

11,000 rally to support Minnesota strikers

22 workers indicted, FBI targets supporters

BY ARIS HARAS

ST. PAUL, Minn. — In the biggest labor rally in this state in many years, 11,000 workers demonstrated at the state capitol here September 16 in support of 150 construction workers on strike against Boise Cascade in International Falls, Minnesota. The action was called by the Minnesota AFL-CIO.

Union construction workers went on strike July 18 after Boise Cascade Corp., a major paper manufacturer, hired the union-busting outfit BE&K as general contractor for a \$535 million expansion of its paper mill in International Falls, located near the Canadian border. It is one of the largest construction projects ever undertaken in Minnesota. According to building trades union officials, more than 90 percent of all major construction projects in the state have been built by union labor.

In opening the rally, Larry Long, a local singer and member of musicians' union Local 873, devoted several verses of the union song "Solidarity Forever" to strikers and supporters who have been jailed. The crowd broke out in thunderous applause.

30 arrested

Thirty workers were arrested on September 9 in International Falls after 150 construction workers and supporters overran a housing complex built by BE&K to house scabs brought in to break their strike. About 10 housing units were damaged or burned. The incident took place after a rally of 500 strike



Unionists rally at state capitol in St. Paul, Minnesota, to support striking workers in International Falls.

supporters earlier that morning.

Vance Security guards provoked the demonstrators, calling them "queers," "faggots," and "commies" and provocatively yelling, "Come on, we'll take care of you."

All of those arrested were released on bail

by September 20. As of the same date, charges had been filed against 22 of the 30. The indictments include first-degree criminal damage to property, first-degree arson, assaulting police officers, and riot. If convicted,

Continued on Page 13

Thousands leave E. Germany as Hungary opens borders to western Europe

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Some 12,000 East Germans looking to settle in West Germany have crossed the border from Hungary to Austria since September 10. They are part of more than 77,000 citizens of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) who have emigrated to West Germany since the beginning of this year.

Many have exited without visas from the GDR. And East German émigrés report that East German and Czechoslovak authorities have begun to seize passports of those traveling to Hungary, forcing some off trains. To get to Hungary, East Germans must travel through Czechoslovakia.

Attracted by a higher standard of living in capitalist Europe, the thousands seeking to leave East Germany have outpaced the government's grants of visas. Many of those seeking to leave are young, skilled workers. The West German government considers all East Germans to be West German citizens and immediately grants full citizenship rights to East Germans who cross the border.

The current exodus was sparked when the Hungarian government announced it would grant East Germans political asylum, in effect assisting those looking to settle in Western Europe. This step was later followed by Hungary's suspension of a 20-year-old agreement with the GDR regulating tourist travel and emigration, and an offer to East Germans guaranteeing free passage "to the country of their choice."

The announcements came after U.S. President George Bush's July visit to Hungary when he called on the government to relax emigration restrictions in exchange for most-favored-nation trade status and other U.S. economic aid. They also came at the start of the summer vacation season as tens of thou-

sands of East Germans embarked for Hungary.

The West German government hailed the actions and announced \$250 million in bank loans to Hungary. West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said that his government "will not forget" what Hungary

had done and called for the imperialist countries to step up their support for what he characterized as liberal-minded forces in Eastern Europe.

On September 18 the Bush administration announced, jointly with Hungary, that the two

Continued on Page 4

New support for Mark Curtis

BY PETER THIERJUNG

The international campaign for justice for Mark Curtis has won new and important support from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and Imam Ako Abdul-Samad, a Muslim minister and well-known fighter for Black rights in Des Moines, Iowa.

Curtis is a political activist and unionist who is serving a 25-year jail term on frame-up charges of rape and burglary at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory in Anamosa. An international campaign has been waged by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee from Des Moines to expose Curtis' frame-up by authorities, defend his rights in prison, and win his freedom.

The August convention of the SCLC voted to "join those who support the defense of Mark Curtis, and call upon the SCLC to lend its organizational strength to assure his defense and equality before the court."

"We, therefore, are calling the total SCLC community . . . to individual and collective action and recommitment," the preamble to the resolutions adopted by the SCLC convention said and added, "The selected issues we address today are vital, critical, and threaten-

ing to us."

In addition to support for the defense of Curtis, other resolutions passed by the convention reaffirmed the SCLC's opposition to the death penalty and addressed racial discrimination in education.

Imam Ako Abdul-Samad is a leader of Des Moines' Black community and has been involved in the struggle against racism and for Black rights for many years. He has spoken out against the Des Moines City Council's attempt to abolish the city's Human Rights Department, which is responsible for complaints of racial discrimination in housing and employment.

Abdul-Samad is also the advocate coordinator of Urban Dreams, an agency that aids prisoners when they are released. He is regularly invited to speak to meetings of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Organization, a prisoners' group at Anamosa. Curtis is the group's secretary.

Abdul-Samad is highly respected by the prisoners, who consider him an important link to the outside world. He spoke at a recent Des Moines Militant Labor Forum on defending affirmative action and announced his support for the Curtis defense effort.

Miners end takeover of Pittston plant

BY MAGGIE McCRAW

MOSS NO. 3 COAL PREPARATION PLANT, CARBO, Va. — For 80 hours striking Pittston miners occupied the coal preparation plant here, backed up by thousands of supporters outside.

The action started on Sunday afternoon September 17 when 98 striking Pittston miners, members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), from Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky occupied the coal-screening plant, called the tippie. Pittston's Moss No. 3 is the second-largest coal-processing plant in the country. The miners, equipped with bed rolls, food, and supplies marched into the plant, and a short time later, Virginia state police escorted security guards and 13 scabs out.

It was the first time production here had been shut down since Pittston reopened the plant soon after the strike began April 5. For six months, some 50 scabs at Moss No. 3 have been processing coal at 30 to 40 percent of prestrike levels.

At one of several rallies held during the events Brad Burton, UMWA Midwest regional director, compared the action to the 1937 sit-down strikes that led to the organization of the auto workers' union.

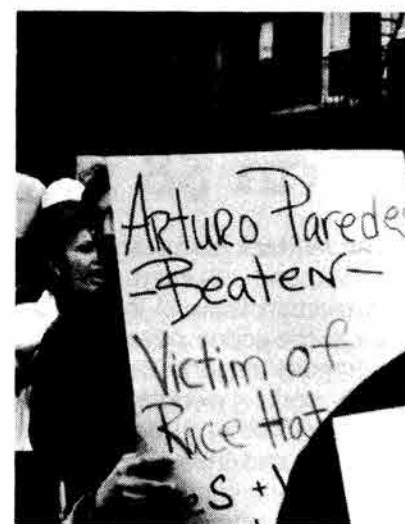
Pittston Coal Group President Michael Odom called the miners "violent" and described the action as "extortion and terrorism." Referring to Pittston's charges of property destruction, James Gibbs and Terry Collins, two miners who were inside the tippie, said no damage would be done. Representatives of the union, Pittston management, and state police carried out daily inspections of the plant.

Crowd gathers outside

Thousands of miners and supporters lined the side of the road leading up to the tippie and attended various rallies held over the three days in support of the miners inside. Supporters included striking Eastern Airlines

Continued on Page 13

Antiracist protest in New York



Militant/Jon Hillson

On September 16 National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights organized march to protest racist attack on two Chileans in New York's Bensonhurst area, and the earlier killing of Yusuf Hawkins. See editorial on page 14.

Cuban artist Soler to add Castro, Marx on Pathfinder mural

BY GREG McCARTAN

NEW YORK — The portraits of the founder of modern socialism and today's head of state of socialist Cuba will be painted on the Pathfinder mural here in October.

Aldo Soler Ávila will be arriving from Cuba early next month and will paint the major portraits of the two communist leaders Karl Marx and Fidel Castro. He has been granted a two-month visa to visit the United States. In addition, the Pathfinder Mural Project is sponsoring a tour of Soler to a number of cities during his visit.

A well-known Cuban artist, Soler has won numerous awards, and his works have been exhibited internationally.

In the 1970s he distinguished himself as a young artist, winning first prize in painting at the 1978 Youth Show of Plastic Arts held in Cuba.

U.S. socialist hits murder of Namibia freedom fighter

The following is the major part of a letter sent to Sam Nujoma, president of the South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia, from James Harris, for the Socialist Workers Party Political Committee, after the assassination September 12 of Anton Lubowski, deputy head of the Department of Administration of the SWAPO Election Directorate.

The Socialist Workers Party of the United States stands in full solidarity with the South West Africa People's Organisation after the brutal assassination of your comrade Anton Lubowski, a longtime defender of victims of apartheid and South African colonialism.

We join you and millions of other supporters of the liberation struggle of Namibia in condemning this murder, which comes at a time when the Namibian people, led by SWAPO, have embarked on the road to independence from 74 years of colonial domination by the South African government.

The climate in which the assassination of SWAPO leader Lubowski takes place is one of harassment, violence, and intimidation set by the Pretoria regime.

We call on the UN Security Council to take immediate steps to ensure the safety of all SWAPO members and supporters as they exercise their democratic rights during the election process.

Finally, we pledge to deepen our efforts to spread the truth about Namibia's independence struggle here in the United States, and to join with others in mobilizing support among U.S. workers and farmers for your battle.

His work has been exhibited in Mexico, the Nordic countries, Bulgaria, Poland, East Germany, and extensively in Cuba.

A member of the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists, Soler also served as the vice-president of the National Council of the Hermanos Saíz Brigade, an association of young Cuban artists.

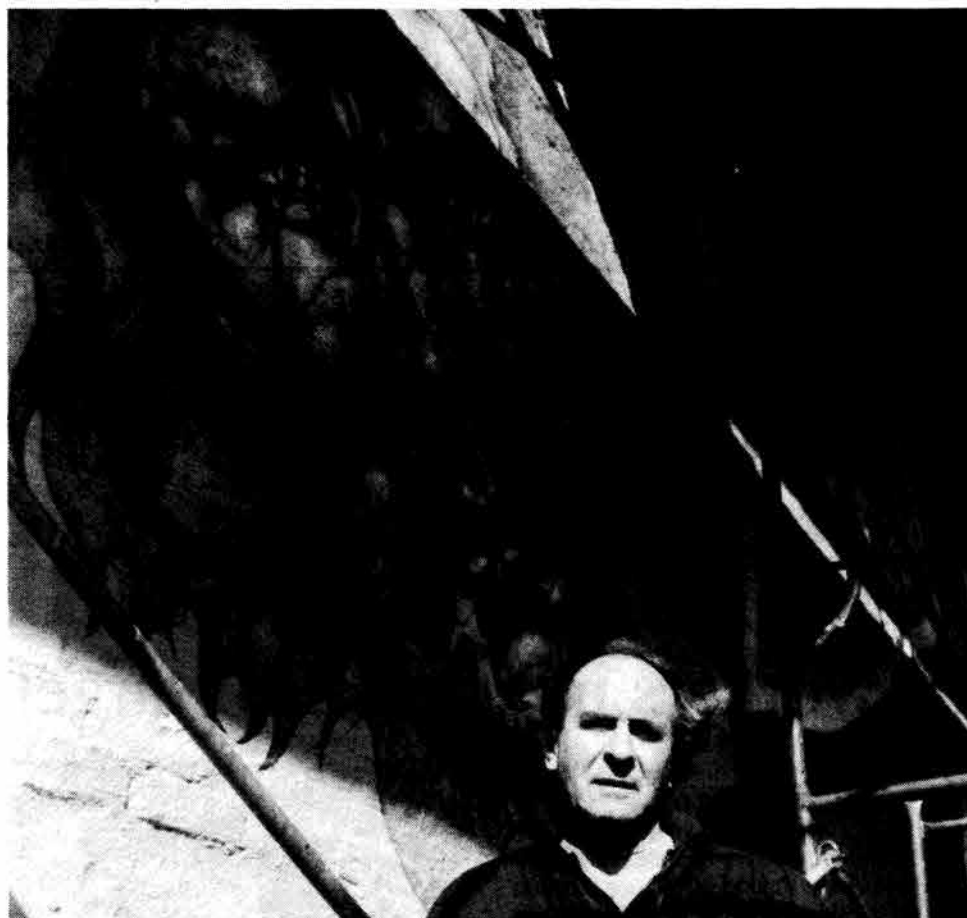
Beginning in 1983, at the age of 35, Soler served on a two-year internationalist volunteer mission of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces in Angola. He was decorated with the Internationalist Fighter Medal, 2nd Class, for distinguished service.

In addition to being invited to paint on the mural, the artist has received invitations from several universities, an art center, and a church in the United States.

The Mural Project is planning receptions and meetings with artists, political activists, and mural supporters for Soler during his stay. He will be bringing with him samples of his work for display and has a talk and slideshow prepared on contemporary Cuban art.

The tour offers Cuba solidarity activists a special opportunity to organize events to learn more about Cuban art and introduce others to this aspect of revolutionary Cuba.

Pathfinder has published books and pamphlets by leaders of the Cuban revolution since it triumphed in 1959. The main publisher



Militant/Selva Nebbia
Argentine artist Ricardo Carpani and portrait of Che Guevara he painted on the mural last year. Soler will add Cuban President Fidel Castro and Karl Marx.

in English of Fidel Castro's speeches, Pathfinder recently released *In Defense of Socialism*, four speeches by Castro on the 30th anniversary of the revolution.

Pathfinder also has published Marx's work *The Communist Manifesto*.

In addition to Castro, Cuban revolutionary leaders Camilo Cienfuegos and Jose Martí are depicted in the mural, as well as Ernesto Che Guevara, in a prominent portrait painted last year by the Argentine artist Ricardo Carpani.

Artists to paint Malcolm X, Du Bois

BY GREG McCARTAN

NEW YORK — "I am definitely looking forward to it, and lots of friends have offered to assist me in some way," said noted artist Carole Byard.

Byard, along with other distinguished artists, will be adding to the Pathfinder mural in the month of October. She will paint a prominent portrait of the revolutionary leader Malcolm X. Pathfinder is the principal publisher of works by and about Malcolm X.

The six-story mural is taking shape as the major portraits of Pathfinder's principal authors come into view amidst a surge of men and women marching and struggling from around the globe.

Upon first seeing the mural "I was really overwhelmed by the size and the beauty of it," she said. "I feel doing Malcolm X on the wall is quite an honor for me and a big responsibility. I want to be able to do it at least so that it will be a good tribute to him."

Byard, who currently teaches at New York's Parsons School of Design, is a widely exhibited and awarded artist. Her exhibitions

date to the early 1970s at the New York Cultural Center's showing "Blacks: USA Now." An award from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1985 "enabled me to work extensively on my 'Rent Drawings,' the theme of which is humanity, struggle, perseverance, survival, and self-determination."

Byard has illustrated a dozen children's books, one of which has a full-page illustration of Malcolm X.

Byard will be joined on the project by Cuban artist Aldo Soler, Seitu Ken Jones, Chris Spotted Eagle, June Svetlovsky, among others.

Jones, an artist and political activist from the Twin Cities in Minnesota, will portray W.E.B. Du Bois. A graduate of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Jones is well-known in Minnesota for his murals and public sculptures.

Pathfinder publishes two books of speeches by Du Bois, one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Filmmaker, Native American activist, and

artist Chris Spotted Eagle will paint Native American leaders. Spotted Eagle has directed and produced two award-winning movies — *Our Sacred Land*, and *The Great Spirit Within the Hole*.

Mural Project Director Sam Manuel said that "scenes depicting the battle to overturn Jim Crow segregation and extend civil rights in the United States will be added. Also, an area showing images from the struggle to end the Vietnam War has been sketched out and is ready to be painted."

June Svetlovsky, a member of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War and the cultural organization Ventana, will paint the antiwar protest scene.

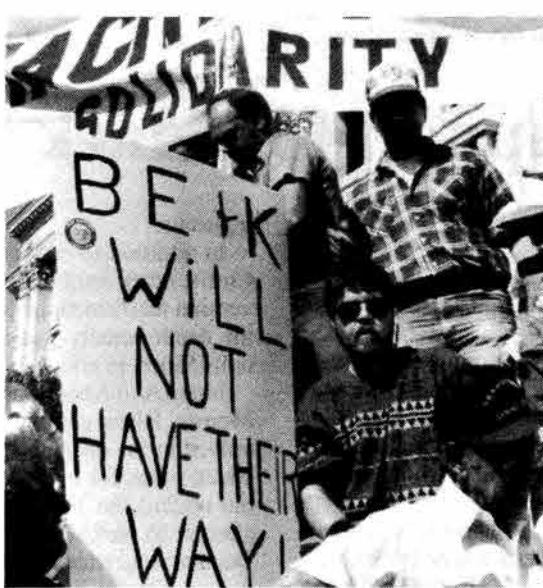
"The next six weeks," Manuel added, "will be exciting and the busiest yet at the mural site and for mural supporters around the world. Come by to see the progress being made, and help out by contributing and raising funds so the mural can be completed this fall."

