ten striking telephone workers from Fairfax, Virginia, joined the march. A contingent of 11 workers from United Airlines at Dulles International Airport organized a carpool to drive over after work to join the walk-through. Their shirts read "IAM Local 1759 supports Eastern strikers."

Members of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador walked with

signs that said, "D.C. CISPES supports Eastern strikers."

Railworkers from two rail unions, garment workers, government workers, and nurses also participated.

Police and Eastern management lined up on both sides of the terminal as the marchers passed through. Strikers set up a table near Continental's ticket counter and sold hats and buttons, and collected contributions for the strike fund. Leaflets explaining the strike were distributed to passengers.

After the walk-through, a short rally was held outside the terminal. Barbara Holloway from the D.C. Nurses Association read a resolution backing the Eastern and Pittston coal strikers, from the International Sister Union Conference for Peace and Solidarity, held in San Salvador in July.

Victor Richmond from Machinists Local 796's strike outreach committee announced another walk-through for September 7, the day Eastern has targeted to add several hundred more flights nationally. Marchers will assemble at 6:00 p.m. at the Main Terminal.

London police attack Caribbean carnival

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — Six hundred riot police and 3,000 other cops violently attacked people going home after the huge Caribbean carnival in London's Nottinghill area. Guided by searchlights from a low-flying police helicopter, they arrested more than 200 carnival participants in an area of one square mile over a period of 45 minutes.

The police charge came at the end of the 24th yearly carnival in London, attended by nearly a million people over two and a half days. Officials estimate that more than 500,000 attended the final day's activities on August 28.

The carnival is the "biggest street festival in Europe" as its promotional material describes it. Centered on the Caribbean community, it attracts a multinational participation and has become the focus for asserting that Black people from the Caribbean are in Britain to stay and fight for their rights.

Black organizations, national liberation movements, and other political organizations have stalls and floats. This year the South West Africa People's Organisation had a major float; the most prominent sticker worn by carnival participants was that of the African National Congress of South Africa.

Over the years the carnival has been the target of racist campaigns by members of Parliament and the media. Calls for the event to be banned have accompanied tales of the carnival being an "unrestricted opportunity for muggers and thieves."

'Police carnival'

In the weeks leading up to this year's event, the media story was that this time the police would insure that things would be different. From the word go the cops sought to maintain the greatest regimentation. Participants at previous carnivals described it as a "police carnival."

The cops had maintained a massive public presence throughout. Twelve hundred officers were permanently deployed on the streets and 4,000 more held in reserve. Local schools were turned into makeshift police stations. Many streets were blocked off not only to cars but to pedestrian traffic as well.

Over the weekend, more than 400 people were arrested. This high level of policing was crowned each evening at 7:00 p.m. when the police closed the carnival down, instructing sound systems to be unplugged and stands and equipment removed. It was when they implemented this close-down policy on the final day that they brought out the riot gear, donning fireproofed clothing and riot shields and deploying mounted police.

Carnival participant Christopher Cobourne, who was looking after sound systems reported that just 15 minutes after the official shutdown time, the police had erected further barriers preventing people from coming back into the carnival area. The carnival procession was still winding its way through the streets at this time.

Arrests

About then the arrests began, provoking resistance from local residents and carnival

participants still in the area. Clashes followed, with dozens of people needing hospital treatment. A Scotland Yard spokesperson claimed that the police had no alternative "but to clear the whole carnival area, in order to protect both the public and police."

Local residents who witnessed the police operation saw it differently. Carolyn Shervington said, "The carnival was just coming along Westbourne Park Road and the police with shields ran into the revelers with no provocation and knocked people off their feet." Another witness, Linda Heavey, described how she "was dancing in the carnival with everyone else, and the next thing we knew was the riot police coming charging in."

The police riot has become the occasion for calls from Tory members of Parliament for the carnival itself to be banned. Terence

Dicks, MP for Hayes and Harlington, announced August 29 that he had written to the home secretary demanding the carnival be banned.

The London daily newspaper *Evening Standard* headlined its report, "Now will they ban carnival?"

Similar calls following last year's carnival provided the backdrop to a police investigation into the carnival organizing committee, whose membership is predominantly comprised of representatives of Black community organizations. Claiming evidence of financial malpractice by the organizers, the police investigation led to the establishment of a new organization, the Carnival Enterprise Committee.

Under the chair of lawyer Claire Holder, the Enterprise Committee has stated its in-

Cops use searchlights, helicopters; more than 200 arrested in 45 minutes.

tention of turning the carnival into a money-making operation. As a result the price for carnival stalls was raised two or threefold depending on the site.

The committee established close working relations with the police in the weeks and months leading up to the carnival weekend. Holder said it was unclear what had led to the end-of-carnival clashes, which she described as relatively "minor." The committee will be holding its own investigation into the events.

NAACP march draws 25,000



Militant/Ike Nahem

August 26 march on Washington, D.C., protests recent court rulings against affirmative action.

BY IKE NAHEM

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In numbers that exceeded organizers' original expectations, 25,000 people marched here to protest recent Supreme Court rulings that undermined affirmative action measures. The theme of the August 26 march was "No retreat on civil rights."

Banners and signs reflected the protesters' determination. "Bury racism, not civil rights," and "We're not going to let the Supreme Court turn us around" some of them read.

One large banner carried by a group of Black students from Indiana University quoted abolitionist leader Frederick Douglass, "Without struggle, there is no progress."

The youthful crowd displayed its desire to link up with the history of the Black struggle. This was reflected in the dozens of different T-shirts and buttons worn with an image or quote from Malcolm X, the prominent revolutionary leader who was gunned down in 1965.

Marchers also identified with the struggle against apartheid in South Africa.

Trade unionists participated in large union contingents from the United Auto Workers, United Steelworkers, United Food and Commercial Workers, and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

Thirty members of the United Mine Workers striking against Pittston Coal arrived by bus and were warmly greeted. Eastern Airlines strikers from the Washington, D.C., area set up literature tables and sold strike-support buttons, T-shirts, and stickers.

The march, which passed the Supreme Court building and ended with a rally in front of the Capitol, was silent, interrupted only by the cadence of muffled drums. This was to commemorate the 1917 Silent March in New York called by W.E.B. DuBois, a founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, to protest the lynching of Blacks across the United States.

When the call for this year's march was made by the NAACP in July, a symbolic protest of 1,000 was projected. But the organization's offices were flooded with a

"tidal wave of support," NAACP leader Benjamin Hooks told marchers, "not only from traditional civil rights groups, but from other organizations that reach into every sector of our community." Some 300 national Black, labor, women's, religious, and professional organizations supported the action. Partici-

pants came from most East Coast states and from as far away as Indiana.

Speakers at the Capitol rally also included Southern Christian Leadership Conference President Joseph Lowery, Black Leadership Forum President Dorothy Height, AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland, and Jesse Jackson.

British miners' wives held under 'Terrorism' Act

BY ANDY BUCHANAN

MANCHESTER, England — Four members of the North Staffs Miners Wives Action Group were detained by armed police at Manchester airport as they disembarked from a shuttle flight from Belfast, Ireland, August 14. A freelance photographer was also held.

The five had been in Northern Ireland to participate in events protesting the presence of British troops there on the 20th anniversary of their deployment.

The women were held in separate cells under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). This law deprives prisoners of nearly all their democratic rights. They were subjected to seven hours of continuous interrogation after being denied access to a lawyer. Documents and papers they had picked up in Belfast were photocopied and rolls of film confiscated. They were released without charge.

The North Staffs women, along with many others in the mining areas, became interested in the fight against British rule in Northern Ireland as a result of their experience in the year-long miners' strike in 1984-85, explained Brenda Proctor, one of those detained. Members of the group have visited Belfast several times, including as part of the delegation protesting last year's detention under the Prevention of Terrorism Act of Pathfinder Press sales representative Peter Clifford.

Proctor said, "They wanted to teach us a lesson, to scare us off meeting with people in Ireland and explaining what's going on there to people in Britain."

Their harassment was part of broader undemocratic moves by the government designed to prevent a clear picture of events in the British-ruled north of Ireland reaching the outside world. When a 15-year-old youth, Seamus Duffy, was shot and killed by the Royal Ulster Constabulary, pro-British politicians claimed that most violent confrontations were stage-managed by the Irish Republican Army for the benefit of foreign journalists. In the wake of these statements, a German photographer was held and charged under the PTA. Other journalists who had witnessed confrontations between youth and the police were forced to go into hiding.

In a related move, British authorities deported Martin Galvin, leader of the U.S. group Irish Northern Aid — Noraid.

The government's moves, however, failed to prevent protests marking the 20th anniversary. Marches were held in Dublin, Belfast, and Derry in Ireland, and in London.

The London event, organized by the "Time To Go" coalition, mobilized some 5,000 people on a march and a further 5,000 at a carnival that followed. Notable among the London protesters were hundreds of recent, young Irish immigrants.

The Irish community in Britain had been the backbone of the "troops out" movement in the early 1970s but was cowed from public protest by a wave of antidemocratic moves by the government that included the enactment of the Prevention of Terrorism and Special Powers acts and the frame-up trials of Irish nationalists in the Birmingham Six and the Guildford Four cases.

Only 31.5% of jobless receive unemployment benefits

In an average month last year, only 31.5 percent of workers counted as jobless received unemployment benefits. A decade ago it was 42 percent.

Among workers who are Black, only 21 percent qualified for benefits, and among workers who are Latino it was but 14 percent.

Many states have severely cut back on unemployment compensation. Top jobless pay has been frozen or reduced, the amount of earnings needed to qualify has been hiked, the waiting period has been extended, and the number of benefit weeks cut. Disqualification rules have been sharpened.

When a new recession hits, it will be harder to qualify for the 13 extra weeks of benefits partly financed by the federal government. Regulations put through in 1981 restrict eligibility for the added period of coverage.

Marion Nichols, coauthor of the study that produced these findings, said, "Since World War II, the nation has never entered a recession with an unemployment insurance program that covers so small a percentage of jobless workers."

Workers in U.S. have a stake in fight for an independent Puerto Rico

The following statement was presented by James Harris for the Socialist Workers Party to the United Nations Committee on Decolonization on August 17. He was one of some 60 representatives of organizations who testified or presented written statements during two days of hearings on Puerto Rico. The committee approved a resolution in favor of self-determination and independence for Puerto Rico.

Distinguished chairman,
Members of the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization,
As many others have testified at these hearings — in powerful presentations, richly documented with facts — Puerto Rico is a colony of the United States.

The Puerto Rican people are subject to U.S. laws that they have no equal hand in making. They are subject to U.S. courts over which they exercise no control. That is a colonial condition.

Puerto Rican youth are drafted into an army that enforces the national subjugation of their own country. That is a colonial condition.

Some 15 percent of Puerto Rican territory is owned and utilized by that army of occupation. That is a colonial condition.

Puerto Rican patriots are swept up in raids by U.S. authorities in flagrant violation of Puerto Rico's own legal code. That is a colonial condition.

It was to protest these and countless other violations of Puerto Rican national sovereignty that supporters of justice and freedom marched here in New York City last weekend. We demanded immediate independence for Puerto Rico; the withdrawal of all U.S. troops and police from the island; the release of all Puerto Rican political prisoners; and massive U.S. economic assistance to aid the Puerto Rican people in their transition from colonialism to independence.

Myth taught in U.S. schools

Distinguished chairman,
Despite the overwhelming evidence of Puerto Rico's illegitimate and unjust domination, a great myth is taught in the U.S. schools, propagated in the U.S. media, and defended by U.S. politicians. This myth is aimed at preventing the people of the United States from understanding that Puerto Rico is a U.S. colony. The United States was itself born through an anticolonial revolution more than 200 years ago. Yet, Wall Street and Washington want to hide the fact that the United States is today among the last of the world's major colonial powers.

What does colonialism mean for the people of Puerto Rico? Per capita income on the island is less than half the U.S. average. Official unemployment stands at 15 percent, nearly three times the official figure for the United States — and true joblessness on the island is much higher. Nearly 4 out of every 10 Puerto Ricans are forced to emigrate to the United States in search of work and a living wage. Puerto Rican farmers have been driven off the land, so that today Puerto Rico must import nearly 90 percent of its food supply.

Distinguished chairman,
Other witnesses before this UN Special Committee on Decolonization have eloquently testified to these facts. I would like to add for the consideration of the members of this committee the harm that colonialism inflicts on the people of the United States. The U.S. people have absolutely no interests in continuing colonial rule over our sisters and brothers in Puerto Rico.

Racism in the United States

U.S. colonialism in Puerto Rico reinforces racism in the United States. The oppression and discrimination directed at Puerto Ricans strengthens the hand of all those who oppose equality and social justice for Blacks, Latinos, Native Americans, and Asians in the United States.

Puerto Ricans are formally U.S. citizens. Because of their language and skin color, however, they face the same second-class treatment as other immigrants to the United States from throughout the Third World. Constant pressure on the language and cultural integrity of Puerto Ricans encourages all



James Harris speaking at August 12 rally in New York City for independence for Puerto Rico. Harris testified on behalf of Socialist Workers Party at UN hearings.

those in the United States who seek to deny equal rights to immigrants whose first language is Spanish. It emboldens those who seek to keep foreign-born workers in the lowest-paying and least unionized jobs, and in the worst housing with the most substandard schools and medical care. Colonial domination of Puerto Rico puts wind in the sails of the reactionary English-only movement in the United States.

Farm workers — many of whom are immigrants (including from Puerto Rico, especially on the East Coast of the United States) — are kept at the bottom of the ladder in terms of wages as well as job and living conditions. A similar situation faces garment workers, electronics workers, and millions of others.

U.S. working class

The colonial oppression of Puerto Rico reinforces all efforts to keep the working class in the United States divided, and to keep its most oppressed and combative layers non-union. The result is a weakening of the political consciousness, sense of justice, and human solidarity of the U.S. labor movement. This saps the potential power of U.S. unions as an ally of all those fighting for a more humane international social order.

Distinguished chairman,
U.S. colonialism in Puerto Rico also exerts a constant and growing pressure on democratic rights in the United States. Colonial police powers observe no borders.

U.S. officials maintain a massive spying and harassment apparatus in Puerto Rico. It targets anyone who speaks out against or seeks to organize opposition to U.S. colonial rule. Last year my party, the Socialist Workers Party, completed a successful battle against U.S. political police agencies. A federal court ruled that FBI spying and disruption against the SWP violated fundamental political rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. I and thousands of others who followed the evidence unearthed in that case discovered that no matter how much we had previously suspected about these illegal political police operations, we were actually far too naive. The license the FBI has to commit such crimes in its colonial possessions such as Puerto Rico only encourages trampling on the political liberties of all those subject to U.S. law.

Independence fighters

Puerto Rican independence fighters are denied the most elementary democratic rights under the U.S. system of justice. They are denied trial by a jury of their peers, being forced to defend themselves in the courts of the colonial power. They are often refused

bail, thus denying them any right to the presumption of innocence. Puerto Rican activists are hauled before grand jury inquisitions, without even the right to a lawyer, and then locked away on charges of contempt. Draconian prison sentences are handed down for the "crime" of fighting for Puerto Rico's dignity and national independence. The list of such cases is long and well-documented: Pedro Albizu Campos, the five Puerto Rican Nationalist prisoners, the Hartford 15, and Alejandrina Torres, to name just a handful of the best-known.

Distinguished chairman,

A government that arrogates to itself the right to rule another country clearly shows no regard for the most minimal standards of international law. Washington has proven time and again that it holds itself above respect for the sovereignty of the soil, territorial waters, skies — or even the air waves — of other countries. Its policies toward Puerto Rico carry over to its relations with other nations and peoples throughout the Third World.

U.S. military bases

U.S. military bases in Puerto Rico pose a permanent threat to peace throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. U.S. bases in Puerto Rico have been used to launch aggression against Guatemala, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Panama, and Nicaragua.

Hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans have been conscripted — either through the draft, or through the whip of unemployment — to serve in the U.S. armed forces and fight against other peoples struggling for their national freedom. During World War II, tens of thousands of Puerto Rican youth resisted being conscripted to serve in the army of the colonial power, and the FBI and other political police agencies were unleashed against them. My party joined with others at that time to condemn this violation of sovereignty, which was carried out under the hypocritical slogan of a war for democracy.

Distinguished chairman,

Behind the big lie that Puerto Rico is not a colony stands the reality of nearly half a millennia of colonial domination — for 400 years at the hands of Spanish conquerors, and since 1898 under U.S. colonial rule.

Cuba

Cuba, Puerto Rico's sister nation in the Caribbean, shared in this infamous colonial history. Its domination by U.S. imperialism came to an end with the revolution of 1959. Since then, Cuba has shown what can be achieved when a people conquer their national sovereignty. Today, Cuba's human and

natural resources are being used to develop the country's productive potential and to meet the needs of the Cuban people. Cuba's accomplishments, and its unstinting solidarity with peoples around the world, has won it international respect.

Cuba has been a consistent and outspoken champion of Puerto Rico's fight for independence.

Plebiscite

Distinguished chairman,

Today, after 91 years of domination over Puerto Rico, the U.S. government argues that this United Nations committee should not bring the moral weight of its decision to bear, that it should not condemn this flagrant violation of the UN Charter's unambiguous stand against colonialism. Washington argues that this committee should withhold judgment this year in particular, because a committee of the U.S. Congress is considering holding a plebiscite on Puerto Rico's future status.

How many times in the history of colonialism have the dominating powers sought to hide their oppressive policies behind a plebiscite? Behind an election conducted under the shadow of occupying troops and police agencies? Under undemocratic conditions where repression and intimidation are aimed at every patriot and every patriotic organization? Under the blackmail of threatened economic reprisals?

Whatever the U.S. Congress may or may not decide concerning a plebiscite should not stop the members of this UN Special Committee on Decolonization from recognizing and condemning the ongoing U.S. colonial rule over Puerto Rico. The perpetuation of this colonial domination is contrary to the interests of the people of Puerto Rico, the people of the United States, and indeed of all the world's peoples.

The Namibian people are today waging a fight to secure their independence from the apartheid regime of South Africa. This is a struggle that has the support of every fighter for justice and every democratic-minded person throughout the world. A victory in southern Africa will hasten the struggle to put an end once and for all to colonialism's disgraceful blot on human history — from Puerto Rico to New Caledonia, from Guam to Curaçao.

I would like once again to thank the distinguished chairman and members of this committee for the opportunity to appear before these hearings.

Puerto Rican political prisoner Alejandrina Torres

Alejandrina Torres, a Puerto Rican pro-independence activist, was convicted of seditious conspiracy by a U.S. court in 1985. She was sentenced to 35 years in prison.

In October 1986, Torres was incarcerated in the newly opened high-security unit at the federal prison in Lexington, Kentucky. She spent two years at this facility, where she was the victim of harassment and abuse, such as strip searches every time she left and returned to her cell. Guards and video cameras monitored her every move.

The Lexington unit was set up as a "behavior modification" and "sensory deprivation" unit, with no sunlight and no windows, or bright colors. The conditions Torres was subjected to have resulted in serious deterioration of her health. She developed a heart ailment and partially lost her sight.

Following a successful suit to shut down the Lexington unit, Torres and the other inmates were moved to other prisons. Torres was placed in a high-rise urban jail designed for short-term pretrial detention in San Diego, thousands of miles from her family and legal advisers.

Her family visits are restricted to one hour's duration, while prisoners in the general population enjoy day-long visits. Prison authorities have withheld badly needed medical attention for her heart condition and deteriorating eyesight, as well as other ailments she has developed since her imprisonment.

Pathfinder rally launches \$150,000 international fund

BY SUSAN LaMONT

OBERLIN, Ohio — An international campaign to raise \$150,000 for Pathfinder was launched here August 9. The fund was announced at a rally celebrating Pathfinder's accomplishments during the past year and its plans for the future.

The rally brought to a close the International Active Workers and Socialist Educational Conference held here August 5-9. The gathering was attended by 1,000 communists and other political activists from 20 countries.

The \$150,000 fund is needed to meet Pathfinder's publishing and promotion projections for the coming year, explained Pathfinder Director Steve Clark. It will make possible further advances in the international distribution of Pathfinder publications.

Clark cochaired the rally with Kate Blakeney, sales director for Pathfinder's Australia distributorship, based in Sydney.

Rally participants got the fund off to a running start by pledging more than \$134,000, following an appeal by Socialist Workers Party Administrative Secretary Craig Gannon. Nearly \$16,500 had been collected by August 28. The fund drive ends December 1.

Promotion meetings worldwide

"Pathfinder bookstores around the world will be organizing book promotion meetings from September through December for two of Pathfinder's most recent titles: *In Defense of Socialism: Four Speeches on the 30th Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution*, by Fidel Castro, and *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches*," Clark said.

Promotion meetings will be organized in Canada, Britain, Sweden, Australia, New Zealand, Iceland, and the United States.

"We'll also be using those meetings to give a boost to the new hardbound edition of *Malcolm X Speaks*, as well as the new Pathfinder title *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*, by Carlos Tablada," Clark added.