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SWAPO President Nujoma returns to Namibia

Receives hero's welcome amidst South African intimidation campaign

BY RONI McCANN

More than 30 years ago a rail worker in Namibia was fired for union activities. Soon after, he took part in protests against the forced relocation of Blacks into townships. Upon release from South African imprisonment that followed, he fled to neighboring Botswana. On September 14, after living half of his life exiled from his country, Sam Nujoma, president of the South West Africa People's Organisation, returned to a rapturous welcome.

Several thousand Namibians, supporters of SWAPO, gathered at the airport in Windhoek. Traffic was jammed as thousands more lined the streets of the capital and truckloads of SWAPO supporters sang and waved the blue, red, and green flags of the liberation movement.

Nujoma was admitted as a refugee like the nearly 41,000 other Namibians living abroad, out of a population of 1.7 million. Many have

South African government maneuvers to sabotage economy before elections.

returned to register for the November elections. This includes hundreds of Namibian students studying in Cuba.

The election preparations take place in a continued atmosphere of harassment and intimidation carried out by the South African government against supporters and potential supporters of SWAPO.

SWAPO leader assassinated

Just two days before Nujoma's arrival on September 12, Anton Lubowski, deputy head of the Department of Administration in the SWAPO Election Directorate, was gunned down outside of his home.

"This criminal act was undoubtedly carried out by enemies of the Namibian national liberation struggle and SWAPO in particular," read a statement immediately released

by the SWAPO Election Directorate condemning the assassination.

"Such a cowardly act is part of the notorious schemes aimed at scaring Namibian patriots from giving a hero's welcome to their national leader on September 14," the statement continued. "It is also aimed at frightening the white community in Namibia, which has been increasingly joining SWAPO over the past weeks and months."

Lubowski, who was white, studied in South Africa and was once an officer in the South African army. In 1984 he joined SWAPO and as a lawyer helped defend not only Namibians but also many anti-apartheid activists in South Africa.

Held many responsibilities

Lubowski was a member of SWAPO's Central Committee. At one point he was treasurer of the National Union of Namibian Workers. He had been arrested and detained several times and escaped an attempt on his life in 1987.

Police have arrested a white from Cape Town as a suspect. The slaying occurred the very same week SWAPO National Chairman David Meroro and Secretary General Andimba Toivo ja Toivo were arriving in the country to be part of the election process.

The elections slated for November in Namibia are part of transitional measures outlined in United Nations Resolution 435 for the independence of the South African-ruled country. Although the resolution was adopted 11 years ago in 1978, Pretoria, which has ruled Namibia for 74 years, only recently agreed to its implementation. They were forced to do so following their military defeat in Angola in 1988 by the Angolan army, SWAPO forces, and Cuban internationalist volunteers.

Pretoria continues violence

Apartheid's force of armed thugs known as Koevoet, "crowbar" in Afrikaans, have long terrorized unionists, political activists, and SWAPO supporters. They enforced night-time curfews, enjoyed immunity from



IDAF Publications

Members of Mineworkers' Union of Namibia. Miners support South West Africa People's Organisation because "it offers the best atmosphere for workers to fight against exploitation and the multinational companies," an MUN leader explained.

the law, and got bounties for Namibians they killed. Under the provisions of Resolution 435 they were to be disbanded and their command structure dismantled. Instead, South Africa integrated them into the police force. UN monitoring forces known as UNTAG troops are spread too thin and are not equipped to stop this intimidation.

Pretoria also continues to mobilize white South Africans to travel to Namibia and register to vote against SWAPO. One tour operator in South Africa promises those willing to go that they can take a "luxury bus . . . and don't even have to go too far into Namibia."

Despite the violence and intimidation on the part of South Africa, and the money

poured into the ultraright Democratic Turnhalle Alliance — Pretoria's choice and SWAPO's main contender — support is strong for the liberation organization.

Sabotage of the economy

South Africa has begun maneuvers to sabotage the economy in anticipation of an independent Namibia. Over the years of colonial rule Pretoria has built up a substantial administrative and military apparatus. The overwhelming majority of Namibia's population of 1.7 million is Black, and the South African regime has succeeded in integrating a big number of Blacks into its police force, army, and civil services. Now the apartheid government has announced it will slash funding in December.

According to a SWAPO spokesperson, South Africa created 11 distinct ethnic administrations and built racially segregated hospitals and schools in keeping with apartheid.

While throwing funds into the war with SWAPO, it allowed unemployment, housing shortages, and annual inflation of about 16.2 percent. Unemployment in the country stands at 40 percent.

Workers to gain

Namibian workers stand to gain the most from independence and play a major role in the struggle. Today wages stand at 18 times higher for whites than Blacks. Between 80 and 90 percent of Black households in urban areas live on or below the minimum subsistence level.

Ben Ulunga, general secretary of the Mineworkers' Union of Namibia, in a January 1989 interview with the International Miners' Organisation Journal, explained miners' support for SWAPO.

"The workers are hopeful that independence will provide a more favorable situation for improved living standards," he said. "That is why there is massive participation by the workers in the fight for freedom."

"The MUN congress in January 1989 supported SWAPO," Ulunga continued. "It offers the best atmosphere for workers to fight against exploitation and the multinational companies."

The MUN is one of the five member unions of the National Union of Namibian Workers. Its counterpart in South Africa, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, has put the fight for Namibian independence into its defiance campaign in South Africa. COSATU plans activities and strikes against companies transporting white South Africans into Namibia to vote. They also plan action against the South African companies in Walvis Bay that have not allowed Namibians there to register to vote and do not recognize the MUN. Walvis Bay is Namibia's main port, which Pretoria claims for its own.

Zimbabwe peasants need land, credit



Militant/Greg McCartan
Alois Mathe, above, with co-op's chickens.

BY GREG McCARTAN

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe — "We have plans for expanding, but we can't get loans from the banks. White farmers get loans because they control things," Alois Mathe explained.

Mathe is the chairperson of an eight-member agricultural cooperative 10 miles outside this city. On the eight-acre farm, members raise chickens for eggs and grow vegetables.

Mathe, like the other seven members, is

an "ex-combatant" — that is, someone who fought in the armed struggle against the white-minority regime in what was Rhodesia before 1979.

"In 1982 we pooled our money and bought the farm from a white farmer who was leaving the country. The years 1986 and '87 were hard because of drought. Now, since the rains have returned, the markets are glutted and prices are low," he said.

Land remains idle

Pointing to a fallow field across the fence, Mathe said, "We hope to be able to buy that land. The farmer, a white, lives in South Africa now. He hasn't touched the farm since we've been here. We are talking to his lawyer about purchasing it."

An agreement signed by the leadership of the liberation movement and the white-minority regime before the transfer of power in 1980 to the Black majority government headed by Robert Mugabe forbids the nationalization or expropriation of land. Instead, land can exchange hands only on a "willing seller-willing buyer" basis. The agreement expires in 1990.

Today, the country's 4,500 white farmers still control the 30 million acres of rich farmland. Some 750,000 Black families scratch a living out of the remaining acres of low-yield, high-drought-risk "communal" land. Agriculture is a means of survival for two-thirds of the population here, and Black farmers represent 94 percent of all farmers.

Zimbabwe's population is 9.7 million, 98 percent of which is Black.

Debate on use of land

President Mugabe told the Commercial Farmers Union (CFU), which represents the white farmers, that "it makes no sense that the majority of our peasants remain outcasts from our land tenure system."

Government leaders are discussing options regarding the use of land once the current

ban on nationalizations and expropriations expires. One official, Joshua Nkomo, told a recent CFU congress that a commission of inquiry is being considered to determine if farms "were being actively utilized and whether the current farm sizes are optimal."

CFU Director David Hasluck responded saying that any changes in land ownership would be "absolute nonsense" because it would destroy the confidence of capitalist investors whom the government is trying to encourage. The only solution, he says, is agricultural reform "inside the communal [peasant] areas where land is poorly sized and badly managed."

Mathe's cooperative receives financial and technical assistance from the Zimbabwe Agricultural Project. Project Director Nkosana Mguni said, "We work with agricultural, commercial, industrial, transport, and security co-ops. Most co-ops were started by ex-combatants who pooled their demobilization allowance" of \$4,000 to start up the enterprise.

Peasants face difficulties

The challenges faced by Mathe's co-op are similar to many peasants. Pointing to a broken-down mini-van, the co-op member said, "Parts are hard to get and very expensive. We have to pay for pick-up and delivery of goods. Our produce is auctioned off in town and the auctioneer gets a 10 percent cut."

Peasants here, in addition to living on marginal lands, must travel long distances to obtain commodities they need. Didymus Matatsa, president of the Zimbabwe Agricultural Society, explained that the situation is also exacerbated by the present rural transport system and the people's ability to get their produce to the market.

Despite these difficulties Mathe hopes to make the co-op "into a model so that people can see that collective farms benefit everyone more" than individual plots of land.

New Zealand meat-packer in U.S. talks about Curtis

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

similarities, actually," Robb said.

In the interviews Robb discussed the defense effort for Mark Curtis in New Zealand. Curtis' cause has been "taken up by labor in New Zealand in a big way and taken up by the presidents of the two major meat-packing unions," Robb said. One of the reasons the case is important is

Women; Thabo Bopape, Santa Cruz chapter project director of the South African International Student Congress; Barricada Internacional Support Committee activist David Barber; Eastern Airlines striker and Machinists' union member Jeff Bettencourt; and Margaret Jayko, author of the pamphlet *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis: A Packinghouse Worker's Fight for Justice*.

Some \$1,000 was collected. Several in attendance added their endorsement to the defense effort. Based on this success, Curtis' supporters in San Francisco are setting their sights higher for the fall.

A check for the \$1,000 was sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee in Des Moines, which is on a drive to raise \$100,000 by November 1. The funds will cover Curtis' legal costs. These include a civil rights lawsuit against the Des Moines police who beat him in jail and an appeal of his conviction to the Iowa Supreme Court.

Also covered by the fund will be the costs of procuring office space for the defense committee, production of a video on the Curtis' case by Hollywood film director Nick Castle Jr., publication of defense committee materials, and the expenses of tours by defense committee leaders to win support. Contributions should be sent to the

Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Supporters of Curtis participated in Philadelphia's first Labor Day march in over 100 years with a defense campaign literature table. "I saw this case on TV," one woman attracted to the table said. "How they can convict him with no evidence, I do not know, but it makes me angry."

Two striking Eastern Airlines workers signed a letter to the warden at Curtis' prison protesting the ban on non-English literature. When asked if they wanted to know more about the frame-up of Curtis, they responded in unison, "We already know about it!" One of them added, "But tell me how is Curtis doing?"

The protest letter was signed by 110 people from 16 different unions. Other signers included members of the National Organization for Women, Dignity Housing, Labor Committee Against Apartheid, Philadelphia Unemployment Project, and the All Peoples Congress.

Curtis supporters in Chicago also circulated a petition at a Labor Day event sponsored by Local 1011 of the United Steelworkers of America, which 43 people signed.

Efforts by Curtis supporters to reach hundreds of unionists on Labor Day are part of an interna-

tional campaign by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Its goal is to win prisoners the right to obtain literature and correspondence in the language of their choice and to share literature with each other. Prison authorities have denied Curtis and other prisoners non-English materials and letters, claiming they are a "security" problem.

Thousands have joined in this campaign forcing prison officials to release to Curtis a Spanish-English dictionary and a Spanish verb book. More recently he was allowed to receive the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial* and the French-language quarterly *Lutte ouvrière*. The policy, however, remains in effect. Only a few weeks ago Curtis was denied a letter in Chinese from a group of garment workers in Philadelphia.

You can help in this fight by sending a protest message of your own or from your organization 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; and the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

about the case or how you can help, write to the 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*.

A trip by New Zealander James Robb to Minnesota in August was reported by the *Austin Daily Herald* and the *Albert Lea Tribune*. Both papers interviewed him and one would have guessed from the space allotted to the interviews that Robb was a visiting dignitary.

But, the newspapers explained, he is a packinghouse worker who hoped to meet other workers and learn about their conditions in the United States. "I'm amazed at all the

"the centrality of the issue of immigrant workers' rights."

Curtis' frame-up stems from his defense of Latino coworkers who had been arrested in an immigration raid at the Swift meat-packing plant in Des Moines, Iowa.

Robb explained that the struggles of Pacific island workers and the indigenous people of New Zealand raise many of the questions posed in Curtis' fight.

Robb pledged on returning to his country to report what he had learned about the U.S. labor movement and the Mark Curtis fight.

More than 45 people attended a rally in San Francisco for the Mark Curtis defense effort on August 27. Speakers included Helen Grieco, executive director of the San Francisco National Organization for

Thousands leave E. Germany, Hungary opens border

Continued from front page
countries would negotiate "a comprehensive business and economic agreement."

Washington made the proposal for such an accord in an effort to help Hungary create a "significant private sector," according to a *New York Times* report. The White House also announced that President Bush had granted Hungary most-favored-nation trade status.

Pressed hard by a stagnating economy, Hungary used 70 percent of its annual hard currency export earnings to meet 1988 payments on an \$18 billion debt to imperialist banks.

Hoping to make Hungary more attractive for capitalist investment and additional bank loans, the government has introduced a number of capitalist market policies, including the establishment of a stock exchange. Hungary is attempting to expand its economic integration with the capitalist countries of Western Europe, a Hungarian Communist Party leader said. Capitalist property relations were overturned in Hungary after World War II.

Hungary recognizes Israel

Hungary is also attempting to forge closer political relations with capitalist countries. On September 18 it became the first non-capitalist country to restore full diplomatic relations with Israel after having broken them over the 1967 Israeli war against its Arab neighbors.

East German official press agencies have blamed the West German government for



Taking advantage of Hungary's open border thousands of East Germans traveled there and crossed to Austria. Their final destination is West Germany.

instigating the exodus and offering "pieces of silver for Hungary." The East German government called the Hungarian government's actions a violation of legal treaties and the GDR's sovereignty.

Tass, the Soviet press agency, condemned West Germany's granting of passports to East Germans as a violation of international law. It was also announced that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev would visit East Germany on October 7, the 40th anniversary of the formation of the GDR. However,

Hungary's action, virtually unprecedented by a Warsaw Pact member toward another, has not been criticized by Moscow.

East Germany, with a population of 17 million, has long had the highest standard of living in Eastern Europe. In large part, this is due to the country's highly developed economic infrastructure inherited after the defeat and division of imperialist Germany following World War II, and a highly skilled and educated working class. An example today is East Germany's machine-tool industry, which is the most developed among Comecon countries. Comecon is the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, which guides economic cooperation between 12 countries where capitalism has been overthrown, including the Soviet Union.

The GDR was established in 1949 when the capitalist class was expropriated in Germany's eastern zone, occupied at that time by Soviet troops. It did not encounter the same problems of underdevelopment that other Eastern European countries still confront today. The relative lack of shortages in meat and fresh produce and the availability of some basic consumer goods are a reflection of this.

The GDR benefits from tariff-free access to the West German market, giving it a competitive edge against imports from Asia. It also receives aid from the West German government for the construction and maintenance of highways that cross East German territory to link West Germany with West Berlin.

The two countries are planning to link electrical power systems, build a new railway to West Berlin, and work together to clean up air and water pollution. These projects will primarily be financed by West Germany.

Pressures on East Germany

Although there is increasing pressure from West Germany and signs of stagnation in its own economy, the East German government has resisted implementing the kinds of capitalist market measures that most other East European countries and the Soviet Union are trying.

Many East Germans, however, don't compare developments in their country to other East European countries but to imperialist West Germany. And here East Germany has not kept pace. Labor productivity in the GDR is at least one-third lower than in West Germany.

According to polls, more than half the East Germans coming to West Germany are under 30 years of age, 86 percent had completed a job training program of some kind, and 87 percent held a job when they left. Many of

them say that they are looking to get ahead economically.

The influx of East German workers is expected to intensify competition for jobs in West Germany, where official unemployment is 7.5 percent and where an increasing number of immigrants from southern Europe, the Middle East, and Asia are also looking for work.