Clark announced the publication of two pamphlets — *Palestine and the Arabs' Fight for Liberation*, by Fred Feldman and Georges Sayad, and a new edition of the Marxist classic *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific*, by Frederick Engels.

The sales potential of *Malcolm X: The Last*

Speeches was shown during the first few weeks after its publication in July, Clark said. Nearly 7,000 had been shipped out by the time of the rally. Since then the total has increased to 12,500.

In the coming months Pathfinder also plans to publish the fourth part in its series on the history of the Comintern — a two-volume set covering the Second Congress of the Comintern, held in 1920.

New chapter on Cuba

"For more than 30 years, publishing the truth about the Cuban revolution has been one of Pathfinder's central priorities," said featured speaker Mary-Alice Waters. Waters edited and wrote the introduction to *In Defense of Socialism* and is editor of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*. She has visited Cuba many times, most recently as the Socialist Workers Party's representative to the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the revolution, held last January.

"From the earliest days, the publishing house that later became known as Pathfinder, collaborating with the *Militant* and with organizations like the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in the United States and Canada, worked to make available to the English-speaking world the major speeches and writings of the leaders of the Cuban revolution," Waters said.

"We have made these books — these weapons — available for the frontline troops the world over, and done our utmost to spread them everywhere that we could. This record is one of the proudest accomplishments in Pathfinder's history," she stressed.

Waters described the new opportunities opening up to expand the circulation of books, pamphlets, periodicals, and other material by, about, and from Cuba — opportunities greater than at any time in Pathfinder's history.

"At the end of last year, the U.S. Congress adopted a law that for the first time exempted books and periodicals, videos, music, and other such informational material from the same restrictions on trade that all other trade with Cuba has to abide by."

"They certainly did not have Pathfinder in mind" in passing this legislation, Waters noted. "But that small breach in the economic blockade has opened a door Pathfinder is



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

Pathfinder Director Steve Clark (left) chaired rally. Osborne Hart from printshop where Pathfinder's publications are produced described technical advances.



Militant/Margrethe Siem

already marching through. And we intend to do everything in our power to fight to keep that door open, and to open it wider and wider in the period ahead."

The new law makes it possible for the first time for Pathfinder to sign contracts with Cuban authors and publishing houses to translate, publish, and distribute books from Cuba; to sell Pathfinder titles in Cuba itself; and to import and distribute Cuban books and periodicals, Waters said.

Pathfinder bookstores will become centers for expanding the circulation in the United States of the Cuban Communist Party's newspaper *Granma* and other Cuban periodicals. They will also begin distributing English-, French-, and Spanish-language books and pamphlets from Cuba.

In October Pathfinder Director Clark will be participating in a conference in Havana on "The Caribbean: 10 Years after the Victory of the Grenadian Revolution," sponsored by the Center for the Study of the Americas, Waters announced.

In addition, a Pathfinder delegation will participate in "the largest conference on Cuba ever held in North America," at St. Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in November, Waters said. Academic figures and political activists from North America and elsewhere — including a large delegation from Cuba — will be in Halifax for this gathering.

Wider international sales

Pathfinder editorial staff member Bob Schwarz described Pathfinder's expanded efforts to increase distribution of its titles through commercial bookstores internationally.

Pathfinder's editorial staff has begun making sales trips as part of this campaign, visiting nine states and hundreds of bookstores in July alone, Schwarz said. In Canada sales trips by Pathfinder representative Robert Simms in the last year have raised sales in that country from \$8,000 to \$31,000.

Pathfinder's goal in 1989 is to reach just under \$500,000 in total sales — an increase of more than \$100,000 over last year, Schwarz added.

Also speaking was Peter Clifford who now manages Pathfinder's new bookshop in London. In the nine months since the shop opened, it has sold \$38,000 in literature. Pathfinder's London office has also organized expansion of sales and distribution in Ireland, including to Irish political prisoners.

Recently Clifford was part of a Pathfinder delegation that participated in the international bookfair held in Managua, Nicaragua, to coincide with celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the revolution in July.

Distribution of Pathfinder titles is getting wider in Nicaragua, Clifford reported. "IM-ELSA, the national book distribution agency," he said, "has now started distributing Pathfinder titles. This means Pathfinder books are now available in more than 20 bookstores, including in important towns outside Managua, such as León, Estelí, and Matagalpa."

Helen Meyers, a member of Pathfinder's sales and promotional staff, described the growing interest in Pathfinder's titles in the Caribbean. This interest has in part been

fueled by the Grenadian government's widely publicized decision last April to ban 86 books, mainly from Pathfinder.

The international fight to reverse this ban continues to receive wide press coverage throughout the region, Meyers reported.

In addition, in the past year Pathfinder has made several trips to book fairs in the Caribbean and participated in book launch meetings for Pathfinder's *One People, One Destiny*, edited by Don Rojas, in Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, St. Vincent, and Antigua.

'Thomas Sankara Speaks'

"Pathfinder is planning to bring out a French edition of *Socialism and Man in Cuba*, by Che Guevara and Fidel Castro," David Gakunzi told the rally. "Che's ideas are still on the agenda and will be on the agenda until oppression has been wiped from the earth." The book will also include a speech on Guevara by Thomas Sankara, leader of the popular democratic revolution in Burkina Faso, murdered in 1987.

Gakunzi, a leader of the International Thomas Sankara Association, is currently working on the project to produce an edition of Pathfinder's *Thomas Sankara Speaks* in French. Gakunzi is also editor of *Coumbite*, a French-language magazine on politics in Africa and the Caribbean published in Paris by activists from Africa, New Caledonia, and the Caribbean.

Sigurlaug Gunnlaugsdóttir from Iceland described how Pathfinder's publications are becoming more widely known in that country, including a recent book published in Icelandic, *Revolution in Nicaragua: Speeches and Writings of Sandinistas*. She also reported on Pathfinder's publication of *Socialism and Man*, by Che Guevara, in Farsi, the official language of Iran.

Osborne Hart from the printshop where Pathfinder books and pamphlets are produced described the state-of-the-art typesetting equipment recently acquired that will make possible further advances in professionalizing Pathfinder's publications.

New Zealand artist and political activist Malcolm McAllister reported to the rally on the progress of the Pathfinder mural project, for which he is site director.

One of the accomplishments highlighted at the rally was the distribution of Pathfinder titles in the Philippines. The gains made by an international Pathfinder delegation at the Manila Book Fair last February were reported, as well as perspectives for future trips to that country. Russell Johnson, head of Pathfinder distribution in New Zealand, headed the February trip. He was quoted as saying, "At the Manila book fair, I remember youth crowding around the big mural display that we had in the booth. One of these young people from the League of Filipino Students explained what the mural was. 'Look,' he said, 'it's revolutionaries of the world coming together through the books.' And that's Pathfinder."

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'Building the Young Socialist Alliance'

26th national convention puts defense of Cuban revolution at center of YSA's work

BY GREG McCARTAN

OBERLIN, Ohio — "The Eastern strike, the mobilizations to defend abortion rights, the stakes in defending affirmative action, and the miners' strike are all examples of a sharpening class conflict in the United States that poses both opportunities and responsibilities for young communists."

With this assessment Heather Randle opened her report, "Building the YSA Today," on behalf of the leadership of the Young Socialist Alliance to the organization's 26th national convention.

Held here August 10-11, the youth meeting was preceded by the International Active Workers and Socialist Education Conference, cosponsored by the YSA and the Socialist Workers Party.

Some 400 youth, workers, and activists attended the meeting. Observers were present from Australia, Burundi, Britain, Canada, France, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, and Sweden.

Rapu Molekane, general secretary of the 1.5-million-member South African Youth Congress (Sayco), was the featured speaker at an evening rally in solidarity with liberation struggles in southern Africa.

Defending Cuba

Randle placed at the top of the YSA's tasks defending and explaining the Cuban revolution. "This," she said, "is at the center of us being co-combatants with those in the world who are fighting. The YSA was founded in 1960 around building support for the Cuban revolution, and putting this at the center of our work is an essential part of building a communist youth organization today."

The 56 delegates who came from 23 chapters of the YSA held a lively discussion following each of the two reports from the YSA's leadership.

Rosa from Miami discussed the work of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, which "is one of the organizations that plays a decisive role in solidarity work with Cuba. The consistent work they have done in a number of cities has contributed to the changing attitudes around Cuba, especially in Miami."

"The center of our activities are the yearly contingents to Cuba and the distribution of *Arelto*," a Spanish-language magazine published in the United States, she said.

Pointing to the possibilities for organizing events in solidarity with the Cuban revolution, Max from Milwaukee told about a meeting at the University of Minnesota that "attracted a wide range of speakers and cultural groups. Some 150 turned out. This was many more than we expected."

Activists defend abortion rights in Florida, Los Angeles, St. Louis

BY PETER THIERJUNG

A statewide Rally for Choice has been called by the Florida National Organization for Women. It is to take place September 17 in Ft. Lauderdale. The action will protest Gov. Robert Martinez's call for a special session of the state legislature on October 10 to pass new antiabortion laws.

Several protests against the governor's decision have occurred this summer. The largest was a candlelight rally of 1,000 people in Ft. Lauderdale.

The results of an opinion poll by the *Miami Herald* show that nearly 75 percent of the state's voters oppose the governor's action, and two out of every three polled said that the decision about an abortion "should be left entirely to a woman and her doctor."

The statewide rally will follow NOW's state conference in Miami September 15-16. For more information on the rally call (305) 233-3383.

Hundreds of prochoice demonstrators countered moves on August 12 by the anti-abortion forces of Operation Rescue to block entrances of nine abortion clinics scattered through two counties in the Los Angeles area.

Roman Catholic Archbishop Roger Mahony lent his backing to Operation Rescue efforts by showing up at a rally of 5,500 in Anaheim that same day.

On several Saturdays, Operation Rescue targeted one or two clinics in an attempt to shut them down. The new hit-and-run tactics



Heather Randle was elected national secretary and Aaron Ruby national chairperson of the youth group.



Militant photos by Margrethe Siem

"Today is the 162nd day of the strike against Eastern by the International Association of Machinists, supported by the flight attendants union and pilots association," Randle explained. She said that deepening the YSA's involvement in strike support activities means helping to strengthen picket lines and build rallies.

Karla, a high school student from Los Angeles, described the YSA's involvement in the Los Angeles Student Coalition. "The group organized a meeting of 25 students to hear an Eastern striker," she said. "We discussed that the only way the strike could win was through solidarity by other workers. At the next strike event five of these students showed up and helped out."

Defending abortion rights

Building the protests to defend abortion rights, especially the November 12 national march in Washington, D.C., among working people and youth was another theme of the convention.

Sara from Houston said discussions among her coworkers showed that "we can explain the working-class issues in this fight. The attacks on abortion rights, including the re-

cent Supreme Court decision, hit working women the hardest. The right to choose is a precondition for women's economic and social equality," she stated.

Delegates also discussed the fight to defend Mark Curtis, an Iowa packinghouse worker who is serving a 25-year jail sentence on frame-up charges of robbery and rape. "Mark continues to be the same person today in jail as he was before he was arrested — a political activist and a communist," Randle said.

Curtis sent written greetings to the youth gathering. "The battle to end all restrictions of prisoners' access to literature and mail, our windows to the outside world, continues to be very important," he wrote.

Curtis said this fight is important not only for prisoners, but for all working people. "The more access we have to books, newspapers, ideas, and to free speech and actions, the better we can organize a fight for our rights, be it a strike, demonstration, or frame-up."

Anti-apartheid rally

At the solidarity rally with the struggle in southern Africa speakers from communist organizations the YSA collaborates with in Britain, Canada, and France brought greetings and described the anti-apartheid struggle in those countries.

Special guest Bobby Singleton brought greetings from the 21st Century Youth Leadership Conference of Alabama and the Federation of Southern Cooperatives.

The Federation of Southern Cooperatives is an organization of Black farmers, many of

whom, like Singleton, are from the South.

Singleton focused on the fight of Black farmers to save their farms. "We were up against a lot of foreclosures. Black farmers were losing land at the rate of 1,000 acres a day. Their total livelihood was being taken away by institutions of the government."

He explained that not only Black farmers, but "all farmers began to suffer, and wake up in solidarity." This united struggle gives farmers greater power to press their demands, he said.

Greetings to the convention from Cuba's Union of Young Communists were read during the rally. The message was interrupted by repeated applause and chanting from the rally participants. (See box on this page.)

"I bring greetings on behalf of the South African Youth Congress, and the fighting youth of South Africa," said Molekane at the opening of his speech.

Molekane, who was in the United States as part of the defiance campaign in South Africa, explained that he is not supposed to "leave South Africa, speak in the name of Sayco, or be present at meetings of more than 10 people. I am here to tell the truth," he said, which was greeted by thunderous applause from the audience.

"The defiance campaign is aimed at unbanning ourselves, unbanning our organizations, and participating in the struggle. And that we have already done."

Molekane stressed the importance of youth in the United States joining the struggle for a free, independent Namibia. "It is through the battle and the shattering defeat the racist regime suffered at Cuito Cuanavale, Angola, that the racists were forced to negotiate. We have to do everything in our power to insure that process in Namibia is irreversible."

Discussion on Nicaraguan revolution

A report and discussion also took place at the convention reviewing the history of the victorious revolution against the U.S.-backed Somoza tyranny in Nicaragua in 1979.

YSA leader Aaron Ruby explained that many members of the YSA were won to political activity and a socialist perspective through learning about, actively defending, and explaining the Nicaraguan revolution.

The report focused on the current stage of the revolution and took up the many challenges facing Nicaragua's workers and peasants as they confront the effects of both a capitalist economy in Nicaragua and the world capitalist economic crisis.

Ruby reaffirmed the YSA's defense of the Nicaraguan revolution against imperialism's attempts to sabotage and overthrow it.

Leadership election

The delegates elected a new National Committee, the leadership body of the organization between conventions. The average age of the new committee is 24.

Aaron Ruby was elected national chairperson and Heather Randle national secretary.

Six people decided to become members of the YSA during the convention.

Cuban Communist youth group greets U.S. Young Socialists

The following statement was sent by the Union of Young Communists of Cuba to the 26th national convention of the Young Socialist Alliance held in Oberlin, Ohio, August 10-11.

The Union of Young Communists, in the name of all the youth and students of Cuba, wishes to send warm and fraternal greetings to the young generation of the United States, your people and especially to the members of the Young Socialist Alliance, who are enthusiastically celebrating your 26th national convention.

Unfortunately, for reasons beyond our control, we are unable to participate directly in the proceedings of your convention to be able to appreciate the tasks you as youth are carrying out under difficult conditions.

We will not be present physically but

we will be with you in spirit. We thank you for your valuable and continuous solidarity with the Cuban revolution. We would like to reiterate that Cuban youth, together with all of our people, will continue working ardently for the construction of socialism, despite the hostile attitude of U.S. imperialism, its threats and blockade, just as we have been doing for more than 30 years, and continuing to rely on the solidarity of progressive youth and the people of the United States.

We are aware of the struggle that you are carrying out against Yankee imperialism and for the establishment of a workers' and farmers' government in the United States. For this reason we wish you success in your convention, and we are certain that it will be an important point of departure in carrying out new and ever greater goals in your work.

Nancy Cole from Miami, Nelson Blackstock from Los Angeles, and Ellen Haywood from St. Louis contributed to this article.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Palestinian Intifada and the Case of the L.A. 8. Speaker: representative of the Committee to Stop the McCarran-Walter Act Deportations. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

San Francisco

Justice and Dignity for Eastern Airlines Strikers. Picket at San Francisco International Airport. Sat., Sept. 2, 7 a.m. and/or 11 a.m. Meet at International Association of Machinists Local 1781 Hall, 1511 Rollins Rd., Burlingame. Park and shuttle from hall to airport, or meet at Eastern departure terminal. For more information call (415) 697-3259.

March to Protect Women's Rights, Save Women's Lives. Sun., Oct. 15. Assemble 11 a.m. Justin Herman Plaza (Market and Embarcadero.) Noon march to Civic Center. Rally 1:30 p.m. Sponsor: Bay Area Pro-Choice Coalition. For more information call (415) 861-8880.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Anti-apartheid Defiance Spreads in South Africa. Speaker: Daryl Drobnic, Socialist Workers Party, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 442. Sat., Sept. 2. Dinner 6 p.m.; forum 7:30. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$3, forum \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

El Salvador Today: Report Back from International Union Conference. Speakers: Mark Emanation, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 187; others. Fri., Sept. 8, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

MISSOURI

Kansas City

Cuba Today: Eyewitness Reports. Speakers: Ed Haase, broadcast journalist, traveled to Cuba as member of Venceremos Brigade; Leslie Young, social worker who visited mental and health-care facilities in Cuba. Sat., Sept. 23, 7 p.m. St. Stephen Baptist Church, Truman Rd. at

Paseo. Sponsor: Cuba Friendship Committee. For more information call (816) 561-0125.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

The Defiance Campaign Against Apartheid. Speakers: Jimmy Seepe, South African student; representative Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

The Roots of the Civil War in Lebanon. Speaker: Georges Sayad, Socialist Workers Party, coauthor of pamphlet *Palestine and the Arabs' Fight for Liberation*, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union. Sat., Sept. 2, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

Cancel the Third World Debt. Speaker: Don Rojas, former press secretary to assassinated Grenadian prime minister Maurice Bishop; member coordinating committee of Anti-imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America. Sat., Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St.,

2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

The Fight for Puerto Rican Independence. Speakers: Selva Nebbia, *Militant* staff writer; others. Sat., Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Going Away Party for Prof. Fred Dube. A leader of the African National Congress of South Africa. Dube is engaged in a battle with the State University of New York over its denying him tenure because of his political views. This month he is moving to Olympia, Washington, where he will be teaching at Evergreen State College. Fri., Sept. 1, 7-10 p.m. Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Synod Hall (cor. of Amsterdam and 110th St.)

UTAH

Salt Lake City

The Great Spirit Within the Hole. Film by Chris Spotted Eagle on the struggle of Indian prisoners for right to practice their religion. Sat., Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call

(801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

The Fight for School Desegregation: Against the "Save Our Schools" Initiative. A panel discussion. Sat., Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

CANADA

Montréal

Solidarity with Cuba! Speaker: Joe Young, participated in minibrigade of voluntary work in Cuba. Translation from French to English and Spanish. Sat., Sept. 2, 7:30 p.m. 6566 boul. Saint-Laurent. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière. For more information call (514) 524-7992.

SWEDEN

Stockholm

The Ochoa Affair: Cuba Confronts Corruption and Bureaucracy. Sat., Sept. 9, 15.00, Vikingagatan 10, T-bana St Eriksplan. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (08) 722-9342.

Racists lynch Black youth in Brooklyn

Continued from front page

by young jealous girls." Feliciano, who he called a "crackhead and prostitute," "caused the confrontation" by telling a gang member that she would get 30 of her friends to beat him and his friends, the attorney said.

"They don't like Blacks"

"This wasn't so much about her as that they don't like Blacks in the neighborhood. They don't like Puerto Ricans," Joanne Carretta, a life-long resident of the area and witness to the attack, said. "They had bats and they were standing there waiting for a fight."

Bensonhurst is one of several mostly white enclaves in south Brooklyn near the oceanfront. Many of the residents moved from other areas almost three decades ago looking to avoid the increasingly Black, Latino, and immigrant composition of the East New York, Bedford-Stuyvesant, and Brownsville areas of Brooklyn.

A string of protests

Within days of the attack, protest meetings and marches were called. On August 25 nearly 500 people, including many Black youth, attended a meeting at the Harlem State Office Building organized by the December 12 Coalition, a group that developed out of the protests against the 1986 racist killing in the Howard Beach area of New York.

The following day more than 300 marched through Bensonhurst. On August 26 several prominent Black ministers organized a march of about 100 through Bensonhurst, ending it with a "service of reclamation and possession of the city." They were joined by leaders of the American Civil Liberties Union.

"No part of New York is exempt from us," Rev. Timothy Mitchell told the marchers.

"We're not going to be intimidated. We're not going to let the racists tell us where we cannot go in this city."

Both marches were met by counterdemonstrations of whites yelling racist epithets, throwing eggs, and holding up watermelons. "Let the boys from Bensonhurst go," they chanted.

Film director Spike Lee, whose movie *Do the Right Thing* is playing at theaters in the city, toured the Bensonhurst area where Hawkins was shot and condemned the murder.

Bensonhurst reaction divided

Reaction among residents in Bensonhurst has been polarized. Despite the atmosphere

"We're not going to let the racists tell us where we cannot go."

of intimidation brought about by the racist countermobilizations, some residents have spoken out against the killing to the media. As three of the suspects in the attack were led from the police station, a crowd of Bensonhurst residents jeered them. "You should be ashamed," Lucy Capezza shouted, "You're a disgrace." "It's an awful thing you've done," another resident yelled, "You're making things worse."