According to a *New York Times* report, some voices "fear the newcomers will disrupt West Germany's tightly ordered and increasingly affluent life by acting as a cut-rate labor force, weakening the nation's powerful unions, and adding to its nagging unemployment problem and persistent housing shortage. But employers are delighted to see young, eager East Germans come flooding in," the *Times* said. West Germany has a population of 60 million.

An appeal to defenders of democratic rights

Funds are urgently needed to cover the costs of defending a victory by the Socialist Workers Party for democratic rights. On August 15 a federal judge in Los Angeles found in favor of the Socialist Workers Party in a 10-year harassment lawsuit waged by Alan Gelfand and the Workers League. An appeal by Gelfand and the Workers League is anticipated.

Defenders of democratic rights, opponents of the use of courts to bleed and divert the resources of working-class organizations, and all who have come to recognize the importance of pushing back the disruption operations of the Workers League have a stake in joining to end this violation of democratic rights.

Everyone who supports this fight can help by sending a contribution to help cover the costs that will mount quickly in fighting the Workers League appeal.

Please do so today.

Tax-deductible contributions can be sent to the Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc., a nonprofit foundation, at P.O. Box 761, Church Street Station, New York, N.Y. 10007.

Copies of the court ruling can be obtained for \$5 from the Political Rights Defense Fund at the same address.

Des Moines

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee invites you to a

CELEBRATION and PICNIC

October 1, Sunday, 2:00 p.m.

(at a farm outside Des Moines)

Celebrate with us the accomplishments to date in the campaign for justice for Mark Curtis, hear a report on perspectives for fall activities, and help give a boost to the \$100,000 defense fund.

For more information call (515) 246-1695
Transportation available from 2105 Forest Ave. in Des Moines

Explosion kills 10 at nonunion mine in Kentucky

BY MARY ZINS

WHEATCROFT, Ky.—A methane gas explosion killed 10 miners at the William Station Mine here on the morning of September 13. It was the worst U.S. coal mining disaster in five years. Twenty-seven miners were killed in 1984 at the Utah Power and Light Co.'s Wilberg mine in Utah.

Thirteen coal miners were dismantling longwall mining machinery when the explosion took place. Three members of the crew survived the initial blast, made it to safety, then went back to retrieve a coworker, James Tinsley. Tinsley died later at the hospital. The miners who died ranged in age from 31 to 47 years old.

Wheatcroft is a small mining community located in the western part of the state. Many mines in the area are organized by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), but the William Station mine was not.

Four other miners have died at the William Station mine, including one from a methane gas explosion in 1986. Pyro Mining Co., which owns the mine, was Kentucky's second-largest coal producer last year. The same year it had the eighth-worst safety record among the 20 largest U.S. coal companies.

Pyro mines unsafe

"Pyro operates an unsafe mine," said Lee Roy Patterson, president of UMWA District 23 in Kentucky. He said everyone in the area knew that coal was not being mined safely at William Station.

Methane is an odorless and colorless gas released during the mining process. It's lighter than air so it rises to the roof of a mine or tunnel. While it isn't toxic, it dilutes the oxygen content in the air and can asphyxiate

Pyro Mining Co. got 60 safety citations in 1988 alone.

miners. It becomes highly explosive when mixed with air in the range of 5-15 percent of total volume. With proper ventilation and control of accumulations of coal dust, explosions can be averted. In the last 60 years more than 10,000 miners have died in methane-related accidents.

Lack of ventilation, dust control

In the last year Pyro had been issued 60 ventilation citations by the Mine Safety and Health Administration. These include:

- 46 citations related to ventilation, methane control, and dust control;
- two citations for improper pre-shift examinations, which includes testing for methane;
- two citations for violating a rule on the quantity of air that must be present when mining; and
- one citation for not checking for methane before blasting.

Three times in the past year federal investigators said they found violations that constituted "imminent danger." On one of these occasions government officials closed the mine for several days after finding methane levels of 6.5 percent.

An employee at another Pyro mine nearby said miners were especially afraid to work at the William Station mine. This mine, he explained, was gassy and at times the methane monitors didn't work properly, but the pressure was on to get the coal mined.

Company drive against the union

The last time the UMWA tried to organize the Pyro mines many people signed union cards, but the company launched a propaganda drive against the union threatening to close down the mine. He voted for the UMWA, but others were intimidated or worried due to the high unemployment in the coalfields.

Members of the UMWA in the area have reacted with concern and are redoubling their efforts to build the union so miners are pro-

tected by contractual safety rights and union safety committees.

At the annual Corn Fields festival in Morganfield, Kentucky, UMWA members marched behind a big float under a banner that read, "We will not go back." The miners wore yellow ribbons for the Pittston strikers, red ribbons for the Eastern Airlines strikers, and black ribbons for the victims of the Pyro mine disaster. They distributed a leaflet explaining the importance of union solidarity to fight against company attacks. Safety in the mines has been steadily deteriorating. Just in the most recent period a number of miners have died in mine accidents, including a 26-year-old replacement worker at a mine owned by Pittston Coal Group.

Mary Zins is an underground miner and member of UMWA Local 2295 in southern Illinois.



Longwall mining machinery. Thirteen coal miners at William Station mine in Wheatcroft, Kentucky, were dismantling longwall machinery when explosion took place.

Nonaligned Movement summit meets

BY DON ROJAS

"There is no other force in today's world, in the current international situation, that can substitute for the Nonaligned Movement in its struggle for the defense of the rights of our peoples."

So said Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca at the end of the ninth summit meeting of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries, which was held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, September 4-7.

These summits, held every three years, bring together the heads of states and governments representing countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, and the Caribbean, most of which are former colonies of the United States or of European imperialist powers.

This year Venezuela was voted in as the 102nd member of the Nonaligned Movement.

Yugoslavia, one of its founding members, is the only European member of the movement. As the host of the recent summit, it now will head the Nonaligned Movement for the next three years. Zimbabwe headed the movement the past three years.

Yugoslavia's intention of promoting a new tone of pragmatism has aroused the concerns of member states who have struggled to keep the movement faithful to its founding anti-colonial and anti-imperialist principles. Even before 1979, when Cuba assumed the leadership of the movement following the sixth summit in Havana, this revolutionary Caribbean country has been the recognized leader of the anti-imperialist wing of the Nonaligned Movement.

Cuba's delegation to the Belgrade meeting was led by First Vice-president Raúl Castro and included Vice-president Juan Almeida and Vilma Espín, members of the Politburo of the Communist Party. This was only the second time that Cuban President Fidel Castro had not attended a Nonaligned summit. Cuba is one of the 23 countries that founded the movement in Belgrade in 1961.

No government leaders from Caribbean

No other state or government leaders from the Caribbean attended either, an unprecedented development for member countries in this region. The late prime ministers Maurice Bishop of Grenada and Forbes Burnham of Guyana, for example, regularly attended the Nonaligned summits. This year, Caribbean countries were represented by foreign ministers and ambassadors.

Archie Singham, a professor at New York's Brooklyn College and author of several books and articles on the Nonaligned Movement, said that Washington has exerted "enormous pressure" on Caribbean leaders to stay clear of the Nonaligned Movement following the defeat of the Grenada revolution in 1983.

Jamaica's Prime Minister Michael Manley, who was expected to outline an initiative he has launched to combat drug trafficking to the summit's plenary session

on September 5, did not show up in Belgrade. His office said he had remained at home to "personally direct" the implementation of measures to stabilize Jamaica's falling currency.

Prior to the summit, Yugoslavia's secretary for foreign affairs, Budimir Loncar, said the movement was "lagging behind political and economic developments in the world today" and that it needs to "reexamine" and "modernize" itself.

He stated that his country's position in Europe was a "favorable coincidence" for the movement since there is "a certain convergence of interests of European countries and those of the Nonaligned Movement."

Opening the meeting, Yugoslav President Janez Drnovsek called on Nonaligned members to "shed the burden of various ideological prejudices and onesided views of oneself and others." In the draft communiqué prepared by Yugoslavia it was stated that "the world political climate has improved significantly" since the last summit in Harare, Zimbabwe. Several members, however, challenged this formulation and forced the hosts to amend it to: "the world political climate has improved, but not sufficiently."

'Nonconfrontation'

According to Singham, who was in Belgrade to observe the meeting, the Yugoslav concepts of "modernization" and "non-confrontation" incurred the wrath of the majority of member states.

"How can you be nonconfrontational with racist South Africa or Zionist Israel or the aggressive United States in Central America, and how can you be nonconfrontational when the West refuses to negotiate on the debt crisis," he asserted.

Traditionally, the movement, a voluntary organization of sovereign states, has been guided by the principle of consensus in actions or statements made in its name.

The organization is a loose and heterogeneous grouping whose weight in world politics has been measured more by its moral authority than by real political or economic strength. Although the movement has championed such popular demands as the establishment of a new international economic order, it has been powerless to effect such changes.

Nevertheless, the Nonaligned Movement provides a regular forum for colonial and neocolonial countries representing the majority of humanity that are oppressed by imperialism.

In the past, the Nonaligned Movement proclaimed itself to be not aligned politically to either the imperialist countries or to the Soviet Union. The majority of its members sought to chart "an independent" course in spite of several orchestrated and well-financed campaigns by imperialism to divert such a path and undermine the Nonaligned Movement's unity, especially after Cuba took over the leadership for three years beginning in 1979.

In the Belgrade summit, two basic opposing tendencies were evident. On one hand were the "renovators" of the movement calling for closer all-around cooperation with developed capitalist countries of "the North." On the other hand were the "traditionalists," who want the organization to maintain a firmer anti-imperialist stance.

According to reports, the main representatives of the first group were Argentina, Cyprus, Egypt, India, Senegal, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, and Zambia. The second group included Cuba, Nicaragua, Libya, Ghana, and North Korea, as well as Afghanistan, the Frontline States of southern Africa, Panama, and Vietnam.

Yugoslav representatives stressed that the new international climate resulting from U.S.-Soviet rapprochement allows the Nonaligned Movement to shift from its "confrontational" stand to one of cooperation. The "traditionalists," however, argued that even though Moscow and Washington are now on better terms, this does not mean that political, economic, or social conditions in the Third World will improve.

Peruvian President Alan García, identifying fully with the "renovators," cited the advancement of "neoliberalism" in the wake of what he characterized as socialism's collapse in the East and proclaimed this new tendency as the wave of the future for the Third World.

Third World debt

He and other "pragmatists" maintain that the Third World's foreign debt crisis, its overall critical economic situation, and the current unfavorable terms of trade between the rich "North" and the poor "South" make it difficult, if not impossible, for Third World developing countries to make substantial demands on the imperialist governments.

Almost every speaker in Belgrade addressed the crushing burden of debt borne by so many Third World countries, with a majority calling for outright debt cancellation. However, there was no unanimity on what to do. The representatives from Argentina, with a \$60 billion debt, the largest foreign debt of any Nonaligned country, joined those from Venezuela in making clear it did not want a summit statement that might threaten talks with its creditors in the "North."

On other important international questions, however, the Nonaligned Movement maintained its anti-imperialist positions.

The ninth summit backed the *intifada* (uprising) of the Palestinian people in the Israeli-occupied territories and urged the United Nations Security Council to proceed without delay to convene an international peace conference to ensure Palestinian national rights.

The final communiqué expressed solidarity with all colonized peoples and those not yet able to exercise their right to self-determination, with specific reference to the people of Namibia, South Africa, Palestine, and Puerto Rico.

Caravans' wind-up in Washington, D.C., draws 1,000

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 for the strikers.

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 September 7 it was scheduling 600 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.

Some 1,000 strikers and supporters rallied at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., September 6 to mark the last stop for several caravans of strikers who had been traveling up and down the eastern United States building support for the strike since mid-August.

The Machinists and pilots' "Journey for Justice" caravan had asked other unionists to join them for the last mile in their 3,000-mile "picket line," which began in Miami.

A second caravan, also from Miami, had been organized by the Transport Workers Union (TWU), representing striking Eastern flight attendants.

These two were met by yet a third caravan of strikers from Chicago who had traveled through West Virginia, up to New York, and down to D.C.

The caravans were met at Union Station by hundreds of other strikers and supporters. A busload of strikers came from Philadelphia, and carloads came from Pittsburgh, Atlanta, New York, Baltimore, and Buffalo, New York. Electrical workers, rail workers, teachers, seafarers, and other unionists had contingents.

The rally at the Capitol was aimed at pressuring Congress to intervene in the strike. Speakers included Sen. Edward Kennedy from Massachusetts and congressmen Charles Hayes from Illinois and John Lewis from Georgia.

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland and the presidents of the three striking unions at Eastern also spoke: George Kourpias of the International Association of Machinists (IAM), George Leitz of the TWU, and Henry Duffy from the Air Line Pilots Association.

Before the caravans arrived in Washington, D.C., they were part of the contingent of 1,000 strikers who participated in the big New York Labor Day march September 4.

On September 2 a rally of 200 welcomed the Journey for Justice caravan to Boston. A few days earlier, some 300 unionists had joined a rally for the flight attendants' caravan at the Providence, Rhode Island, airport.

When Eastern set up scab hiring sessions for mechanics and flight attendants August 22 and 30 at a Holiday Inn just outside Pittsburgh, strikers from IAM Local 1044 went and set up pickets.

Although the motel was far from the airport and strike headquarters, strikers called on supporters in the Steelworkers union and Service Employees union who lived nearby to come and join the picket.

Several members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 1196, including local President Chuck Meredith, turned out. The *Valley News Dispatch*, the local paper, showed up and covered the protest.

One would-be applicant, driving a tow-truck, stopped by the picket line on his way out. "I guess I'll stick with towing cars," he told the pickets. "They want us to move to Miami, and they're only paying \$10 an hour."

A similar hiring session for mechanics took place in Salt Lake City, Utah, August 30. After ads for the session appeared, about 25 people showed up at the Airport Hilton Hotel to check out jobs at Eastern.

They were met by a picket line of strike supporters from the IAM, USWA, Communications Workers, United Mine Workers, and refinery workers', rail workers', and government employees' unions.

The pickets talked to almost everyone who came looking for jobs, explaining that the strike was still on and what the strikers are fighting for. At least two people decided not to go in.

Two licensed aircraft mechanics, after talking to the strike supporters, decided to go in and see what Eastern was offering anyway.

They were back out after only 10 minutes. Instead of \$18-an-hour jobs as promised in the ads, Eastern was offering \$10 an hour to start. It would take nine years to get up to full rate, they were told.

Pickets were also able to talk to several United Transportation Union members from the Denver, Rio Grande and Western railroad, who were staying at the hotel. Afterward, the UTU local president from Grand Junction, Colorado, organized some of the railroaders to meet with the hotel management and lodge a complaint about the hotel lending itself to Eastern's union-busting campaign.

Eastern strikers picketed two hiring sessions for mechanics August 29, held at the Hilton Hotel near the Twin Cities airport. Only eight people showed up for the morning session, and at least two were convinced to leave after talking to strikers. Others who came also listened. The turnout for the afternoon session was even smaller.

Machinists Local 1056, which organizes more than 2,000 workers from Trans World Airlines at Kennedy International and La Guardia airports in New York, has invited Eastern strikers to address its membership meetings throughout the strike.

At its August meeting, a striker was also invited to draw the winning tickets in a raffle organized by Local 1056 that raised more than \$8,000

for the strikers.

Dozens of TWA workers sold raffle tickets. The money raised will be shared equally between striking IAM Local 1018 at La Guardia and Local 1894 at Kennedy.

The Metropolitan Airport Commission decided August 18 to return funds it had received from Continental Airlines for a "hangar party" celebrating 60 years of the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Continental is owned by Texas Air Corp., Eastern's parent company.

The decision was made after IAM Local 1833, which organizes 8,000 mechanics and other ground service workers at the airport, called for a picket line and boycott of the party.

After the picket line was called, truck drivers refused to deliver beer and the band refused to play at the party. The boycott was called off after the commission decided to return the money.

About a dozen Eastern strikers have been staffing a table at the Twin Cities airport every day. More than 2,500 "Stop Lorenzo" T-shirts have been sold from the table in the last five months, they report.

Striking IAM members Maggie Pucci from Local 1726 in Boston and Nancy Brown from Local 789 in Arlington, Virginia, along with Holly Harkness from Pittsburgh, Mike Galati from Salt Lake City, Barbara Bowman from New York, and Natasha Terlexis from Minneapolis contributed to this column.