Thousands of mourners attended Hawkins' wake in Bedford-Stuyvesant and a crowd of several hundred Blacks outside the funeral home met Jesse Jackson chanting, "We want to march!"

Later the crowd turned angry and booed when Mayor Koch appeared at the wake.

After Koch left through a side entrance, they chased his limousine down the block.

Koch's condemnation of the protest marches through Bensonhurst as inflammatory has fueled the anger of New York's Black community and other opponents of racist violence. He instead urged Blacks who wished to assert their rights to walk through Bensonhurst individually.

David Dinkins, who is Black and is Koch's major rival in the upcoming Democratic mayoral primary, defended the marchers. "People have a right to be or to march anywhere," he said.

Dinkins has called for more and tougher laws to be enacted against gang violence. He said his proposals were not only aimed at racist violence, but also at acts of "urban terrorism," a term he used to describe the crimes of Black youth.

Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York James Harris, who is currently on a trip to Africa, called on "working people to unite to demand that City Hall prosecute the killers of Yusef Hawkins to the full extent of the law."

The socialist candidate noted the sizable protests that forced the city to jail participants in the racist killing in 1986 of Michael Griffith, a Black man, in Howard Beach. He called for similar mobilizations to "give voice to the majority sentiment among working people that racist gangs will not be able to terrorize or intimidate Black youth."

"I am confident that this fight can unite all who oppose racist violence in this city," Harris said, "from organizations in the Black, Latino, and Asian communities, to workers at Eastern Airlines, New York Telephone, and the city's hospitals, who are also involved in a battle for dignity, to those struggling to defend abortion rights and affirmative action."

NEW YORK CITY

Cuba Defends Socialism: Lessons of the Ochoa Case

Speaker:
Mary-Alice Waters
editor *New International* magazine

Fri., Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m.
191 Seventh Ave., 2nd floor
Manhattan

Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum.
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And skip a few safety checks — "Because the [passenger] volume is so large, so are the potential savings. For instance, when United replaced a spoon with a plastic stirrer on



Harry Ring

meals that required spoons just for coffee or tea, the airline saved approximately \$400,000 a year." — News item.

With equal justice for all — In

Houston, an ex-cop convicted of kidnapping and raping a woman at gunpoint, got a 10-year probationary term and a possible 30 days in jail.

Now there's a goulash — After losing two of three by-elections, the Hungarian Communist Party is hiring Margaret Thatcher's public relations firm to help it polish up its image.

American Way of Death — Lawsuits are pending against two Southern California cemeteries. In one it's charged that prior to cremation, body parts were illegally sold. In the other case, an ex-employee testified that small urns were used in cremations, with the excess ashes

buried in a vacant lot across the street.

More pollution — The first prefabricated jail, made from converted shipping containers, has been assembled in Leesburg, Virginia. A federal official said the design will do for jails what Henry Ford did cars.

Who's ripping off whom? — Canadian firms are investing up to \$225,000 a year for luxury boxes at Toronto's SkyDome sports stadium. But they're balking at the price of refreshments: Veal hotdogs, \$6.50; peanuts, \$5 a bowl; bottle of Scotch, \$95. The protest seems to be a matter of principle, since they can take an

80 percent tax write-off on the food and drink.

P.S. — McDonald snack bars at SkyDome will serve the masses beef hotdogs for \$3.25 a piece. However, since working for a living is not a business, this is not tax deductible.

The egalitarian society — Over the past five years, the income of U.S. chief executives jumped from 41 times that of a skilled production worker to 55 times greater.

The ultimate insider — "We don't know what all the answers are. . . . We open all our meetings with a prayer because it helps us to make less stupid mistakes." — John Tem-

pleton, mutual fund operator, opening a Toronto shareholders' meeting.

Enjoy — New York and Connecticut officials advised residents to skip the liver of lobsters from Long Island Sound because they're laced with cadmium, which can atrophy the human liver and kidney. But, they assure, the rest of the lobster is just fine.

No more chauvinist pigs? — "Miss World" is getting with the green movement. Having lost several major British sponsors, the international beauty contest will seek sponsors among makers of animal-free cosmetics and other "environment-friendly" companies.

U.S. troop maneuvers in Panama violate sovereignty

Continued from front page

"unilateral action to protect the lives of U.S. citizens and guarantee the security of the canal." According to the officials, serious violations of the Torrijos-Carter treaty, combined with the blocking of a negotiated solution by the Panamanian government, "would leave them no other option," *Granma* reported.

The Cuban Communist Party newspaper noted that representatives of the Southern Command, the coordinating center for U.S. military operations in Latin America and the Caribbean, were present at the meeting. They spoke on behalf of the two top generals in command of U.S. troops in Panama. One of the military officials at the briefing, "Col. Perry, warned the diplomats that U.S. troops were ready to act as soon as they received the order from the White House," *Granma* reported.

In the September 4 issue of *Newsweek*, the U.S. magazine reports that the George Bush administration "plans to keep rattling the sabers of the 13,600 U.S. troops stationed in Panama" and that the Pentagon has a "workable plan" to kidnap Noriega.

Newsweek reports also that the White House plans to broaden its economic sanctions against Panama.

On August 24 Maj. Ricardo Wheelock, chief of military intelligence in the Nicaraguan army, said in Managua that the U.S. government is preparing a "surgical strike" against Panama and that the CIA is preparing international public opinion for such a strike by "taking advantage of" the drug-related conflicts in Colombia.

Warnings of invasion

Three days before, *Granma* warned in an editorial of "an imminent Yankee aggression against Panama."

At a recent meeting of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) in Cartagena, Colombia, Jorge Ritter, Panama's foreign min-

African heads of state adopt ANC negotiation proposal

Continued from front page

political life. The meeting called for the "cessation of all interference in the internal affairs of Angola."

Following the adjournment of the meeting, UNITA issued a statement from Lisbon, Portugal, condemning the results and stating the war would continue. Even before the Harare meeting began, the Angolan government reported a new round of attacks by UNITA inside the country.

Angolan army officials stated that from August 16 to 22 UNITA carried out 31 attacks and 13 ambushes, killing 125 and wounding 222.

Angolan President José dos Santos said in a statement here that the escalation of the attacks and loss of life "constitutes an eloquent proof of disrespect to the word given by UNITA."

Later in the week Angolan government officials reiterated their desire to implement the accords but added, "We will not remain idle so as the terrorists can continue, under foreign influence, destabilizing our country, killing our people, and destroying social and economic targets."

ister, criticized U.S. economic sanctions and also warned of an imminent U.S. invasion.

"In fact, this invasion has virtually taken place already, as evident in the takeover of streets, towns, and the Thatcher Bridge," he said.

A few days later, Panama's President Manuel Solis Palma said in La Paz, Bolivia, that his country was being invaded without a shot being fired. He stated that U.S. soldiers violate the Panama Canal treaties and frequently occupy unauthorized zones with tanks and soldiers.

Throughout July and August, the U.S. military conducted a series of provocative and threatening exercises on Panamanian territory. Towns and state installations under Panama's jurisdiction were occupied with troops supported by armored cars and helicopter gunships.

In one maneuver, the U.S. embassy in Panama City was surrounded by heavily armed U.S. troops who slid down ropes from helicopters hovering in Panamanian airspace.

During August there were incidents in which U.S. and Panamanian troops faced each other with guns at the ready and in which U.S. military authorities arrested Panamanians.

U.S. rights in Panama

U.S. government spokespersons sought to justify the military exercises on the grounds that they were a response to "an organized campaign of harassment" by Noriega against U.S. military personnel and, moreover, that they were necessary to "reaffirm and reassert" U.S. rights in Panama.

Contrary to Washington's expectations, the OAS mission to Panama did not view the military maneuvers in the same light. In fact, in an embarrassing rebuff to the U.S. rulers, the mission criticized the maneuvers, stating that they were partly responsible for its failure to persuade Noriega to give up his office.

Describing the maneuvers as "inopportune," the mission declared, "It is essential to avoid the possibility of an incident that, in the present circumstances in Panama, might thwart all efforts to achieve a peaceful solution."

Appointed in May, the OAS mission comprised of diplomats from four member states and led by Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Diego Córdova made five visits to Panama in an effort to bring about the transfer of power as demanded by the U.S. government.

Having failed to accomplish that goal, the mission urged further talks between the Panamanian government and opposition parties and called on the U.S. and Panamanian governments to "normalize their bilateral relations."

Minority support for hostilities

When it met in Washington on August 23 to receive and discuss the report from its Panama mission, a majority of the OAS 31 member states supported continued negotiations and an end to U.S. hostility against Panama. But a significant minority, including Venezuela and Costa Rica, both of which top Washington's current list of "beneficiaries" under its Third World debt scheme known as the Brady plan, supported the U.S. government's stance.

The day after, the *New York Times*, U.S. capitalism's "newspaper of record," lambasted the OAS in an editorial for its "fumbling, mumbling response" and for "shamelessly" blaming the troop maneuvers for

poisoning the negotiating climate.

In response to the U.S. military exercises, the Panamanian Defense Forces, along with civilian militia units of the "Dignity Battalions" launched their own military operation dubbed "Oust the Intruder," which was designed to "defend and protect public property."

Addressing a group of retired officers, including ex-generals and colonels from 11 Latin American armies who attended a meeting of the Organization of Military Officers for the Democracy, Integration, and Freedom of Latin America and the Caribbean, Gen. Manuel Noriega referred to the Pentagon's maneuvers as "boldness turned into insolence."

He asserted that Panama "will not give up, humble itself, or abandon its liberation struggle."

He said the U.S. government "intends to keep a territory, which does not belong to it, for its geographic value. From here, and through modern technology, the United States controls the lives and destinies of the Latin American and Caribbean peoples."

A "Panama Declaration" issued by this regional organization of soldiers on August 10 stated its support for the principles of self-determination by the peoples of the Americas and of nonintervention.

"We forcefully condemn the interference of the U.S. government in the internal affairs of the Republic of Panama. The lack of respect for these principles violates regional peace, stability and security, which are essential for the process of democratic consolida-

tion and for the complete development of our people."

Bush calls Endara

In the middle of the stepped-up military provocations in August, President Bush, who on May 11 had ordered an additional 2,000 U.S. troops to Panama "to protect American lives," spoke by telephone to Guillermo Endara, former presidential candidate of the country's Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance.

Addressing Endara as "Mr. president-elect," Bush assured him that "you and your two vice-presidents" have the "unyielding support and admiration of the American people."

They discussed the then upcoming OAS meeting in Washington on August 23. Endara said that "my two vice-presidents and I will probably go to Washington . . . to talk informally with all the ministers of foreign relations."