Los Angeles Eastern strikers 'turn up the volume'

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

LOS ANGELES — "The only way to win this strike is on the picket line," striker Ed Croft explained on Day 195 of the walkout against Eastern Airlines. "We can't depend on the court systems. If they were going to help us, they'd have done it already."

"The strength is on the picket line," agreed Richard James. "We're few in numbers, but we're going to turn our volume up," he said, referring to the 43 strikers here.

Croft, James, and Joe Mos were recently elected as the new strike committee of the Eastern unit of International Association of Machinists Local 1932. Following the election, the strikers have renewed efforts to reach out to the rest of the labor movement for support.

The three strike leaders discussed where the fight at Eastern stands in a September 14 interview.

The strike headquarters is located in Local 1932's union hall, about a mile from Los Angeles International Airport — LAX, as it is known here. Most Local 1932 members work at United, USAir, and several other airlines.

"I don't think people knew how much of

a fight this was going to be," explained Mos. For many weeks before his election to the strike committee, Mos had been putting in long hours at the union hall organizing the "solidarity picket lines" at LAX. These actions, cosponsored by the AFL-CIO, have consistently brought out hundreds of strike supporters since the first one July 29. They occur on alternate Saturdays.

"We shouldn't be waiting for the end to come," Mos continued, "but go out for support."

Many strikers here, as in other cities, have been forced to take other jobs to make ends meet as the strike has continued. But Mos put this off because "there's unfinished business to be done," in the fight against Eastern's union-busting drive.

'Taking a stand for justice'

Croft and his wife have four daughters, and he too has thought about looking for full-time work. But, he says, "I'm like Joe. There's unfinished business. Eddie Croft is simply taking a stand for justice."

With 21 years at Eastern, James describes his role in the strike as the "old vet, looking out for the youngsters."

"I've been involved in the union for years and years," he added, including a stint as chief steward at the Houston station before it was shut down in 1987.

All three strike committee members worked in ramp service before the strike, but James was originally hired as a cleaner. That was the only job Eastern offered most Blacks and Chicanos at that time, Croft noted.

Eastern had only recently desegregated its facilities in Houston when he was hired, and James remembers being able to see what was left of the signs that designated separate facilities for Blacks and whites.

Money is 'not the real issue'

Croft hired on at Eastern in 1980 and Mos in 1985. Although Croft spent a short time as a union steward, both he and Mos are now

more involved in the union than before the strike.

"Money is not the real issue in this fight," explained James. "It's about working conditions, benefits," and the right to a union with dignity on the job.

The Machinists explained what they are doing to organize the strike, which in many ways is stronger now than at any time since it began. "If we can get the support of all other IAM locals and other unions, we will have to be heard," said Croft.

In three days over the past week, Croft, Mos, and James had spoken to five IAM local or district union bodies. They are contacting all IAM locals and other unions in the area, Croft explained. "We then send out a speaker to spread the word on our needs."

Getting help on the daily picket line is key. Continued on Page 13

Puerto Rico strikers hold firm

BY RON RICHARDS

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — After more than six months on the picket line, the 250 Machinists union members on strike against Eastern Airlines here are holding firm.

The strike in San Juan also includes about 60 flight attendants and 15 pilots.

Before the strike began March 4, Eastern had 24 flights per day out of Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport, reported picket captain Nelson Colón and Machinists attorney José Cay on the picket line recently. Now there are four.

The main airlines here used to be Eastern and American. American, which has picked up business from Eastern since the strike, has run ads in the papers saying it has no seats available on flights at Christmastime.

A few weeks before the strike began, Eastern moved out of its old terminal and into a new, \$40 million facility. Today, both terminals are empty.

The new terminal was built by the colonial government of Puerto Rico — one of Eastern's largest creditors. The government agency that runs the terminal recently had a meeting to discuss its future, which the strikers picketed.

Colón and Cay said that the Machinists union has been stepping up meetings with

other unions to explain that the strike is still on.

One labor federation had chartered Eastern planes to carry its members to the Dominican Republic for vacations. The flights were canceled after the union explained that the strike is not over. The Machinists union is also planning to picket the Eastern sales office in the Condado tourist zone when it reopens.

Colón and Cay estimated that between 90 and 95 percent of the strikers are still picketing regularly at the airport.

Early in the strike, Eastern laid off virtually all of its noncontract employees and supervisors in San Juan. The company is currently trying to get these workers to move to Miami where they have more need for people to cross the picket line.

Machinists striker Camilo Guadalupe, when asked how he was getting along after so many months without a regular paycheck, said, "It's tough, but I'd rather stay out here on strike than work for Lorenzo. We will survive." Lorenzo heads Texas Air Corp., which owns Eastern.

Guadalupe, who was a ramp service worker at Eastern for 17 years, is working a part-time job as a dock worker now. Another striker had on a button that said, "I'd rather be poor than a scab."



From left, Ed Croft, Joe Mos, and Richard James, the strike committee of Eastern unit of Machinists' Local 1932 in Los Angeles.

Workers from Montréal to Missouri give sales drive a solid start

BY SUSAN LaMONT

Construction workers demonstrating in Minnesota. Packinghouse workers in Iowa. Eastern Airlines strikers in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Coal miners in Alabama and West Virginia. Immigrant workers in Montréal.

These are some of the working people who helped get the international circulation campaign off to a strong start by buying hundreds of subscriptions to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *Lutte ouvrière* during the week of September 9-16.

Spurred by the increase in class-struggle activity in recent months, more working people are eager to read the news and analysis in the socialist press. In some cases, sales teams found greater receptivity to the *Militant* and *PM* than at any time in recent years.

September 9-16 was the target week that launched the nine-week international effort to win 9,000 new readers for the socialist press. By the end of the week, the drive as a whole was 3 percent ahead of schedule.

Some areas pushed way out ahead. Supporters in Kansas City, Missouri, set the pace by selling 32 percent of their goal in the first week. Many other areas have also gone way over their goals for the first week.

At the September 16 rally of 11,000 unionists in St. Paul, Minnesota, held to protest attacks on construction workers striking against Boise Cascade in International Falls, supporters sold 23 introductory *Militant* subscriptions and 185 single copies of the paper. The one-hour rally drew construction workers and other unionists from throughout the state.

"It was simply our best sales experience in several decades," said Wendy Lyons. "Most people we approached bought either a subscription or copy of the paper."

"The mood of the protesters was one of anger at the hysteria and slander campaign whipped up by the capitalist media against the Boise Cascade strikers," Lyons said. "The *Militant*, with its firsthand coverage telling the strikers' side of the story, was deeply appreciated by the protesters."

Lyons' campaign for governor of Minnesota on the Socialist Workers Party ticket was also launched at the rally.

That evening, after the demonstration, some 60 people — including many from the rally — came to the *Militant* Forum to hear talks on and discuss current labor struggles. More subscriptions were sold that night, and supporters in the Twin Cities ended the target week well ahead of schedule.

Sales teams continued to find growing interest in the *Militant* among coal miners,

who are following the struggle of the Pittston miners especially closely.

Supporters from Charleston sold three subscriptions in Dehue, West Virginia, a center of the Pittston strike in that state and an area where the Massey coal company has been trying to open a nonunion mine.

In Birmingham, Alabama, supporters sold 38 *Militant* subscriptions the first week, including 13 to coworkers in the mines and at a rail yard, textile plant, and steel plant. Ten miners at the Jim Walters No. 5 mine and 11 steelworkers at a USX mill bought *Militants* from sales teams at shift changes.

'PM' sales

In Des Moines, Iowa, supporters sold 63 *Militant* and 13 *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions during the target week, along with 35 copies of the *Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis* and two copies of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*.

At the IBP plant gate in Columbus Junction, Iowa, Spanish-speaking meat-packers bought eight subscriptions to *PM* and four copies of the Spanish-language *Action Program*. Six *Militant* subscriptions were sold going door-to-door near the Monfort meat-packing plant in Marshalltown — along with 18 single copies at the plant gate.

Supporters also sold five *Militant* subscriptions to coworkers at the Jimmy Dean and Swift meat-packing plants.

On September 16 in Montréal, several immigrant workers from El Salvador and Panama stopped by the Librairie Pathfinder during the day and bought nine subscriptions to *PM*, including several for friends in Panama.

In Kansas City, Missouri, seven *PM* subscriptions were sold the first week, including several to auto workers at the Ford assembly plant. Supporters there also sold 10 *Militant* subscriptions in three hours from a socialist literature table at the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

Sales to Eastern strikers

Many areas sent sales teams to airports — to picket and talk with Eastern strikers and to introduce other airport and airline workers to the *Militant*.

In Pittsburgh two subscriptions were sold to Eastern strikers on the picket line September 16. That night several strikers came to the *Militant* Forum on "Striking Workers Speak Out," and three more bought subscriptions.

At airports in New York and Newark, supporters sold 13 introductory or renewal subscriptions to Eastern strikers.



Militant/Steve Marshall

Some 10,000 coal miners, supporters came to St. Paul, Virginia, September 3 to mark five months of United Mine Workers strike at Pittston. Upturn in class-struggle activity is spurring interest in socialist press.

Subscription drive scoreboard

Areas	DRIVE GOALS			Militant		New Int'l		Perspectiva		Lutte	
	Goal	Total Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES											
Kansas City	117	38	32%	80	32	20	1	15	5	2	0
Pittsburgh	165	50	30%	120	49	30	1	10	0	5	0
Des Moines, Iowa	225	51	23%	170	37	25	2	25	12	5	0
Brooklyn	410	90	22%	260	48	60	16	65	23	25	3
Miami	300	65	22%	180	51	40	1	50	11	30	2
Birmingham, Ala.	177	38	21%	140	38	25	0	10	0	2	0
Twin Cities, Minn.	320	66	21%	250	60	35	0	30	6	5	0
Greensboro, NC	110	22	20%	85	21	15	0	8	1	2	0
Detroit	200	37	18%	150	36	30	0	15	1	5	0
Austin, Minn.	87	16	18%	65	5	10	0	10	11	2	0
Newark, NJ	490	83	17%	250	49	95	19	95	14	50	1
Omaha, Neb.	122	19	16%	85	16	20	2	15	1	2	0
New York	665	99	15%	330	56	150	19	150	23	35	1
Boston	250	36	14%	160	26	35	1	40	8	15	1
Baltimore	175	25	14%	135	22	25	2	10	1	5	0
Washington, DC	165	23	14%	100	19	25	1	35	2	5	1
Charleston, WV	112	14	13%	90	14	15	0	5	0	2	0
Cleveland	105	13	12%	75	12	18	1	10	0	2	0
Chicago	360	40	11%	225	27	50	2	75	11	10	0
Portland, Ore.	195	21	11%	150	21	20	0	20	0	5	0
San Francisco	240	23	10%	165	13	35	8	35	2	5	0
Oakland, Calif.	200	19	10%	125	18	30	0	40	1	5	0
Milwaukee	123	10	8%	85	8	15	0	20	1	3	1
St. Louis	185	15	8%	150	13	25	0	7	2	3	0
Morgantown, WV	137	11	8%	100	10	25	1	10	0	2	0
Seattle	138	11	8%	95	9	20	0	20	2	3	0
Los Angeles	510	38	7%	285	31	90	0	130	7	5	0
Salt Lake City	137	9	7%	100	8	20	0	15	1	2	0
Phoenix	77	5	6%	45	4	15	0	15	1	2	0
Philadelphia	225	14	6%	155	13	30	0	35	1	5	0
Atlanta	210	13	6%	155	12	30	0	20	1	5	0
Houston	227	6	3%	150	3	30	0	45	3	2	0
Price, Utah	52	0	0%	35	0	8	0	8	0	1	0
National teams	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Binghamton, NY	45	7	16%	36	6	3	0	4	0	2	1
Cincinnati	10	1	10%	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Denver	20	0	0%	10	0	-	-	10	0	-	-
Louisville, Ky.	8	2	25%	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other U.S.	50	12	24%	40	9	5	2	5	1	-	-
U.S. TOTAL	7,344	1,042	14%	4,849	799	1,124	79	1,112	153	259	11
AUSTRALIA	60	13	22%	35	5	6	2	17	6	2	0
BRITAIN	165	23	14%	105	18	30	1	25	4	5	0
London	107	11	10%	70	6	25	1	10	4	2	0
South Yorks	74	5	7%	50	5	18	0	5	0	1	0
Manchester	62	4	6%	40	4	10	0	10	0	2	0
South Wales	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Britain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BRITAIN TOTAL	408	45	11%	265	35	83	2	50	8	10	0
CANADA	215	57	27%	120	40	40	2	40	15	15	0
Toronto	145	21	14%	100	20	20	0	20	1	5	0
Vancouver	230	27	12%	90	7	40	1	40	13	60	6
Montreal	590	105	18%	310	67	100	3	100	29	80	6
CANADA TOTAL	590	105	18%	310	67	100	3	100	29	80	6
FRANCE	40	3	7%	5	0	5	0	10	3	20	0
ICELAND	20	3	15%	15	2	3	0	1	1	1	0
NEW ZEALAND	86	16	19%	70	15	12	0	3	0	1	1
Wellington	162	16	10%	120	15	30	0	10	1	2	0
Auckland	77	0	0%	60	0	10	0	5	0	2	0
Christchurch	325	32	10%	250	30	52	0	18	1	5	1
N. Z. TOTAL	66	10	15%	35	3	5	3	25	4	1	0
SWEDEN	35	2	6%	7	0	2	0	25	2	1	0
PUERTO RICO	205	0	0%	100	0	25	0	75	0	5	0
Int'l teams	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other international	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	9,093	1,257	14%	5,871	942	1,405	89	1,433	208	384	18
DRIVE GOALS	9,000			5,800		1,400		1,400		400	
SHOULD BE		1,000	11%		644		156		156		44

Socialist Workers Party runs Lyons for Minnesota governor



Militant

Wendy Lyons

BY DAVE MILLER

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Wendy Lyons spent September 16 — her first day as Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Minnesota — with thousands of other unionists at a labor rally in St. Paul. The action was held to protest recent attacks on construction strikers at the Boise Cascade mill in International Falls, Minnesota.

At the rally, teams of campaign supporters distributed a statement from Lyons defending the strikers, which protesters read with interest and appreciation.

"The labor movement must rally to the defense of the Boise Cascade strikers and all those arrested in International Falls," Lyons' statement said. "Bail money and legal expenses are needed. More rallies such as the September 16 rally are needed. Union halls around the state and around the country should be thrown open to the strikers and those arrested so they can tell their side of the story."

Titled "Who are the real criminals?" the statement defended the strikers against the capitalist media's portrayal of them as violent criminals.

Lyons, 44, is a longtime unionist and women's rights fighter. She is a meat-packer and member of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union.

Cuban editorial draws lessons of Ochoa

Communist paper discusses roots of drug-trafficking and

The following editorial appeared in the September 2 issue of *Granma*, the daily newspaper of the Cuban Communist Party published in Havana. It was headlined, "Let's draw the lessons and continue advancing."

The editorial was published two days after Gen. José Abrantes, former head of the Cuban Ministry of Interior (MININT), was sentenced to 20 years in prison for abuse of authority and other crimes related to drug-trafficking operations unmasked by the Cuban government in June.

Abrantes had been replaced on June 29 by Gen. Abelardo Colomé Ibarra from the Revolutionary Armed Forces for failing to detect drug trafficking carried out by officials of the Interior Ministry over two and a half years.

Six other MININT officials, tried at the same time as Abrantes, received sentences ranging from five to 12 years. The case was the second to be tried by a military court in Cuba this year.

In the first case 14 army and MININT officials were tried by a military court at the end of June. Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa, Col. Antonio de la Guardia, Capt. Jorge Martínez, and Maj. Amado Padrón were found guilty of drug trafficking and high treason, sentenced to death, and executed on July 13.

Since 1982 de la Guardia had headed a special department in the MININT, first called Z and later MC, which was set up to find ways to get around Washington's economic blockade. It was the powers and contacts this group had that allowed it to cooperate with drug traffickers and deceive the staff of other MININT departments.

In a July 9 speech to the Council of State, which discussed whether to ratify the death sentences, Cuban President Fidel Castro stated, "The damage they have done to the Ministry of the Interior is enormous. We could almost say that they have morally destroyed the Ministry of the Interior. We must reconstruct it. We must make it anew."

The editorial also refers to the cases of Diocles Torralbas and Luis Orlando Domínguez, which were handled by civil courts.

Torralbas, former minister of transportation and a vice-president of the Council of Ministers, was tried on July 20 and 21 of this year by Havana's Provincial People's Tribunal. He was given the maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment on charges of embezzlement, abuse of authority, unlawful use of financial and material resources, illicit occupation and administering of buildings, and falsifying public documents.

As a result of the trial and investigation of Torralbas, charges were brought against five other officials of the Ministry of Transportation.

Luis Orlando Domínguez, president of the Civil Aeronautics Institute, was replaced in June 1987 for using public funds and construction brigades to remodel private homes

that he and members of his family owned. He was subsequently arrested and tried by the Fourth Criminal Court of the Provincial People's Court of Havana, which found him guilty. On Sept. 4, 1987, Domínguez was sentenced to the maximum term of 20 years for embezzlement, abuse of authority, repeated falsification of public documents, abuse of power in a state-owned enterprise, and unlawful use of financial and material resources.

Two accomplices were sentenced to lesser sentences.

Domínguez had for many years been a leader of the Young Communist League and had worked on Castro's coordination and support team. In the latter assignment he oversaw the construction of the country's nuclear energy plant, the refinery in Cienfuegos, and the nickel works in Moa.

All of the trials discussed in the editorial took place in the context of the rectification process in Cuba that began in 1986. The keystone of this process is that building a new society, based on new property forms, new social relations, and new values cannot be accomplished by administrative measures overseen by a growing and relatively privileged bureaucracy. It is the work of conscious and productive human beings, who are organizing themselves and leading their fellow workers to discover what they are capable of achieving, transforming themselves in the process.

The translation of the editorial from Spanish is taken from the September 10 *Granma Weekly Review*.

* * *

The military court has passed sentence in Case No. 2 of 1989. The outrageous violation of the law and the ethics of the revolution has been avenged. The culprits received their rightful punishment.

However, the entire nation realizes that the problems faced by the country this summer go far beyond the fate of a handful of corrupt and disloyal individuals. The working people, in their infallible wisdom, realize that these have been decisive and historic months.

Thus, the most important aspect of this doesn't end with the court's decision. It may be just the beginning. The main thing is the lessons and conclusions that all our society and party should derive from this bitter experience.

Until now the rectification process has accomplished very important goals. But undoubtedly now we are entering a much more important stage of the process. Perhaps in the future these events that have shaken the country will be viewed as the start of a shift toward a profound improvement in the institutional, political, and moral aspects for the revolution.

A key feature of the situation that we face, first with the elimination of the Ochoa-de la

Guardia mafia of drug traders and now with the no less repugnant and dangerous problem of corruption and decay in the Ministry of the Interior leadership, was that it was not the work of enemy agents but rather of people coming from our own ranks.

This has not been a confrontation between revolution and counterrevolution. The serious and striking lesson derived from these events is that they show us how, without going over to the enemy, men who have been in our ranks can inflict worse damage than any counterrevolutionary and in practice serve the interests of U.S. imperialism, which has never stopped trying to destroy us.

Law applies equally

In line with this, the first and principal consequence derived from this process is having categorically reaffirmed a vital principle: respect for the law and the concept that it applies equally to all citizens regardless of their political or government position.

We don't know how many countries in the world can really, not just formally, implement this principle. Cuba can do so, as it has shown in an eloquent and courageous manner in these days.

There is not, nor can there ever be, impunity for those who violate the legal and ethical principles of the revolution, regardless of their merits or position. The greater the political or government responsibility they have, the greater the citizen's obligation to behave in an honest and dignified manner in his public and personal life.

Conscious respect for the law is not just a legal question. That has often been said and it would be worthwhile to repeat it now. That was true for our *mambises*¹ independence

"We must admit there are more profound problems in our society at the root of what happened . . ."

fighters of the last century, who helped create the Cuban nation, and, in rags and hungry, established a great Republic in Arms in the fields of free Cuba.

They cherished the idea of a homeland for which it would be worth fighting and dying and the legitimacy of the liberation struggle. Likewise, strict subordination to legality is now the key to a profound ideological and political definition on which the notions of patriotism, independence, socialism, and revolution hinge.

Acting like member of a caste

What kind of a revolutionary is a person who doesn't respect the law or moral standards and tries to act as if he were a member of a caste above all and everyone?

What notion of solidarity can there be in anyone incapable of solidarity with his fellow citizens?

How can we speak of socialism and revolution when we fail to realize that privilege, arbitrary conduct, abuse, and separation from the masses are one of the main causes of the problems now facing the socialist system that was created to eradicate these evils when they existed under capitalism?

But these trials have also shown something else. When the law was broken we were able to deal with this delicate and exceptional situation in a strictly legal framework.

There has been no crisis. The revolution has remained confident, unshakable, and calm. It has been true to itself and its exemplary history and it has not reacted in an emotional manner to these shameful cases of betrayal and disloyalty. National institutions have fulfilled their role morally and with authority and have proved sufficient to impose order, punish the culprits, and start efforts to prevent a repetition of similar vices in the future.

1. The *mambises* is a name given to those who fought in the first and second wars of independence from Spain, 1868-78 and 1895-98. During the first war the guerrillas declared a Republic in Arms.

The revolution has enjoyed the support and encouragement of the people in these months of trial. However, we have not acted to placate public opinion, nor could we ever do so. Public opinion is important and must be kept in mind when giving information and guidance to the citizenry. But the law is not subject to manipulation or distortion. When enforcing the law we can't go beyond the framework it establishes.

At one point in Case No. 1 public opinion favored benevolence toward the main defendant. In Case No. 2 there was also certain opposition to the sentences requested for José Abrantes and other defendants.

In the first case the course of the trial itself and the Council of State session changed people's minds. In the second it was necessary to explain that crimes meriting a harsh sentence had not been proven and the prosecutor, the court, and the investigators, after a detailed review of the evidence, concluded that there was no criminal intent involved in the conduct of the former minister of the interior regarding the drug mafia in the MC Department.

Laws must be improved

However, the experience of these trials shows that our laws must be improved. That's another important conclusion.

In the Penal Code and in military penal law, we have noted omissions. The most important have to do with illegal drug trading and manipulation and concealment of information.

Obviously when these legal documents were written we could never have imagined that things like this could ever affect us. The blows we have received and the desire to protect our society from these deformations indicate the need for these forms of conduct to be explicitly covered in the law and punished with exemplary severity.

Regarding Case No. 2, some people were asking why the law wasn't modified to impose harsher sentences. The law is the law, and fortunately we live in a state based on the law. We can't apply harsher sentences than those established by the law, regardless of how grave the moral and political violation, nor can modifications of the law be retroactive.

The Abrantes case also illustrates the suitability and possibility of increasing the sentences for abuse of authority and unauthorized use of resources, and of going as far as to impose the death penalty under certain circumstances.

Of course, this issue must be considered at the proper time by the corresponding party and state agencies.

In the light of the conduct of Luis Orlando Domínguez, Diocles Torralbas, and now José Abrantes, each of whom were given the

"How can we speak of socialism when we fail to realize that privilege is one of main causes of problems we now face . . ."

harshest sentences stipulated by the law for the crimes they committed, many are asking themselves how these things could happen without being discovered sooner.

First of all, our people must understand the exceptional nature of these cases involving persons of authority, confidence, and prerogatives and must differentiate between this and things like the activities of the Tony de la Guardia gang, which reflects a cancer that was starting to eat away at a state institution and whose metastasis was reflected in crimes such as these, petty bourgeois lifestyles, slackening morals, cronyism, and arbitrary conduct, among other things.

Profound problems at root

Once this exceptional nature has been acknowledged, we must admit that there are more profound problems in our society at the root of what has happened. We can't limit ourselves to the simplification that attributes all these problems to a lack of control.

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Abrantes cases corruption crimes

Good accounting and adequate economic and financial supervision aren't enough to prevent occurrences like these. There will always be leaders and cadres who, due to the nature of their tasks, will have to be delegated many powers and decision-making capacities. Overcentralization and widespread suspicion, rather than being means of preventing these crimes, can lead to even greater problems.

We must seek real solutions in the consistent improvement of the country's institutions and in the establishment of principles, meth-

“Rectification has accomplished important goals, but we are now entering much more important stage . . .

ods, norms, and mechanisms that prohibit acting with impunity and prevent the conditions that are a breeding ground for these distortions.

Let's put it clearly: what has happened reflects a series of shortcomings that affect, in one way or another, all the institutions of the revolution.

The first indication of this is that, despite its very sensitive missions, the Ministry of the Interior lacked an internal counterintelligence system. This means that, among other sources, the political and state leadership of the country got information about the rest of the country and the world from the ministry but it knew very little about what was happening within the ministry itself.

Furthermore, the ministry leadership was ignorant of many of the problems that existed within the agency itself and concealed others that it did know about in order to promote a false image of integrity and efficiency that in many cases had started to break down.

Signs were detected, warnings issued

There were moments when the top party leadership detected signs that certain negative tendencies were developing within the Ministry of the Interior.

Warnings were issued and concrete guidelines were set out regarding the conduct of cadres and officers, reinforcing austerity measures, and turning over to People's Power recreation centers, restaurants, polyclinics, and other facilities that had been set up in various provinces. Explicit instructions were given that they should not become involved in commercial or business transactions alien to the functions of the ministry. In some cases the instructions were only partially or formally implemented and in other cases they were simply ignored.

In addition there were problems with the functioning of the party in the ministry. Facts show that the role of the party organizations was obstructed or that party leadership was in the hands of unquestioning or incompetent individuals.

Efforts by some members and leaders of the party to expose the negative tendencies that abounded or demand explanations were hindered.

The responsibility of the party, of course, is not limited to the organizations functioning within the ministry. It is bitter to recognize that in fact this institution generally functioned outside the supervision of the party.

This reveals shortcomings in the leadership of the party in the provinces, where it is indispensable that we find ways to assure division of the ministry's work and its secret nature while at the same time maintaining party supervision and vigilance over any situation that could have political implications. In the provinces the ministry has also given rise to negative tendencies and deformations that did not generally become known through party channels.

Party's duty

The national leadership role of the party must be reflected in the case of the Ministry of the Interior in a more integral and profound manner, in view of the fact that this agency, by its very nature, exerts a great influence on

the stability and the political and moral climate of society.

But it isn't just a matter of the Ministry of the Interior but of all the other state, political and mass organizations. The party has the duty of exercising its leadership, guidance, and control unfailingly and relentlessly. One expression of this should be the establishment of norms to regulate certain aspects of leaders' and cadres' conduct.

We have a strong and untainted party. There is no room in it for corruption or easy living. As a rule, its cadres are models of austerity, dedication, and modest living. This is a decisive guarantee in the process we are undertaking. But a meaningful self-analysis must lead us to the conclusion that an improvement of society means an improvement of the party, which must be not only the source but also the object of rectification.

The basic tasks of the Ministry of the Interior include defense and security of the revolution and the stability of internal order.

Security is ideological issue

Security in a country such as Cuba is, first and foremost, an ideological and political issue. It is not limited to the technical and professional work of the fighters assigned to this sector, although that is important, if not to say indispensable.

However, there is something much more far-reaching. It is the unity of the people and the revolution. It is confidence in those who exercise power. It is the prestige, morality, authority, and exemplary conduct of its leaders.

The negative phenomena uncovered in the ministry inevitably led to a weakening of our security in all these fields. The psychological and moral impact of these events has been even greater because reality clashes with the image of the merits and historical role of the institution. Of course, that image was just, but it was sometimes promoted and unduly built up by the leadership of the ministry, perhaps as a justification for giving it a special material, social, and political status.

Of course, this by no means negates the legitimate merits of the fighters for security and internal order. But we must understand that in the life of the revolution there are things that are now part of the combat glory of an entire people — such as Girón, the struggle against bandits, and the internationalist missions² — and it would be senseless to try to split up that glory and stress the isolated contributions made by this or that agency.

Selfless fighters

We understand the shame, bitterness, and even temporary bewilderment of many comrades in the ministry.

We are thinking of the men and women who joined the ministry when they were very young and have virtually dedicated their whole lives to the defense of the revolution. We are thinking of the honest and selfless fighters who witnessed the adoption of a cadre policy that was the negation of what it should be, who witnessed overnight promotions in rank and responsibility that were not

2. Playa Girón (Girón Beach) is the name Cubans give to the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion where 1,500 Cuban-born mercenaries organized by the U.S. government were defeated after a three-day battle. Bandits refers to the CIA-sponsored counterrevolutionary bands that operated in Cuba in the early 1960s. Internationalist missions are those in which Cuban health-care workers, teachers, construction workers, and military personnel have aided Angola, Ethiopia, Nicaragua, and many other countries.



Members of the Ministry of the Interior in Havana, 1989. Editorial in *Granma* said, “We are thinking of the men and women who joined the ministry . . . and have virtually dedicated their whole lives to the defense of the revolution . . . who helplessly watched the gradual corruption of leaders and cadres, the deterioration of the institution, and the proliferation of . . . cronyism.”

Militant/Selva Nebbia

justified by merit or competence, while others who deserved promotions were ignored.

We are thinking of the loyal comrades who helplessly watched the gradual corruption of leaders and cadres, the deterioration of the institution, and the proliferation of excessive tolerance, cronyism, complicity, and even the creation of groupings, virtual fiefdoms, which battled for power and resources.

This honest segment constitutes the grass roots and many of the intermediate cadres of the ministry. They must realize that the re-

“Improvement of society means improvement of party, which must both be source and object of rectification . . .

construction of the ministry now under way, a sad and unavoidable necessity, responds to their true interests and motivations.

This isn't the time for useless laments or pessimism, much less for falling prey to groundless speculation, resentment, or other attitudes typical of petty bourgeois cliques. This is a revolutionary moment and there is a place of work and honor for all loyal ministry personnel.

Paving way for recovery

The fraternal union between these fighters and the commanders and cadres of the Revolutionary Armed Forces who have been assigned to work in the ministry, based on a demanding and principled attitude, will pave the way for the institution to recover from the setback suffered and be able to respond proudly and quickly to the expectations of the people and the revolution.

Nobody should fear that the security of the revolution will be weakened. The new cadres taking on these tasks are capable and well-trained and they come from a political and ethical school that assures the application of truly revolutionary methods.

Our sworn enemy, the government of the United States, and its agencies for subversion and aggression should not arrive at mistaken conclusions about events in Cuba. We know that the CIA had information about the participation of Cubans in the drug trade months before this was disclosed, and it didn't make the information public, keeping it for its own use in order to derive the maximum political impact.

Likewise, it would be no surprise if the U.S. intelligence services had evidence about some of those involved in the problems of corruption and decay at the Ministry of the

Interior and were waiting for the process to become more widespread.

We have acted in time. We have destroyed those hopes. If the imperialists expected to find a gap as a result of the breakdown in principles, they will find an unconquerable bastion.

Truth has been told

Our people have been fully informed about events. Once again the party has told the truth, regardless of how unpleasant it might be, since it is certain of the maturity and political development of the people. This has been and will remain a matter of principle in our revolution.

We are sure we will emerge much stronger from this test and that from now on our revolution will advance with growing vigor in all fields, notwithstanding economic limitations and the difficult foreign circumstances in which we must function.

Most of all, we must realize that we are working for the 21st century. Cleaning society of malignant cells such as these, improving our efforts, establishing a solid ethical, institutional, and political foundation for the Cuba of the future is a historic task, which present generations can't and won't leave undone.

In our country, as explained by President Fidel Castro, there can't be two worlds, but only one: the world of workers. There can't be two truths, the truth of the heroic battle for development and to overcome difficulties undertaken by our people and the truth of privileged, venal, and wasteful cliques. The big lesson of the last few months has been the iron determination of the party, people, and Revolutionary Armed Forces to make all this a reality.

Let us learn from these experiences. Every revolutionary must analyze his own conduct to transform the blows into renewed force with which to advance. That's what we must do.

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Sentencing of former minister of interior stirs broad debate among Cuban people

"Many held the view that Abrantes deserved the death penalty."

BY SELVA NEBBIA

The recent trial and conviction of José Abrantes, former head of the Cuban Ministry of the Interior (MININT), and six other ministry officials has stirred considerable debate among the Cuban people. (See editorial reprinted from *Granma Weekly Review* page 8.)

On August 31 Abrantes was sentenced to 20 years in prison for abusing authority, negligence in carrying out his duties, and improper use of government funds. The six others received sentences ranging from five to 12 years.

The trial came in the wake of the trial earlier this summer of 14 officers of the MININT and of the Cuban armed forces. In that trial, four high-ranking defendants, Arnoldo Ochoa, Antonio de la Guardia, Jorge Martínez, and Amado Padrón were convicted of drug trafficking and treason, and executed.