Bush then stressed, "We're willing to back the OAS view, but it's predicated on Noriega getting out on September 1. I don't think there's much chance of it, do you?"

After September 1 Eric Arturo Delvalle, who is recognized by the U.S. government as the lawful president of Panama, will have no pretense to claiming the office. Delvalle was dismissed by parliament in February 1988 and replaced by Manuel Solis Palma.

A presidential election held in May was annulled, so there is no president-elect. Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter announced that a provisional government will be installed.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Sept. 7, 1979

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Striking a financial blow against those who profited under ousted dictator Somoza, the Nicaraguan government announced on August 25 that bills of 500 or 1,000 córdobas (US\$50 and \$100) would be immediately invalid.

With the slogan, "Let's take back from somocismo the money that belongs to the people," the government urged everyone to deposit their large denomination bills in the bank. In exchange, depositors received coupons to be refunded in six months, with 8 percent interest.

The swiftness with which the new measure was carried out prevented many of Somoza's henchmen, now hiding in embassies and elsewhere around the country, from making arrangements to obtain reimbursement for their now-worthless currency.

Another important step taken in the past few days was a constitutional decree replacing the hated National Guard with the Sandinista army.

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

Sept. 7, 1964

The Democratic Party national convention registered a shift to the right on a num-

ber of major issues. Liberals, union officials, and most of the Negro spokesmen within the party hardly protested as their positions were flattened by the Johnson machine in the interests of "national unity."

The single point of relief to the suppression of the "progressive" forces was provided by the fight put up by the Mississippi Freedom Democrats for seats in the convention. Acting independently of the party machine, and finally even in opposition to their "liberal" supporters within the party, the predominantly Negro group from Mississippi managed to keep the civil rights issue before the nation's TV audiences for three days and upset Johnson's carefully laid plans to soft-pedal it.

To keep the Mississippi issue from the convention floor, Johnson assigned liberal Hubert Humphrey — his vice-presidential choice — to work out a compromise. Humphrey's job was to pressure the 16 state delegations that had promised to support the Mississippi Negroes to go back on their promises to force a floor fight on the issue. He succeeded in this as Northern liberals and civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King, CORE National Director James Farmer, NAACP Executive Secretary Roy Wilkins, and March on Washington Vice-chairman Bayard Rustin buckled under pressure.

The 68-member Mississippi Freedom delegation voted down Humphrey's "back-of-the-bus compromise," which recognized the regular racist delegation, seated only two Freedom delegates, and did not recognize them as representing Mississippi.

Hands off Panama!

Provocative and threatening military exercises on Panama's sovereign territory. Bellicose talk from State Department and Pentagon officials. Plans to kidnap Gen. Manuel Noriega and charges that he has turned his country into a "haven" for drug traffickers. Tightening of economic sanctions.

These are among the odious elements in Washington's stepped-up campaign against Noriega and the Panamanian government in recent weeks, a campaign that has led to mounting fears throughout Latin America and the Caribbean that a U.S. military invasion is planned.

Standing up to immense pressure from the White House and State Department, a majority of the representatives to the Organization of American States criticized the recent military maneuvers and called on Washington to "normalize" its relations with the government of Panama.

In an August 21 editorial, *Granma*, the official organ of the Cuban Communist Party, warned that the U.S. government "in its arrogant intoxication," and spurred by "bitterness for failing to achieve [its] goals," is considering taking military action against Panama and "each hour that goes by makes this threat more certain."

Granma said that international public opinion, as a whole, has a "moral duty" to denounce "the threat falling over Panama."

As the editorial stated, underlying imperialism's anti-Panama campaign is the desire of the U.S. rulers to thwart the fulfillment of the 1977 Torrijos-Carter agreements that called for full Panamanian control over the Panama Canal by the end of this century and for the dismantling of all U.S. bases and installations on Panamanian soil.

Recently, the head of Nicaragua's military intelligence said the Pentagon was planning an attack on Panama and that the CIA was preparing a pretext for military aggression by attempting to implicate Noriega in Colombia's drug war.

Meanwhile, Washington's allies in the Panamanian opposition have rejected Noriega's offer to join a national unity government starting September 1 and to hold new

elections within a year. Instead, they continue to support Washington's violations of Panama's sovereignty and territorial integrity and its unjustified interference in the country's domestic affairs. These proimperialist Panamanians represent a privileged class of businessmen, landlords, and bankers who up to 1968 dominated the Panamanian government and bowed to Washington's demands.

Since the beginning of this century, Panama's working people have struggled against U.S. imperialist domination. Today, they continue that tradition of resistance in the face of provocations and threats and in spite of Washington's campaigns of disinformation and psychological pressure.

Under the popular leadership of Gen. Omar Torrijos from 1968 to 1981, the Panamanian masses won progress in their quest for independence and self-determination and for ultimate sovereignty over the canal that their forebears constructed with their sweat and blood.

Social and economic measures implemented during that period improved the living conditions of the country's workers and farmers. However, Torrijos' mysterious death eight years ago did not, as *Granma* points out, "bury his nationalist ideal to which he contributed with an unequivocal anti-imperialist stamp and the fact that there were among the defense forces and the people courageous and resolute chiefs and political leaders capable of continuing the Torrijos cause."

Working people and anti-imperialist forces around the world should demonstrate solidarity with their Panamanian sisters and brothers as the crisis deepens in that Latin American country.

We should also forcefully condemn the U.S. government's warmongering and demand that Panama be left alone to solve its internal problems. Renewed efforts should also be made to force Washington to abide by the 1977 treaties and to lift all current economic and diplomatic sanctions.

Hands off Panama!

Stealing José Martí's name

BY DOUG JENNESS

There are many forms of robbery in this world, but just about the lowest is when your enemy takes part of your heritage — a legacy won through struggle, claims it as his own, and attempts to use it against you. Not only do you feel as if you've run into the wrong end of a manure spreader, but you have to take some time to set things straight.

A recent example is the stealing of José Martí's name by the U.S. capitalist rulers for their radio station and projected TV station that illegally broadcast venomous propaganda into Cuba.

If there was anybody whom Martí had nothing in common with, it was the racist, antilabor exploiters of North

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

America. And today's heirs of this class are just as bad, if not worse, than those who ruled the United States when Martí lived and fought.

In the struggle against Spanish colonial rule at the end of the last century, Martí opposed annexation or any other relationship with Spain short of total independence. And he believed this could be won only through revolutionary action, not piecemeal reform.

But Martí not only fought Spanish domination; he opposed the U.S. government's threats to move in and take over Cuba, snuffing out its opportunity for independence. In his last letter, written the day before he was killed by Spanish troops in 1895 during a cavalry skirmish not far from Santiago de Cuba, Martí stressed, "It is my duty — inasmuch as I realize it and have the spirit to fulfill it — to prevent, by the independence of Cuba, the United States from spreading over the West Indies and falling, with that added weight, upon other lands of Our America."

Martí knew the United States well. He had lived the last 14 years of his life there, mostly in New York, before returning to Cuba as part of a revolutionary army shortly before his death. "I have lived inside the monster," he wrote, "and know its entrails."

The Cuban independence fighter lived in the United States at the time when monopolies were becoming more powerful and finance capital began to dominate industry and commerce — that is, when the United States was emerging as an imperialist country.

Martí was a witness to the strengthening of racism inside the United States and its connection to the ruling families' imperial policies internationally. And in newspaper articles read widely in Latin America, he denounced lynchings and other bitter fruits of racial discrimination.

Moreover, he condemned the "onerous treaties" that robbed Indians of their lands.

The Cuban revolutionist also learned from and solidarized with the U.S. working class as it waged battles against the capitalist bosses. Martí was not a socialist, but his experiences inside "the monster" led to a greater understanding of the class struggle and solidarity with the exploited classes.

Martí was the central leader of the Cuban Revolutionary Party, founded in 1892 to lead a second war of independence. The first was waged from 1868 to 1878.

The new movement, standing on the shoulders of the first independence struggle, attempted to avoid some of its shortcomings. For one thing it was based more on working-class than well-to-do Cubans.

It also sought to overcome the racial divisions that weakened the first revolutionary struggle. In the March 25, 1895, Manifesto of Montecristi, Martí declared that the participation of Blacks was necessary for victory. He said the charge that "the Negro race is a threat" was "wickedly made by the beneficiaries of the Spanish regime in order to stir up fear of the revolution."

Moreover, the Revolutionary Party adopted a nonexclusionary policy, admitting into its ranks socialists.

In addition to these principles, Martí recognized that the independence struggles of Puerto Rico and Cuba were closely linked. The first article in the Platform of the Cuban Revolutionary Party declared that the party was "formed to achieve absolute independence for the island of Cuba, and to aid and encourage that of Puerto Rico."

Puerto Ricans were active in the Cuban Revolutionary Party and the assistant editor of the party's paper, *Patria*, was Sotero Figueroa, a Puerto Rican.

If Radio Martí or TV Martí were to champion independence for Puerto Rico, they might be able to make a more plausible case for usurping the name of Cuba's most prominent independence fighter. Or if they were to call for lifting Washington's economic blockade of Cuba and withdrawing U.S. troops from the Guantánamo naval base on Cuban soil, they might be able to lay a better claim to Martí's name.

But this is not on the agenda of the imperialist "monster" in the United States. Martí's true heirs are Cuba's revolutionary working people who have fought to free Cuba from the imperialist boot, who continue to defend their revolution arms in hand, and are charting a course toward full social emancipation.

Convict Bensonhurst lynchers!

The facts in the killing of Yusef Hawkins, a 16-year-old Black youth, in the Bensonhurst section of New York City on August 23 are unambiguous.

It was premeditated murder by a lynch mob. The racist motives behind the killing cannot be covered up. Statements made by the up to 30 bigots, before and during the attack on Hawkins and his three companions, show that they were out to grab the first Black or person of color who came through the streets of the white enclave of Bensonhurst. The names of most of those involved are known, and there are ample witnesses.

Any attempts to paint up the killing as something else fly in the face of facts, as do assertions by investigators that testimony by witnesses may not hold up in court.

What must be done is also clear. Only six of the attackers have been arrested and two have been indicted for murder. The full weight of city, state, and federal authorities must immediately come to bear in apprehending every single thug involved and all should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

The state and federal governments have enough evidence of civil rights violations to act in this case. Convictions and maximum sentences would serve as effective deterrents for others who would consider beating or killing anyone because of their skin color.

No more legislation is needed to accomplish this. Plenty of laws are already on the books. What is required are protests in the streets focusing their fire on the government and demanding that the laws be fully enforced. Pressure should especially be brought against city hall and New York Mayor Edward Koch.