As the *Granma* editorial indicates, the debate among Cubans focused on the sentences handed out to Abrantes and the others. Even though he received the maximum penalty under Cuban law for the crimes he was convicted of, many Cuban working people felt he should have gotten a stiffer sentence. Wasn't his crime as serious as that of Ochoa, and the others?

In order to take up some of these questions and to provide information on the trial and the circumstances surrounding the case, a special program was aired on Cuban national television August 28. The entire transcript of the program was reprinted in the August 30 *Granma*, the Cuban Communist Party daily.

The program consisted of an interview with Cuban Minister of Justice Juan Escalona Reguera, President of the Cuban Supreme Popular Tribunal Raúl Amaro Salup, and Attorney General Ramón de la Cruz Ochoa. The interview was carried out by Gladys Rubio, a journalist of the information services of the Cuban television system, and Félix Pita Astudillo, *Granma* news editor.

Answering a question as to the relationship between the Ochoa-de la Guardia case and the Abrantes case, Escalona, who had served as prosecuting attorney in the Ochoa-de la Guardia case, explained that the only link between them was the leading role played in both by the activities of Antonio de la Guardia and "his Department MC."

Department MC of the MININT, headed by de la Guardia, was set up to organize commercial transactions to circumvent the U.S. blockade against Cuba and to make it possible to get into the country such badly needed supplies as medical equipment and computer parts. The Ministry of the Interior as a whole is in charge of state security.

In the Ochoa-de la Guardia case, explained Escalona, "we discovered, acted against, and punished a group of officers of the Ministry of the Interior who had — under the cover of the operations of this department of the ministry [MC] — dedicated themselves to carry out drug deals and to facilitate drug trafficking through our country and through our jurisdictional waters."

During the investigation and trial of that group, Escalona pointed out, no evidence came out that implicated any other high-ranking officers of the Ministry of the Interior in drug trafficking. What did come out, he continued, was that Department MC handed over to Abrantes, then the head of the MININT, income in dollars from "strange operations, such as the exploitation of a gold mine in Ghana, a business in junk metal in—I don't know where."

They "invented" businesses that did not exist, in order to cover up their profits from drug trafficking, added Escalona.

In his July 9 speech to the Council of State on the Ochoa-de la Guardia case, Cuban President Fidel Castro explained that at his urging, the MININT began an investigation into the possible involvement of Cuban officials in drug trafficking. This investigation was begun in March, and by June, Castro explained, nothing had been unearthed.

On June 28, in the course of the Ochoa-de la Guardia investigation, it came to light that

on February 25 Abrantes had received a written report from a MININT general indicating the possible involvement of Antonio de la Guardia in drug trafficking.

Abrantes did not inform other government officials in the leadership of the Cuban Communist Party of this report.

"In light of these reports," explained Escalona, "Abrantes created a committee to investigate the general phenomenon of drug trafficking." His committee did not investigate the concrete allegations pertaining to the use of Cuban territory for drug trafficking, nor possible involvement of MININT officials, added Escalona.

On June 29 Abrantes was removed from his post.

On July 31 Abrantes was arrested. Among the specific acts he was eventually convicted of were:

- Creating a currency reserve worth millions of dollars that operated in a hidden and illegal manner for the acquisition of goods,

information of vital state importance, which was never passed on to the indicated government bodies or to the party leadership.

In his report, the prosecutor in the Abrantes case explained that in his opinion the disinformation, concealment, and manipulation of information by Abrantes was directly related to the fact that de la Guardia and the MC Department and its various components were some of the most important suppliers of revenues for Abrantes' MININT currency reserve.

Abrantes had adopted certain incorrect methods of functioning, explained Escalona. "He had begun to substitute cronyism for principles. Abrantes had a group of 'friends' and he helped these 'friends,' he protected them from all risks."

And while the evidence shows that this cronyism did not lead Abrantes to consciously cooperate with drug trafficking, Escalona pointed out, it was the opinion of all those who participated in the Abrantes trial

combat all instances of complacency, corruption, vanity, disregard for the people and their principles — everything that could encourage the enemy's malice and biting slander."

Escalona pointed to Castro's announcement at the congress that the MININT leadership had agreed to give up health, sports, and recreational facilities that had been built for the exclusive use of the MININT members. These facilities were to be turned over to the local governing bodies for the general use of the population.

"It is important to note," Escalona pointed out, "that the handing over of these facilities was not a spontaneous decision taken by the leadership of the ministry. It was a decision of the leadership of the party, which felt that a situation had been created that substantially set the members of the Ministry of the Interior apart from the workers and the ordinary people."

"No privileges to the MININT!" became the slogan of the Third Congress, explained Escalona.

But, he added, while the MININT under the leadership of Abrantes did turn over the

He created a slush fund with millions of illegally acquired dollars.

specific centers mentioned at the Third Congress, new ones were built to take their place!

In order to cover up the "machinery of corruption" that had been created within the MININT, Escalona said, Abrantes began to cover up any and everything that could tarnish its image.

There was a "thirst for gold" within the MININT leadership, Escalona said. Under the pretense of turning the MININT into the most outstanding of all ministries, and Abrantes into the best minister of the interior who ever existed, explained Escalona, a reserve of millions of dollars was created.

Abrantes had free access to this slush fund. "And while it's true that some of this money was used for the MININT," added Escalona, "a lot of it also went for his own personal use. Thus he was able to enjoy things that none of us even have a chance to aspire to enjoy."

The *Granma* editorial explained that the leadership of the MININT "sometimes promoted and unduly built up" the role of the ministry "perhaps as a justification for giving it a special material, social, and political status."

Abrantes was sentenced to 20 years in prison, the maximum penalty allowed under Cuban civil law for the crimes of which he was convicted. "Given all that has come to light," Pita explained, "many people believe that the penalty was not severe enough."

"Many of the people I have spoken with held the view that he deserved the death penalty," added the *Granma* reporter.

"A prosecutor has the same feelings," explained de la Cruz, "the same political principles that our people have and thinks in the same way. But when a prosecutor asks for a penalty he has to guide himself by two main questions: the facts that have been proven in a given investigation, and by the law."

And as was explained before, added de la Cruz, "at no moment was it proven that Abrantes consciously cooperated with drug trafficking."

"If I were asked to express my personal opinion," answered Escalona, "I think that regardless of whether there had been a link to drug trafficking . . . if we were to allow our feelings to run wild, these actions that led Abrantes to the corruption of an important group of officials of the ministry in and of themselves merited a death penalty."

"Many times we allow ourselves to be carried away by our feelings," Amaro pointed out, "and these feelings lead us into wanting to do things that are not permitted by the law." But "our state," he added, "which has always been characterized by its respect for law — and I believe this is one of its greatest merits — cannot in any way make any concessions with respect to this. . . . The revolution maintains this principle of abiding by the law as a question of political principle that rules our conduct."



Gianfranco Gorgoni, reprinted by permission of Pathfinder Press
Third Congress of Cuban Communist Party, 1986. At the congress Fidel Castro stated, "The conduct of the ministry personnel should be above reproach."

which were for the MININT and, at times, also for his personal use.

- Authorizing financial operations outside the budget the state had assigned for the MININT. These operations were carried out without any control by the state or even by the Finance Directorate of the ministry.
- Illegally receiving several million dollars in contributions that went into the MININT reserve fund. Among the entities that contributed those sums were the MC Department, other MININT components, the

that had he had concrete information linking de la Guardia to drug trafficking, he would possibly have kept that information from the Cuban government.

Escalona explained that given his mode of functioning, Abrantes would have possibly warned de la Guardia and tried to protect him, because he was a "friend" at risk. But there is no proof that this situation existed, added Escalona, so the concealment of information cannot be construed as "conscious cooperation with drug trafficking activity."

What was revealed during the Abrantes investigation and trial was the degree of "deformation" and corruption in the MININT that had obviously existed for some time in the leadership of that organization, explained Escalona.

Escalona cited statements made by Castro in the main report adopted at the Third Congress of the Communist Party in February 1986. Castro explained that because of its responsibility for security and law enforcement, "the conduct of the ministry personnel should be above reproach. Their reputation should be flawless for they symbolize — everywhere, to all citizens — authority, law and order, moral integrity, mutual respect, and defense of socialist values."

"Thus," explained Castro, "fully aware of their noble and selfless role, they will always set high personal standards and energetically

"No privileges to the MININT!" became slogan of Third Congress.

Cuban Customs Department, and the Immigration Department, as well as a commercial enterprise created by Abrantes for activities not related to the ministry, but which reported dividends in freely convertible currency.

- Authorizing operations for the exchange of Cuban pesos in the black market.
- Authorizing the purchase of 1,300 vehicles, mostly cars, valued at \$4 million, during a period of 14 months. These cars were in addition to the considerable number of cars allotted to the MININT by the state budget.
- Concealing and manipulating sensitive

Nicaraguan opposition nominates candidates

BY SETH GALINSKY

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — After several days of acrimonious debates and inconclusive rounds of voting, the United Nicaraguan Opposition (UNO) has nominated Violeta Barrios de Chamorro and Virgilio Godoy as its candidates for president and vice-president of Nicaragua for the February 1990 elections.

In a show of U.S. government support for the ticket, the George Bush administration at first proposed sending \$3 million to support the UNO campaign through the National Endowment for Democracy, a body set up by the U.S. Congress. The recently approved Nicaraguan election law permits foreign financing as long as half the money donated goes to the Supreme Electoral Council to help finance the contest.

On September 15 the Bush administration, in face of opposition from members of Congress, announced it would not support the UNO campaign with funds from the endowment. "The options are still open to support United Nicaraguan Opposition in appropriate ways," said a State Department spokesperson. These include encouraging contributions from political parties and private foundations of other countries or channeling "American

cash to the campaign," the September 16 *New York Times* reported.

A statement by the endowment board said it was prepared to give money to the opposition coalition for such expenses as nonpartisan voter registration and election monitoring. It is legally prohibited from financing candidates' campaigns.

Chamorro, publisher of the right-wing daily *La Prensa*, is the widow of Pedro Joaquín Chamorro, a prominent opponent of deposed dictator Anastasio Somoza. Her husband was assassinated in January 1978. His death sparked massive demonstrations that helped accelerate the downfall of the Somoza dictatorship.

Violeta Chamorro served on the five-person junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, which was brought to power by the July 1979 Sandinista revolution. She resigned in April 1980.

The choice of Godoy for vice-president threatened to split UNO apart. Godoy was minister of labor in the Nicaraguan government from 1979 to 1984, and some opposition figures hold him responsible for many of the policies implemented by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) government at that time.

Four parties that backed the vice-presidential candidacy of Enrique Bolaños, prominent leader of COSEP — an organization of anti-government capitalists and businessmen — at first hesitated on accepting the slate and talked of forming a new coalition. But under the pressure of what the pro-FSLN daily *El Nuevo Diario* called "the blessing of the

Chamorro and Godoy nominated for president and vice-president of Nicaragua.

Pentagon and the White House" for the ticket, these parties relented and endorsed the campaign.

UNO, a coalition of 14 opposition parties ranging from the Communist and Socialist parties to parties that call themselves "liberals," "conservatives," "social Christians," and "social democrats," also includes former contras. Alfredo César, a former political leader of the National Resistance, is a key

adviser to Chamorro's campaign. Eight opposition parties remain outside the coalition.

UNO program

UNO's program calls for a government of "National Salvation," which would give land to peasants by breaking up state farms, abolish the military draft, institute a minimum wage, grant "full rights for private property," guarantee jobs and education for "the demobilized members of the Sandinista People's Army and the National Resistance," encourage "stability and tranquility" for the family along with "respect for parents," and insure "social and economic integration" for the Atlantic Coast region.

At a press conference called to demonstrate unanimous UNO acceptance of the Chamorro-Godoy slate after the public name-calling between factions, Chamorro spoke briefly. Holding up the pen used to sign UNO's application for legal recognition, she declared, "This is the weapon with which we will fight. From now on the other weapons will be sent to museums."

'La Crónica' poll

Some opposition figures concede that the FSLN will win the elections. An opinion poll published September 1 in the opposition weekly *La Crónica* showed the FSLN winning by a large margin. The paper claims there is increased support for the FSLN due to the government's signing of agreements with opposition political parties and with Central American presidents. The opposition must improve its image of unity to maximize its possibilities in the elections, the paper argues.

"The country can no longer survive with all political power concentrated in one party," Luis Humberto Guzmán, editor of *La Crónica*, told the *New York Times*. "Apparently even the Sandinistas now accept this. Once the election is over, what will probably emerge is a government of national unity." Guzmán is a member of the Popular Social Christian Party, which belongs to UNO.

According to Dr. Emilio Álvarez Montalván, a member of the National Conservative Party and UNO, "Even if the opposition wins, we are going to have to negotiate with the Sandinistas."

In its coverage of UNO, *Barricada*, the daily newspaper of the FSLN, has emphasized the infighting over candidates and the conflict with COSEP. A September 9 editorial said, "The only thing that keeps them together and the only reason for existence of the parties" that belong to UNO is the hope that the National Endowment for Democracy will begin to "let loose" the dollars.

With the end of the contra war, the editorial stated, the elections have become "the new form of confrontation between the Nicaraguan nation and Yankee imperialism."

'Cuba will never betray socialism'

The following talk was given by Antonio Santiago, chargé d'affaires of the Cuban embassy in Zimbabwe, to a meeting to promote the book *In Defense of Socialism*, by Cuban President Fidel Castro. The August 31 meeting was held in conjunction with the Fifth International Zimbabwe Bookfair in Harare.

Other speakers included James Harris from Pathfinder; Paul Brickhill of Zimbabwe's Grassroots Books; and Morgan Tsvangari, secretary-general of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions.

In Defense of Socialism was published by Pathfinder in New York earlier this year.

Dear Friends: Please allow me to say a few words to welcome the presentation in Zimbabwe of the latest book published by the Pathfinder editorial house — *In Defense of Socialism*, which contains four speeches

for scholars, students, and the public in general to judge for themselves, from a different perspective, the realities that have come to conform the world in which we live today.

The book being presented here contains the Cuban people's view on what has been achieved in these 30 years since Jan. 1, 1959. Of course, as it has been one of the principles of the revolution since the days in the Sierra Maestra mountains, these speeches also contain a severe analysis of the errors incurred in the same period.

Equally in them you will find the unshakable confidence the Cuban people have in the path chosen by themselves — that of the building of a socialist society only 90 miles from the shores of the most powerful imperialist power in the world.

That confidence is not the fault of wishful thinking or sloganeering. It is based on a comprehensive analysis of the problems we have faced and will continue to face for the foreseeable future.

It is based on our awareness of the realities of the pressing international situation. Above all it is based on the strength, determination, and level of political consciousness achieved by our people.

Cuban embassy official in Zimbabwe addresses meeting to promote new Pathfinder book.

by the president of our country, Dr. Fidel Castro Ruz, at different venues on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Cuban revolution.

Pathfinder Press has done from its inception a very valuable job researching, collecting, and publishing major works and speeches of Marxist-Leninist and revolutionary thinkers from all over the world, that, more often than not are given scant attention or are purposely ignored by the Western media.

This commendable effort gives an oppor-

Funds for jails, cops mount faster than for schools and hospitals

In the last few years U.S. government expenditures for cops, jails, and prisons have increased four times as rapidly as for education, and twice as rapidly as for health and hospitals.

Moreover, since 1980, the number of adults behind bars in state and federal prisons has doubled. In just the first six months of 1989 the number jumped 7.3 percent, higher than any annual increase in the 64 years figures have been kept. As of June 30, 673,565 adults were incarcerated in federal and state prisons. The latest figures show that one adult in 55 is under some form of penal supervision.

These figures, reported in the *Washington Post*, are from the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Cuban revolution focus of Halifax conference

BY RONI McCANN

Several hundred supporters of the Cuban revolution will be making their way to Halifax, located in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia on the Atlantic Coast, November 1-4. Nova Scotia sits northeast of the U.S. state of Maine and has been chosen as the site for what will be the biggest conference on the Cuban revolution ever held in North America. The Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies is sponsoring the event.

Entitled "Thirty Years of the Cuban Revolution: An Assessment," the conference will provide an opportunity for a broad discussion on the accomplishments and lessons of three decades of the Cuban revolution. Participants will have a chance to talk with Cuban public officials, scholars, artists, and others comprising the 30 to 40-member Cuban delegation attending the conference. Among them will be Ricardo Alarcón, deputy minister of external relations; Félix Sautié, director of the José Martí Publishing House; and Carlos Tablada, author of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*.

The conference program promises a full four days. Featured will be more than 40 panels on numerous topics relating to the Cuban revolution. Speakers will include Cuban revolutionaries as well as conference participants from all over the world.

Jonathan Kozol, author of *Children of the*

Revolution, will take part in a panel entitled, "Youth and the Family in Cuba." Frei Betto, a Brazilian cleric whose book *Fidel and Religion* is based on an interview with Cuban President Fidel Castro, will address a panel on religion. Saul Landau, also a member of the conference advisory committee, will discuss "Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution."

Several representatives from Pathfinder will take part in various panels. Mary-Alice Waters, editor of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*, will speak on the panel entitled, "Che Guevara's Thought in Contempo-

Tribunal to score Guatemala record

BY JUAN VILLAGÓMEZ

LOS ANGELES — The Guatemala Information Center is organizing a cultural and political event to be held in Los Angeles the weekend of October 6-8. The main event will be a tribunal to be held at Los Angeles City Hall, where the human rights record of the current regime and the military governments that have ruled Guatemala in the past decade will be denounced.

Testifying will be representatives of various groups working to defend human rights in Guatemala.

In Guatemala both the military and the police act with impunity. Not one soldier nor cop has been convicted for the tens of thou-

sands of murders and disappearances that have been committed against the people in the last decade.

The conference will take place at the Halifax Sheraton. Registration is \$90 or \$30 for students and can be sent to Cuba Conference Coordinator, International Development Studies, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3H 3C3. Make checks payable to CALACS-Atlantic. For more information, call 902-420-5768.

sands of murders and disappearances that have been committed against the people in the last decade.

In the past month, 12 members of the Association of University Students received death threats. Ten of them have since disappeared. The bodies of four of them have been found in the last two weeks. The surviving two are scheduled to participate in the Los Angeles tribunal.

Virtually all representatives of union, student, and other democratic organizations have been threatened as well. Many have already been killed. Others have fled Guatemala.

ALABAMA

Birmingham

The Fight Against Disruption in the Working-Class Movement: Victory in the Gelfand Case. Sat., Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m. Speaker: Betsy Farley, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

Bush's Drug Proposal: More Cops and Prisons. Speaker: David Alvarez, Socialist Workers Party candidate for City Council, District 8, member United Steelworkers of America Local 9226. Sat., Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

An Answer to Bush's "War on Drugs." Speakers: Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

San Francisco

Celebrate the 9th Anniversary of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front of El Salvador. A traditional Salvadoran meal will honor Salvadoran people's nine years of struggle for self-determination. Speaker: Ramón Cardona, International Solidarity Commission, FMLN. Sat., Oct. 7, 6:30 p.m. First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin at Geary. Donation: \$10-\$25 sliding scale. For more information call (415) 626-2161.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Learning About Socialism: Malcolm X: The Last Speeches. A class series sponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party. Every Sat. at 4:30 p.m. through Oct. 14. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

Working-Class Response to Capitalism's Worldwide Crisis. A 1989 Socialist Workers campaign rally. Meet Elizabeth Ziers, SWP candidate for mayor of Atlanta. Sat., Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: 1989 SWP Campaign of Ziers for Mayor. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

The U.S. "War on Drugs": An Attack on Working People Here and Abroad. Speaker: Rachele Fruit, Socialist Workers Party, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 70. Sat., Sept. 23, Dinner 6 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Palestine Aid Society 12th Annual Banquet. Speakers: Terry Boulatta, former Palestinian political prisoner. Dinner, Arabic entertainment with Elias Haddad, dabke with Independence Dabke Troupe. Sun., Sept. 24, 6 p.m. Knights of Columbus, Monsignor Hunt Council 3312, 7080 Garling, Dearborn Hts. (1/2 block south of Warren, between Evergreen and Outer Dr.). Donation: \$20. For more information call (313) 961-7252.

Rally to Ban Plastic Bullets in Northern Ireland, Palestine, and South Africa. Speakers:

Bernadette Devlin McAliskey, Irish civil rights activist; Abdeen Jabara, national president, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; Solly Simelane, representative African National Congress of South Africa. Mon., Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m. UAW Local 600 Annex, 12821 Dix, west of Miller Rd. in Dearborn. For more information call (313) 885-5618.

Lansing

Rally for Reproductive Rights. Sun., Sept. 24, 1 p.m. State Capitol. Sponsored by Michigan National Organization for Women.

MINNESOTA

Austin

Cuba Defends Socialism and Confronts Drugs and Corruption: Lessons of the Ochoa Affair. Speaker: Phil Norris, Socialist Workers Party, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-6. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Oct. 1, 7 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

St. Paul

The Current Stage of the Nicaraguan Revolution. Speakers: August Nimtz, Socialist Workers Party; Nicaragua solidarity activists. Sat., Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Rally for Justice! Free Mark Curtis! Speakers: Kate Kaku, member steering committee of Mark Curtis Defense Committee and wife of Mark Curtis; Gloria Hoover, member St. Louis National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, fighting a police brutality case against her family; Tom Curl, Illinois farmer and Democratic candidate for U.S. Congress in 1988; Rev. Ted Schroder, minister of Immanuel Lutheran Church; Ann Riley-Owens, co-chair of Equal Rights Committee of United Mine Workers of America Local 2295; others. Sat., Sept. 30, Reception 6 p.m.; rally 7 p.m. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 3540 Marcus. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: St. Louis Mark Curtis Defense Committee. For more information call (618) 452-0089.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

Cuba and Angola: Response to the South African Escalation. A video. Sat., Sept. 30, 7 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Benefit for Committee Against Repression in Haiti. Grande soirée dansante. Salsa, reggae, compas, D.J. Ernie D. Sat., Sept. 30, 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. Centre Maçonnique Haïtien, 1078 Utica Ave. (Angle Beverly Rd.) Donation: \$8. For more information call (718) 434-3940.

Manhattan

Cuba and Angola: Response to the South African Escalation. Video showing of Cuban documentary in three parts followed by presentations and discussion. Part I and "What is Apartheid? The Coming Revolution in South Africa." Mon., Sept. 25, 7 p.m. Part II and "Cuba's International Role." Mon., Oct. 2, 7 p.m. Part III and "The Fight Against Racism and for Women's Liberation." Mon., Oct. 9, 7 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (212) 675-6740.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Housing for All! Build the Oct. 7 march on Washington against homelessness. Sun., Sept. 24, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cleveland

The "War on Drugs": A Pretext for Repression at Home and War Moves Abroad. Speaker: David Marshall, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Cleveland. Sat., Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (216) 861-6150.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Pete Seeger Wants to Tell You About the Pathfinder Mural. A reception and showing of photographs of the work-in-progress, hosted by Dennis Brutus and Moe Seager. A light buffet will be served. Fri., Sept. 29, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Carson Street Gallery, 1102 E Carson St. Mural Director Sam Manuel will accept contributions for the project. Sponsor: Pathfinder Mural Project. For more information call (412) 363-4438.

An Open House and Video Presentation on the Pathfinder Mural. Speaker: Sam Manuel, mural director. Sat., Sept. 30, 4:30 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Stop the Racist Execution of William Andrews. Speakers: Buckley Jeppson, Utah State co-ordinator of Amnesty International; Nancy Boyasko, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sat., Sept. 30, 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, D.C.

Cuba Defends Socialism: Lessons of the Ochoa Case. Speaker: David Paparello, chairperson, Washington, D.C., Socialist Workers Party and member International Association of Machinists Lodge 1759. Sat., Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

The Defiance Campaign: Moving the Struggle Forward. Keynote speaker: Lindiwe Mabuzza, chief representative to the U.S. of the African National Congress of South Africa. Panel discussion on building anti-apartheid movement in the U.S. with speakers from Trans-Africa, Southern Africa Support Project, Washington Office on Africa, and South African Women's Day Committee. Sat., Sept. 30, 6 to 9 p.m. Christ Lutheran Church, 16th and Gallatin N.W. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: South African Women's Day Committee. For more information call (202) 234-3447.

Speak Out Against Racist Attacks! Panel discussion on Virginia Beach, Bensonhurst, Prince Georges County. Sun., Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

An Evening to Support Pathfinder Mural. Slideshow and discussion with Mark Severs,

mural fund coordinator; Elisabeth Linder, mother of Ben Linder; others. Sat., Sept. 30, 8 p.m. AFLN Gallery, 1624 E Madison. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

Acceptable Risk. Video documentary on exposure to radiation of people of Cannonsburg, Pa., because of a nuclear facility there. Sat., Sept. 23, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

30 Years of the Cuban Revolution. Speakers: Chris Wolford, member American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, participant in 1988 Venceremos Brigades to Cuba; May Kay Buchmelter, West Virginia Advocates attorney, toured health-care facilities in Cuba; Cosmo Pietese, associate professor of English, Ohio University, South African exile born in Namibia; Jim Gotesky, member of International Association of Machinists, Socialist Workers Party, traveled to Cuba in 1980. Slideshow. Thurs., Sept. 28, 6:30 p.m. University Room (2nd floor, Geary Student Union), University of Charleston, 2300 MacCorkle Ave. Presented in conjunction with Social Science 202, Dr. Bob Hall, instructor, and the Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

BRITAIN

Cardiff

The Rectification Process in Cuba. Speaker: Debbie De Lange, visited Cuba last year. Wed., Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m. The Golden Cross, The Hayes. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forum. For more information call (0443) 741764.

London

The Significance of World War II for Working People. Speaker: Brian Grogan, author of "The Working-class Road to Peace" in *New Internationalist*. Fri., Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forum. For more information call 01-928 7947.

Sheffield

The Mark Curtis Frame-Up: A Report from Des Moines, Iowa. Speaker: Graham Till, secretary National Union of Railwaymen East Midlands District Council. Sat., Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m. Conference Room, National Union of Mineworkers, 1 Holly St. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. For more information call 352618.

CANADA

Montréal

Cuba, Canada, United States: Who Is Really Fighting Drug Trafficking? Translation to English and Spanish. Sat., Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m. 6566 boul. Saint-Laurent. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière. For more information call (514) 273-2503.

Toronto

Thousands of U.S. Workers on Strike. Workers from Canada and U.S. will discuss importance of Eastern Airlines, Pittston Coal, and telephone workers' strikes and need for solidarity. Sat., Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

Vancouver

Cuba: Defend Socialism. Report back on voluntary work minibrigade in Cuba. Speaker: Ned Dmytryshyn, Revolutionary Workers League. Sat., Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$3. For location and more information call (604) 873-8898.

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The civilized society — On the West Bank, the Israeli military released three young Palestinians charged with stone-throwing when



Harry Ring

their parents paid fines totaling \$1,500. The three prisoners were ages 10, 9, and 5.

Hot air factor — Agriculture, as well as industry, contributes to the greenhouse effect, says Dr. James

Salinger, a New Zealand scientist. According to the New Zealand *Herald*, he points to the nitrous oxide released by fertilizer "and methane released when ruminating animals such as sheep and cattle broke wind. The second factor was particularly important in New Zealand with 67 million sheep and eight million cattle."

They could raise sheep — Voicing skepticism of the danger of the greenhouse effect, Barber Conable, president of the World Bank, said that while rising temperatures might cause "a number of natural disasters," they also might "warm cold and unproductive lands in the north into productivity."

Philosopher — "The last little while, we've been tarred and feathered, but such is life. Life is very fragile. You go along, and in a twinkling of the eye, it's different." — Peter Knudson, mayor of Brigham City, Utah, responding to the shutdown decision of a greeting card company, which will leave 160 workers, mostly women, jobless.

Less philosophical — "Mr. Mayor, we wonder if your outlook of 'such is life' and things can change 'in the twinkling of an eye' would be the same if you were losing your job." — Letter by 95 of the affected workers.

The sharing society — On average, directors of British companies

are enjoying pay increases three times greater than the workers in their companies. Prize-winner was the head of British Airways. The lowest-paid workers there got a 6 percent increase. He pocketed a 117 percent hike, 19 times that of the workers.

Democracy in action — At a state-funded Vietnam veterans' art gallery, a painting depicts New York's Gov. Mario Cuomo as a puppeteer manipulating a committee that's to decide the location of a nuclear waste dump. An aide assured that "this alleged work of art" will not be removed because the guy is a "great believer in openness."

P.S. — Cuomo's aide added that

from now on written agreements will be required from artists on the contents of works in state-run galleries.

Internoble war — The capitalist media refer to drug dealers as "drug kings," "drug lords," and "drug barons." Meanwhile, William Bennett is tabbed as the U.S. "drug czar."

Then you throw it away? — "Perfection... absolute masterpiece... acme of our inestimable mastery of watchmaking." — Ad in the Palm Beach *Daily News* for the Audemars Piguet, a pocket watch that will give you the date up to the year 2100. \$295,000.

Rally draws 11,000 in support of Minnesota strikers

Continued from front page
those charged could receive long prison terms.

County Attorney David Johnson stated on September 15 that indictments have been prepared against another 20 people identified, reportedly from video tapes made during the September 9 rally. Additional arrests haven't been made, he said, because of overcrowding in the county jail.

The FBI is in the process of preparing federal felony charges against strike supporters from other states "for crossing state lines to participate in a riot."

"This is an attack against all labor," said Dan Gustafson, president of the Minnesota AFL-CIO, who chaired the rally. "What Boise Cascade is doing in this state is happening all over the country. And we have to put an end to it," he added.

"There was an incident last Saturday... and we do not condone violence," said Bill Peterson, president of the Minnesota Building and Trades Unions. "But it was an act of frustration by Minnesota workers," he added. Along with other speakers Peterson called on Gov. Rudolph Perpich and the state legislature to revoke \$16 million in state tax credits Boise Cascade has been granted for expanding its mill.

Peterson and other speakers pointed to Boise Cascade's notorious record of safety violations against both mill and construction workers. The company recently was fined

\$1.6 million for violations at its mill in Rumford, Maine.

"There must be at least 4,000 construction workers here," said a union steward from the Ironworkers local in Rochester, Minnesota.

Teamsters Joint Council 32 brought a contingent of more than 1,000 workers, and 40 auto workers came by bus from the Ford plant in St. Paul. A group from International Association of Machinists Local 1833 from the airport unfurled their banner, "Fighting Machinists in solidarity with Boise strike."

Electrical, oil, and garment workers, meatpackers, government employees, and many others swelled the ranks of the spirited protest. Signs reading, "Boycott Eastern and Continental" mingled with "BE&K scabs go home" signs. "BE&K no way" was one of the most popular chants at the rally.

Some 50 strikers from International Falls were the liveliest contingent. "This is exactly what we needed," said one of the strikers. "We now need one like this in International Falls."

Other speakers included the chaplain of Teamsters Joint Council 32; Bernard Brommer, state AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer; state Sen. Dona Peterson; and Bob Walls, business agent of the International Woodworkers of America in International Falls.

According to press reports more BE&K employees continue to leave International Falls. James Chatham, a nonunion pipefitter from Birmingham, Alabama, told the *St. Paul*

Pioneer Press and Dispatch, "I'm tired of all this trash here. For a job it's too much." He deliberately refused an assignment and got himself fired.

Steve Nelson, a lawyer from International Falls, is handling some of the cases of work-

ers arrested. AFL-CIO officials have stated that they are putting together a team of lawyers to assist with the legal defense.

Contributions to aid the defense can be sent to: Strike Fund, Legal Fees, P.O. Box 86, Ranier, Minn., 56668.

Los Angeles Eastern strikers strong

Continued from Page 6

the strike leaders stressed. They bring a leaflet to union meetings that spells this out. "We need to appeal to our brothers and sisters to help us keep the daily picket strong and visible," it says. "This is key to keeping people off Lorenzo's planes and defeating strikebreaking 'reorganization.'"

Frank Lorenzo heads Texas Air Corp., which owns both Eastern and Continental airlines. Since July, Eastern has been building up the number of daily flights, including three daily departures out of LAX, in an effort to break the strike and restart operations. Before that, the station at LAX was closed.

The strikers also emphasized their idea of an active picket line that appeals to passengers not to fly Eastern or Continental. They've made up a flyer directed to passengers that is distributed by pickets.

"We talk to the people," said James, and point out "they don't know who's flying or repairing these planes."

"And we give the passengers facts that the company doesn't give them" about the level of experience of the scab flight crews and Machinists, added Mos.