The mayor's condemnations of the protests against racist violence as "inflammatory" only puts wind in the sails of the racists. Koch would like nothing better than for the protests to end so that he can avoid responsibility for doing what is necessary. It fits a pattern in a city where cops routinely gun down Black, Latino, and working-class youth and walk away with at most a suspension or some other slap on the wrist; and where institutionalized discrimination in housing, education, health care, and other areas is worsening.

Now is the time to call city hall to order and to force Koch and other officials to take action. The protests that forced the appointment of a special prosecutor and the conviction of the racist killers of Michael Griffith show this is possible. Griffith, a 23-year-old Black man, was struck and killed by a car in 1986 while being chased by a group of bat-wielding thugs in Howard Beach.

The Hawkins' killing has angered many working people, Black and white, across the city. Many want to do something to see that justice is done and that the rights of

Blacks and others to freely walk down any street in any part of the city are asserted. The crowd chanting "We want to march!" outside the funeral home where Hawkins' body lay in wake reflected this.

Now is the time when the greatest numbers — Blacks, Asians, Latinos, and whites — can be mobilized from almost every section of the city to make the needed demands on the government.

The Bensonhurst racist violence is not a sign of racism on the rise. It is a defensive action of a small minority. Like the incident in other enclaves — Howard Beach, or the one in Forsyth County, Georgia, in 1987 — racists seek to keep these areas off limits to Blacks in the face of the great majority's acceptance that Jim Crow segregation, defeated by the civil rights movement, should not be restored.

There has been no reversal of the big changes brought about by the victories of the civil rights movement, especially in the self-confidence of Blacks and the greater acceptance of whites that Blacks are human beings with equal rights. There is at this time no rise in right-wing or racist organizations, like the Ku Klux Klan.

For more than a decade the employers and the government have been attempting to chip away at the gains won by working people for the rights of Blacks and women. As these efforts are escalated, like the recent rulings by the Supreme Court attacking affirmative action and abortion rights, anger mounts and increased protests are organized.

The march of 25,000 in defense of affirmative action in Washington, D.C., on August 26 or the march of 500,000 for abortion rights last April, including large contingents of unionists, show that working people are finding they have more to gain by linking up in struggle against common enemies.

The solidarity that has been extended across the country to Eastern Airlines strikers and miners on strike against Pittston Coal in Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky is also a sign of this.

A real blow for justice can be struck by reaching to the millions in New York of every race and nationality to mobilize a massive protest to demand city hall and the government apprehend and jail all the attackers of Yusef Hawkins.

We urge our readers in New York to talk to every union, student group, church, and other organization that you know or are a member of, and to all your coworkers, friends, and families about the need to march and rally around the demand:

Apprehend, convict, and jail all those responsible for the lynch attack on Yusef Hawkins!

'Long live free Cuba—30 years of revolution'

Areito. Subscriptions: \$12 a year, United States and Puerto Rico; \$18 other countries. P.O. Box 44-1403, Miami, Fla. 33144. Published in Spanish, four times a year.

BY SUSAN APSTEIN

"Long live free Cuba!" — the theme of the July issue of *Areito* magazine, published by Cubans living in the United States — is a thought-provoking celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Cuban revolution. Its subjects are the challenges Cubans face today, the U.S. government's continuing campaign of aggression against the Caribbean country, and how the Cuban community in Miami is changing.

Areito favors a dialogue between Cuban-Americans and the people and government of Cuba, and the normalization

IN REVIEW

of relations between the U.S. and Cuban governments. Its goal is to promote a free and open discussion in the Cuban community of the United States. First published in Miami in 1974, the magazine was soon forced by right-wing threats to move to New York. But in 1987 it returned to Miami.

Areito polled 500 family members in the Miami Cuban community in May and June this year. The results show opinions that aren't reflected in the press and media of the city — opinions that diverge sharply from the positions of right-wing political organizations in Miami.

Among those polled, 55 percent favored the lifting of the

U.S. government's blockade against Cuba, with 54 percent in favor of normalization of relations with Cuba. Seventy-two percent were in favor of Cubans in the United States being able to visit their homeland, with 52 percent saying they would go if it were made easier.

Moreover, the younger those polled, the more these percentages increased. For those between 18 and 24 years, the percentage favoring normalization shot up to 75. An overwhelming majority of all emigrants, regardless of age, who left Cuba after 1980 support normalization and the lifting of the blockade, a much greater percentage than those who emigrated between 1959 and 1966.

In the anniversary issue, editor Andrés Gómez interviews Roberto Robaina, first secretary of the 600,000-member Cuban communist youth organization, the Union of Young Communists. He asks how the generation of Cuban youth born since 1959 who did not experience firsthand the horrors of life in capitalist Cuba can understand the significance of what has been accomplished there.

Robaina describes the experiences of thousands of young Cubans who have traveled to Third World countries as internationalist aid volunteers. They include medical workers, teachers, construction workers, and soldiers. This has been one of the best ways, he says, for Cubans to see with their own eyes the human misery that imperialist domination brings. He tells of his own experiences as part of a combat unit in Angola.

But the best way for Cuban youth to strengthen their political awareness and leadership abilities, Robaina says, is for Cuba to place responsibility in young people's hands for solving the problems the country faces today.

In another interview, the secretary of the Central Com-

mittee of the Cuban Communist Party, Carlos Aldana, condemns the U.S. government's preparations to illegally broadcast television programs into Cuba through "TV Martí."

Other articles take up the U.S. embargo against Cuba, Haitian refugees in the United States, and the process known as rectification in which Cuban working people are placing themselves at the center of transforming their society.

In "Fidel: the craft of the spoken word," novelist Gabriel García Márquez from Colombia describes the Cuban leader's development of his speech-making skills.

A week after the triumph of the revolution, Castro spoke on television nonstop for seven hours.

"It must be a world record," García Márquez writes. "Residents of Havana who weren't yet familiar with the hypnotic power of Fidel's voice sat down to listen in the traditional manner." But as time passed, they returned to their labors, the author says, "with one ear on the business at hand and another tuned to the speech."

"I had arrived the day before with a group of journalists from Caracas," he continues, "and we started out listening to the speech in the hotel, then in the elevator, the taxi... as we walked through the streets, the blast from the radios reached us at full volume from the windows. By nightfall, everyone had carried out the day's tasks without missing a word."

"A doctor who heard him that day," García Márquez notes, "wrote a dissertation on the nature of those breaks in his voice, concluding that Fidel was condemned to lose his voice completely within five years.... Thirty years have passed since then, and Fidel's voice continues to be one of his most useful instruments."

LETTERS

Supports Curtis

I worked at Swift Co. in Des Moines with Mark Curtis in the packaging department. When I came to work at 2:30 p.m. on March 1, 1988, and saw several U.S. government cars, it frightened me. I wondered what was going on, but went in the gate.

They were rounding up all the immigrants. The government agents waited until the workers got dressed for work and asked for their IDs in the locker room. They had names and pictures.

By the time they were done they had arrested 17 people, a few I knew. They were hard workers. It bothered me because they were human just like we were. They were good workers.

Shortly afterward, I was on my way to work again and in the Swift parking lot I was stopped and told about Mark's arrest and his beating by police. I donated \$5 to the defense fund and asked for defense leaflets to distribute in the Black community. Mark's story got a good response there.

I met Mark here at the prison in Anamosa for the first time while working in the clothing room. When we talked I told him right up front that I thought he was framed because he was in Iowa and because of what he stood for.

I have seen similar situations over the last 10 years here. The police department seems to treat activists differently than they do other citizens.

Had Mark not been known to the police department, he would not have received the serious injuries. This happens all the time in Des Moines, Iowa. But Mark let it be known throughout the country.

I happen to be a member of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Organization here in Anamosa. Mark is our secretary and is a very good one. I am going to work for Mark upon my release and keep him informed of my efforts.

I feel Mark is doing time to keep him from fulfilling his dream of helping others fulfill their dreams. Mark's case will be known in every city I go to until justice is done.

A prisoner
Anamosa, Iowa

Socialism

I would like to compliment you on your fine newspaper. I don't agree with all of your views, but you usually offer perspectives that are

intelligently and thoroughly reported.

I especially thought Fred Feldman's series on China was excellent. The establishment of a new ruling "caste" in the guise of communism was something I really hadn't known of.

One thing that puzzles me — how do you reconcile the trend of almost every socialist state toward totalitarianism? Why must freeing society of exploiters and the exploited depend on suppressing individual intellectual freedoms? Shouldn't socialism evolve toward less and less government control?

If you could guide me toward a publication that addresses this question, I'd be grateful.

P.C.
Columbus, Ohio

Editor's reply:

Some works that address the questions P.C. raises are: *Socialism and Man*, by Ernesto Che Guevara; *The State and Revolution*, by V.I. Lenin; and *The Revolution Betrayed: What is the Soviet Union and Where Is It Going?*, by Leon Trotsky. All three are available from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Timber industry rally

On September 8 members of four unions will be asked to participate in a "labor rally" in Salem, Oregon. The timber and pulp-and-paper industries are even going to give us the day off to attend. And lo and behold, Roseburg Forest Products, where I work, is even going to pay for the buses to send us to Salem.

The unions are the United Paper Workers International Union, International Woodworkers of America, Western Council of Industrial Workers, and International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union.

In fact, this is not a labor rally. It is a rally to support the timber industry's efforts to block environmentalists from listing the spotted owl as an endangered species, thereby clearing the way to unrestricted logging in old-growth forests.

The rally is sponsored by labor bureaucrats who are collaborating with the people who just cut our wages, slashed our benefits, and oppose labor unions at every opportunity.

Where were the support rallies when the woodworkers and paperworkers were on strike last year?

When we at Roseburg Forest Products struck this year?

This rally is a sellout to those of us who stood on the picket line fighting the greed of the timber industry for the past few years and to those who will no doubt be standing on the picket line in 1992.

Gene Lawhorn
Portland, Oregon

Telephone workers

More than 300 angry striking workers from New York Telephone rallied in Catskill, New York, to protest the police barricades set up to prevent workers from picketing in front of the main entrance. Members of the Communications Workers of America, they also protested the company's hiring of temporary workers.

The militant show of strength August 23 resulted in 13 arrests and one injury. All 13 pleaded not guilty and were released on bail that ranged from \$100 to \$500.

I went down to the picket line the next day and spoke to three women determined to stick it out despite the police intimidation. One woman had on a T-shirt with a skull and crossbones that said, "Scabs will pay." When I asked her about it, she said she meant that those who are crossing the line are not only doing the union workers in but themselves in the long run as well.

I urge everyone who sympathizes with this struggle for decent compensation for work done (the biggest issue is health-care benefits), to go on down to the picket line in your area and show your support and solidarity!

Sam Chetta
Catskill, New York

Ali Mohammed Jedda

Ali Mohammed Jedda works in the Alternative Information Centre as a journalist, focusing on the collection of news and background material concerning the situation in the occupied territories for the Israeli and foreign press.

Ali spent 17 years as a political prisoner in Israeli jails until his release as part of the Ahmed Jibril prisoner exchange in 1985. Since then he has been working at the center in Jerusalem.

Since his release the Israeli authorities have put him under town arrest twice, each time for six months. This meant he was forbidden to leave his home after sunset



Grin & Bear It by Wagner

"If we give the union an 8 percent raise, we'll have to hold ours down to 45 percent."

and had to sign in every day at noon at a police station.

He is now accused of attacking police and will be tried September 18.

Ali was riding in a friend's car, together with his wife and daughter, on the way to the hospital. He was stopped and asked to identify himself. Three policemen who knew him tried to provoke him by asking about his imprisonment and insulting him. Because Ali did not react to their provocations, they attacked him and one struck his head with a gun butt. He was jailed and then released on bail.

We call on everyone who supports freedom of expression to protest this. People abroad should write to Israeli embassies (in the United States, 3514 International Dr. NW, Washington, D.C. 20008) or Minister of Police Haim Bar Lev, the Knesset, Jerusalem, Israel. Alternative Information Centre Jerusalem, Israel

Radioactive waste

A group of about 100 people gathered in Auburn, Nebraska, to discuss with Dr. Judith Johnsrud the dangers of low-level radioactive waste. The group has been meeting once or

twice a month since Nemaha County was chosen as one of three possible sites in Nebraska for the storage of low-level radioactive waste from the states of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas.

It is proposed that the site selected receive one truckload of radioactive material a day for the next 33 years. The bulk of the waste will be the nuclear power plants themselves, which will have become so radioactive after 30 to 40 years' use that they can no longer be operated.

The point is to transfer liability for thousands of tons of radioactive concrete and steel from the corporations that built and operated the plants into the hands of the waste management company for as long as the dump is operating, and into the hands of the state of Nebraska after that.

Brian Fitzpatrick
Omaha, Nebraska

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.

Nicaraguan reactions vary to gov't election pact with opposition

BY SETH GALINSKY

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — A variety of opinions on the meaning of the agreement between the Nicaraguan government and opposition groups have been expressed here. The August 4 accord gave the government, led by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), support for dismantling the contra bases in Honduras and a commitment by the opposition to participate in the February 1990 elections. In return, antigovernment groups won political concessions, including changes in the way the election campaign will be conducted.

Demobilization of contras

The 43-point agreement was signed by President Daniel Ortega; the FSLN; representatives of the United National Opposition (UNO), a coalition of 12 parties; and other opposition groups.

Among the points included in the accord are:

- A call to the Central American presidents to approve a plan for demobilizing the contras before the elections. An August 5-6 summit meeting in Tela, Honduras, subsequently approved this plan.
- A six-month suspension of the military draft, lasting through the elections.
- An amnesty for prisoners convicted of collaborating with the contras, to go into effect as soon as the contra bases in Honduras begin to be dismantled, and a review for possible release of prisoners "detained for political activities" who belong to opposition parties.
- An agreement to move up the date for taking office for most posts to April 1990. Under the present law officials elected in the February elections would not assume their positions until 1991.
- Changes in the public security and criminal laws, including a suspension of the right of the police to hold a suspect for up to nine days before turning the case over to the courts.
- A reaffirmation that private property "is not subject to confiscations, expropriations, or affectations for purely political reasons."

Most of the other points approved have to do with election regulations, campaigning, and voter registration.

A separate three-point agreement was signed by Ortega and the FSLN with three groups that present themselves as left-wing opponents of the FSLN: the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT), the People's Action Movement — Marxist-Leninist (MAP-ML), and the Movement for Revolutionary Unity (MUR). It calls for dismantling the contra bases, an end to CIA intervention in Nicaragua, and a continuing dialogue between the president and these parties to improve conditions for "the democratic involvement of the working masses" in the electoral contest.

For the first time since the FSLN-led government came to power in 1979, opposition groups have hailed an agreement reached with the government.

Praise from some in opposition

Luis Humberto Guzmán, editor of the opposition weekly *La Crónica*, which presents itself as part of the "moderate" anti-Sandinista forces, gave his assessment of the agreement in the August 17 issue of the paper. "This pact on National Unity is not a superficial agreement," he wrote. "Quite the contrary. It is important. It means that the elections are meant to measure the strength, the degree of representativeness of each side, and in this way establish the quota of influence that each one will have in the government that arises as a result of the elections next year."

Eli Altamirano, a leader of the Communist Party of Nicaragua (PCDN) and a prominent spokesperson of UNO, told *El Nuevo Diario* that although the agreement is not "com-

plete," it does represent "a giant step in favor of peace and democracy."

Jaime Bonilla, a leader of the Liberal Independent Party (PLI) and UNO, told *Barricada*, "We have decided to participate in the electoral process." Some forces in the coalition had still been holding open the

demand that Nicaraguans living abroad be allowed to vote in embassies and consulates. They also warned that Ortega might break the agreement.

Leaders of the FSLN and pro-FSLN unions see the accords as growing out of Nicaragua's victory over the U.S.-backed

What is new, García said, "is that with the defeat of the contras, these people have had to return, and now they have the opportunity, once again, to win their place in the government."

FSLN: 'Really satisfied'

After signing the agreement, Bayardo Arce, a member of the National Directorate of the FSLN, said, "We are really satisfied, because we have reached a new level of understanding, communication, and accord with all of the nation's political forces, independent of ideological divergences." He added, "This is a triumph for peace, without endangering the legitimate conquests of our people and the revolutionary process."

René Bonilla, a national leader of the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST), told the *Militant* the agreement helped to obtain a definitive peace for Nicaragua by leading to the Tela accords. "But now the opposition parties want to win through the elections what they could not win militarily," he stated. "They believe the FSLN's historical project of organizing a new social system has been a failure, but we believe they are the ones who have failed."

"For us this is not an agreement for sharing political power," Bonilla continued. "Instead, it is an agreement for the private and public sectors to compete economically." Nicaragua needs foreign investment, and hopefully the agreement will make that more possible, he added.

Trinchera, a weekly paper published by the CST, the ATC, and other pro-FSLN unions, ran an article on the agreement entitled, "Signing of the accords: a historic deed without precedent in Latin America." The article said, "Ortega recognized that with the agreement a very important step has been taken in favor of peace and in strengthening a multiparty, nonaligned society with a mixed economy." It is important to note, *Trinchera* commented, that "this is the first dialogue between the government and the political parties where positive results have been achieved."



Nicaraguan soldiers, Jinotega 1987. Election pact calls for six-month suspension of the military draft.

possibility of boycotting the elections. "Abstentionism is now totally ruled out inside UNO," he asserted.

Duilio Baltodano of the National Action Party told the Associated Press that the accord is "a triumph of patriotism." He said his party hopes the government "will fulfill all its pledges. We will stand ready to demand this of them."

The right-wing newspaper *La Prensa* wrote in an August 4 editorial that "the true fruits" of the discussion "will have to be seen in the future." The editors complained that the opposition had still not won the right to their own private television station or their

contras, and further consolidating the peace that victory made possible.

According to Edgardo García, president of the Association of Rural Workers (ATC), the agreement "is not really new. In practice the government has always included citizens of all points of view."

In an interview with the *Militant*, García pointed out that the five-person junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, brought to power by the 1979 insurrection, included leading opponents of the FSLN such as Alfonso Robelo and Violeta Chamorro. "But when the masses demanded land, union rights, and freedom, these people left."

Proindependence activist Ojeda acquitted by Puerto Rican jury

BY EDUARDO VÉLEZ

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — On August 26 a jury in a U.S. federal court here found Filiberto Ojeda Ríos not guilty on all eight charges he faced. If convicted, proindependence activist Ojeda could have been sentenced to 60 years in prison.

"This is a historic verdict. It sends the U.S. government a powerful message," stated Ojeda after the ruling, "especially now when there is an attempt to fool our people with a plebiscitary farce."

Ojeda was on trial for allegedly resisting arrest and wounding an FBI agent. He was arrested on Aug. 30, 1985, during a raid by FBI agents against proindependence activists in Puerto Rico.

Ojeda is one of the 15 Puerto Rican activists arrested and accused of participating in a \$7 million robbery of a Wells Fargo depot in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1983. Five of the 15 have been tried and sentenced, one has been acquitted, and nine others, including Ojeda, are still awaiting trial on robbery charges.

Except for a brief time, Ojeda was held under "preventive detention" since his arrest in 1985.

The trial took place under extreme security measures. U.S. marshals surrounded the

courthouse. Spectators were subjected to multiple searches and had to present photo identification before being allowed into the courtroom.

Jury selection for Ojeda's trial started June 27. The trial began July 18 and lasted more than a month. During this time the prosecution presented 14 witnesses, 13 of whom were FBI agents.

The defense shed light on many discrepancies in the original testimony of the FBI at the time of the arrest.

Some of these involved the number of agents involved in the raid, where they were when they began shooting at Ojeda, the type of weapons they used, and how many shots were fired.

One of Ojeda's neighbors at the time of the raid, for example, testified that up to 30 heavily armed FBI agents were involved in the raid, contradicting FBI accounts that there were only half that many.

The defense also raised questions as to whether the wounded agent, who was hit in the eye, was actually struck by a fragment from a ricocheting bullet that was fired by Ojeda, or by a fragment of concrete knocked loose during the shoot-out.

At the trial Ojeda acknowledged that he resisted the FBI agents with his own weapon as they sledgehammered the doors to his

house. He explained that his actions were based on prior threats made against his life by FBI agents, the fact that numerous agents armed with assault and other weapons had surrounded his home using helicopters, and on his knowledge of the FBI's repressive tactics in dealing with proindependence activists.

In Puerto Rico, where the language is Spanish and where everyone involved in the trial speaks Spanish, the proceedings of this and other trials in federal court are in English. In the Ojeda trial, potential jury members had to take an English proficiency test to serve on the jury.

After the trial began, regular protests took place outside the federal court building demanding Ojeda's release. At one point the protests were declared illegal and only resumed when the protesters appealed the ruling.

The day after the verdict, hundreds of proindependence activists marched to the federal court building to celebrate.

"This is a big blow against the U.S. government, the FBI, and the federal prosecutors," explained Hiram Meléndez, organizational secretary of the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP), referring to the verdict.