In addition to beefing up the daily picket lines, the strike leaders agreed that the Saturday solidarity actions are important. "Each one gets more and more people involved," said Mos. A growing number of IAM mem-

bers from several districts have been participating. They have also included some of the Eastern pilots and flight attendants who live in the Los Angeles area. The next one is set for September 23, between 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. at Terminal 6.

The strikers have been particularly heartened by the consistent support they have received at the Saturday picket lines from members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union who are on strike at La Mode company here.

"I think most garment workers have been more oppressed than most IAM members," said Croft. "They understand what our struggle is all about." All three strike leaders have also walked the ILGWU's picket line.

The strikers have also organized to picket scab-hiring sessions for flight attendants and mechanics.

Mos, Croft, and James are confident about winning further active support within the IAM and the broader labor movement.

Mos said he has been told that the IAM organizes some 50,000 workers in southern California. "As soon as everyone has the courage and strength to deal with Lorenzo's union-busting, that's when it can be ended," he said.

"It's not just our fight — it's the fight of all the IAM," Croft stressed.

"Of all unions," added James.

Miners end occupation of coal plant

Continued from front page
workers and a caravan from New York with 100 unionists and others. Virtually every district of the UMW sent delegations of miners to the scene. Many miners from throughout Appalachia and southern Illinois camped out. Supporters were determined to stay despite threats of arrest and fines.

On September 19 federal judges fined the union another \$3.4 million for contempt of earlier injunctions. The same week, three top union officials defied orders to appear in court. Millions of dollars in fines have been

levied against the union, and more than 2,000 people have been arrested at peaceful protests.

On September 20 at 9:20 p.m. the miners voluntarily evacuated the plant. Earlier, Virginia state authorities had ordered them to vacate Pittston's property by 7:00 p.m. or face seizure of the union's strike and defense funds. Speaking to the crowd outside afterward Vice-president Cecil Roberts declared the action a victory for the union.

"We defied all the forces trying to get us out — the courts, the state police, and Pittston," he said. "We're not stopping now. We'll keep defying them, and there will be other targets. We'll be calling on you again for a massive turnout."

Miners and supporters then left Moss No. 3. Many began the trip back to their home states. Some gathered at Camp Solidarity for the night. The camp is a strike support center where out-of-town supporters often stay. Discussions at the camp went on well into the night. Many talked about what the decision to end the plant occupation meant and what to do next in the fight against Pittston.

Mary Imo from Charleston, West Virginia, and Yvonne Hayes from Greensboro, North Carolina, contributed to this article.

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—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Sept. 28, 1979

(The following is an excerpt of an article by Mark Curtis).

CHURCH ROCK, N.M. — Driving down the road to this small community north of Gallup, I thought of the daily morning trips I used to take along this same route. But this time I wasn't on my way to work. I was going to gather information on one of the biggest nuclear accidents in the history of uranium mining.

Eighteen years old and just out of high school, I had worked for United Nuclear Corp. at the Church Rock mine one summer. It never occurred to me then that some day Church Rock would be in the headlines as the site of the largest spill ever of radioactive materials and other deadly elements.

On July 16 of this year about 396 million gallons of radioactive water and silt poured through a 20-foot breach in an earthen tailings pond and into the nearby Rio Puerco. The pond was holding radioactive waste material left over from uranium refining at the Church Rock mill.

Radium, thorium, selenium, lead, and uranium were carried by the Rio Puerco at least as far as downtown Gallup, 15 miles away,

and possibly even into Arizona.

State environmental officials closed the mill later that day, but United Nuclear representatives quickly asserted that there was no danger to the public. It has now been reopened.

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

Sept. 28, 1964

In a speech to the medical school graduates, Cuban Prime Minister Castro cited figures showing that Cuba's socialized medicine program has made it the leading country in Latin America in health. In at least one area — the elimination of polio — it surpasses the United States.

Cuba has 10 doctors per 10,000 inhabitants — by far the largest figure in Latin America despite the fact that many doctors left the country in the first years of the revolution.

The rates for such formerly common diseases as diphtheria, typhoid, tetanus, malaria, and gastroenteritis have declined drastically in Cuba and are now far below the rates of these in other Latin American countries.

U.S. military forces in Andes

In President George Bush's September 5 nationally televised speech outlining his so-called "drug war," a particular component of his policy, classified officially as "secret", was deliberately not announced.

Reports coming out of Washington in subsequent days, however, indicate that the unmentioned secret element is a plan aimed at significantly escalating the U.S. military presence in Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia under the pretext of aiding local police and military forces in stopping the production and trafficking of cocaine, crack, heroin, and other deadly drugs.

According to Bush administration officials, a National Security Decision Directive (NSDD) signed by the president calls for "several hundred" U.S. military trainers, advisers, and other support personnel to be deployed in the three countries as part of Bush's "Andean initiative."

This NSDD declares the flow of illegal drugs into the United States as a "national security threat." It mandates a greater involvement by the Pentagon, the CIA, and the Drug Enforcement Agency and stipulates the use of U.S. spy satellites and electronic intercepts.

Under the NSDD, some \$141 million is allocated for immediate military "aid" for Peru, Colombia, and Bolivia to be given in the form of helicopter gunships, patrol boats, ammunition, radars, electronic sensors, and computers. This is the type of military equipment that has been used in large-scale counterinsurgency operations in Vietnam in the 1960s and '70s and in El Salvador in the 1980s. In fact, Maj. Gen. Miguel Gómez Padilla, chief of Colombia's 70,000 member national police force, said that this type of aid "is more suitable for conventional warfare than the kind of struggle we are waging here against narcotics traffickers."

Bush and his senior spokespersons have attempted to downplay the U.S. military troop involvement in the Andean drug battle as minimal and to allay growing fears that the plan will lead to the "Vietnamization" of the Andean region. Some members of Congress claim that the U.S. military "will be very quickly immersed in a guerrilla warfare situation" especially in the Upper

Huallaga Valley of Peru, which is controlled by guerrillas who have been fighting for years to overthrow the Peruvian government.

Rep. Charles Rangel, Democrat of Manhattan who is chairman of the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control, is outraged "that every time there's an international problem we have to talk about the introduction of American troops."

In response to these growing concerns from a wing of the U.S. ruling class, Bush said no Latin American nation had asked for U.S. troop involvement in a combat role and that no such role is contemplated.

Yet, on September 18, Defense Secretary Richard Cheney stated the Pentagon will make the antidrug campaign a "high priority." He gave military commanders three weeks to find new ways to stop the flow of narcotics.

Among other things, Cheney instructed the Navy's Atlantic Command "to prepare a plan for a substantial Caribbean counternarcotics task force with appropriate planes and ships to help reduce the flow of drugs from Latin America."

Other aspects of the stepped-up military operation in the Andes will be coordinated by the U.S. Southern Command based in Panama, the same center that directed the U.S. invasion of Grenada in October 1983.

All of this sounds exceedingly ominous. It is becoming clearer that under the guise of fighting drugs, the U.S. capitalist rulers are laying the groundwork for an expanded military presence in a region of Latin America beset by economic crisis, political instability, and revolts by working people. Once in place, U.S. "drug" forces can be used to intervene in any country of the Americas to put down popular rebellions and prop up corrupt and unpopular regimes.

Working people in the United States must recognize and condemn this sinister move for what it is: a dangerous camouflage for the violation of the sovereign rights of Third World countries and for wanton interference in the domestic affairs of Latin American nations.

Justice for Yusuf Hawkins!

Supporters for justice for Yusuf Hawkins confront an important challenge as his killers await trial.

Hawkins was the 16-year-old Black youth gunned down by a racist mob in the Bensonhurst area of New York on August 23. Five have been indicted for his murder. They are Joseph Fama, Keith Mondello, Pasquale Raucci, Joseph Serrano, and James Patino. All except Fama have been released on bail by New York State Supreme Court Judge Thaddeus Owens.

It is especially important now to keep up the pressure on City Hall and the district attorney's office to demand that the killers be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, convicted, and receive the maximum penalties. This would be the most effective deterrent to anyone considering harming someone because of the color of their skin.

Demonstrations, picket lines, and rallies that mobilize working people — Black and white, Asian and Latino — need to continue to keep the heat on authorities to do what needs to be done.

Actions for justice in the killing of Hawkins should also demand the prosecution and conviction of the thugs who attacked two Chileans in Bensonhurst on September 7; and demand the prosecution and conviction of the cops respon-

sible for beating to death Henry Hughes, a 25-year-old Black, on September 9.

The march of 150 people in Brooklyn organized by the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights on September 16 to protest the attacks on the Chileans and the killing of Hawkins is a good example of what is needed.

With New York's mayoral campaign in full swing, the challenge will be to unite everyone in action around these demands — regardless of who they support in the elections.

Justice has never been won through the ballot box or by an individual politician on behalf of working people. The civil rights movement showed this. It was mobilizations in the streets by Blacks and their supporters that got rid of the Jim Crow system of racial segregation in the South.

The focus should be on the power of united and collective action by working people in the streets, which can create an atmosphere in New York making it intolerable for any bigot or cop to engage in racist violence. Regardless of whether Rudolph Giuliani or David Dinkins is elected mayor in November, we will have to continue to exert the maximum pressure possible to win justice for Hawkins and put his killers behind bars.

March spotlights housing crisis

Fact: A worker earning \$5,500 last year spent on average 65 percent of his or her income on housing. The government considers housing "affordable" if it costs no more than 30 percent of income.

Fact: Nearly half of all poor workers — defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as those with incomes below \$8,573 in 1985 — who rent housing paid at least 70 percent of their income for rent and utilities.

Fact: In 1985 Black and Latino households were twice as likely to pay 50 percent or more of income on housing costs as white households.

Fact: Since 1981 federal housing assistance programs have been cut by more than 75 percent — from \$32 billion to less than \$8 billion a year. Only one out of every four eligible poor tenants receives a federal housing subsidy.

Poor working people who own their own homes also face high housing costs. And those with the lowest incomes and highest housing costs are the most likely to live in overcrowded, dilapidated, and dangerous conditions.

On top of this, the Housing Now! coalition estimates that 3 million people are homeless in the United States. Millions of other working people are only a paycheck or a foreclosure away from being without shelter.

Most working people agree that decent housing is a basic human right. Yet under capitalism, the housing "in-

dustry" — like the medical "industry" — is simply a profit-making business like any other. Human needs aren't part of the picture.

What's needed to begin to tackle the housing crisis is a campaign by the labor movement to demand a massive government-financed program to build and maintain decent and affordable public housing for all those who need it. The resources for these and other needed social programs can be found by eliminating the \$305 billion war budget.

In addition, an immediate ceiling on rent for working people of 10 percent of income should be enacted — as exists in revolutionary Cuba, a country with far fewer resources. And a ban on all evictions and foreclosures should be imposed.

On October 7 thousands of people will gather at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., to participate in the "National March for Housing Now." The demonstration will demand that the federal government act to end homelessness, fund the creation of affordable housing, and restore funds for federal housing programs.

The march is endorsed by a broad range of national organizations, from the AFL-CIO and Coalition of Labor Union Women to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the YMCA and YWCA. It will help throw a spotlight on this burning social problem.

Case study in antilabor disruption

BY DOUG JENNESS

Like flies drawn to honey, representatives of a small outfit called the Workers League can often be seen hanging around strikes and other working-class actions, button-holing activists and peddling their weekly *Bulletin*.

Working-class fighters, from paperworkers in Pennsylvania to coal miners in West Virginia, who've encountered Workers League supporters know they give the pretense of being socialists and backing labor battles but devote most of their energies to attacking the leaders of every struggle they come around.

As they provocatively push themselves on unionists and other fighters for social justice, most workers are soon turned off.

Along with its other antilabor activities, this group has targeted the international defense campaign being waged on behalf of Mark Curtis, a packinghouse worker from Iowa. Curtis, a union activist and member of the Socialist

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Workers Party, was framed up on rape and burglary charges last year and is now nearing the end of the first year of a 25-year sentence in an Iowa state prison.

The Workers League, championing the prosecution's charges, is making a major effort not only in this country, but in other countries too, to smear and undermine the defense effort endorsed by thousands of unionists, Black and Latino rights fighters, women's rights activists, and many others.

The operation against the Curtis defense isn't the first time this bunch has targeted members of the SWP for a disruption campaign. For the past decade the Workers League has promoted a lawsuit against the SWP filed by Los Angeles attorney Alan Gelfand. Gelfand alleges that leaders of the SWP are FBI agents and demands that the courts overturn his expulsion from the party in 1979 and remove the party's elected leadership.

Last month, six years after the case was tried, federal Judge Mariana Pfaelzer issued written findings in favor of the SWP. She stated that Gelfand had no "substantial basis in fact for any of his allegations, nor did he have a good faith belief that the allegations were true." His "initiation of this litigation was not in good faith," she said. "His motivation was to disrupt the SWP."

The judge also noted that "the pretrial discovery conducted by plaintiff was abusive, harassing, and in large part directed to matters which could have no probative value in this litigation."

I can personally testify to the accuracy of this judgement. As one of the named defendants in the lawsuit, I was called as a witness by Gelfand to testify during the pretrial period. As a leader of the SWP, I had signed a letter informing Gelfand of charges brought against him by the SWP's Political Committee. Gelfand had entered the SWP in 1976 as part of the Workers League's disruption operation and was expelled from the party after filing a legal brief in federal court charging that the SWP was controlled by FBI agents. The brief was aimed at sapping the SWP's lawsuit launched in 1973 against FBI spying and disruption.

Normally, one would expect that pretrial testimony is aimed at obtaining information relevant to the court case at hand. But not so with Gelfand. In two days of testimony, more than 10 hours altogether, Gelfand's attorney, John Burton, devoted the overwhelming bulk of his questions to matters unrelated to Gelfand's lawsuit.

A recent look through the 413-page transcript of this testimony revealed that at least two-thirds of it dealt with matters before I joined the SWP. There were detailed questions about my religious and political views and organizational affiliations while in high school, as well as those of my parents, and even in a couple of instances my grandparents. For some reason my brothers escaped the scrutiny of Burton and Gelfand.

This testimony also included my first years in college, as Gelfand's attorney probed and poked into the process through which I decided to join the socialist movement.

There were at least 14 pages of interrogation on my views of dialectical materialism. It reached the absurd and totally irrelevant point of him asking how the "laws of dialectics" applied to a glass of water.

Perhaps not so crazy nor so irrelevant to the evolution of the Workers League itself was my answer to Burton's question on the dialectical law of negation. I cited the example of the Lyndon LaRouche organization, which started as a small left sect in the 1960s and by the early '70s had become its negation — a fascist-type of antilabor organization.

The two days of testimony was often punctuated by interruptions from my lawyer demanding to know the relevancy of Burton's line of questioning.

Before the 1983 trial was over hundreds of hours of similar testimony by SWP witnesses had been taken and some 7,000 pages of "evidence" gathered. A portion of this was subsequently published by the Workers League in a two-volume collection.

How I got cheated out of seeing The Storytellers

BY HARRY RING

This is about a play I didn't see.

Generally, that's not a good idea. But it wasn't my fault that I didn't see it. And, also, since then I've read enough about the play, and the company that produced it, to give me a sense of what I missed.

The play is *The Story of Kufur Shamma* and the company

AS I SEE IT

is el-Hakawati, a Palestinian group based in East Jerusalem.

Kufur Shamma had been scheduled at New York's Public Theater, but Joseph Papp, who runs the Public, decided it was controversial and canceled it. (Later, it did play for a week, with little public notice, at the Dance Theatre Workshop.)

At the time, all I knew about the play was that it was about a Palestinian and his 40-year search for the family and neighbors he lost when his village was wiped out during Israel's 1948 war against its Arab neighbors and Palestinians.

Then, in the September 1 *Militant*, I read a letter from Charlie Pottins on behalf of the Jewish Socialists' Group in London.

His letter expressed solidarity with an earlier *Militant* editorial protesting Papp's ban. Pottins wrote that when the play ran in London his group organized a theater party and that it had been a "rewarding" evening.

He wrote: "What impressed us besides fine, entertaining acting and imaginative production, was the depiction of a group of human beings — who happened to be Palestinians — struggling to confront and overcome their particular historic tragedy."

"We found ourselves relating to the characters, empathiz-

ing with their laughter and tears, and dilemmas, and continuing their arguments over a meal after the show. Not bad theater!"

He added, *The Story of Kufur Shamma* "is not some mere propaganda piece (though the Palestinians are entitled to make propaganda for their cause), but a genuine, moving, human, and creative work of art."

I began to feel like I had missed something.

That feeling grew when I read a short interview with members of the theater group in the August 28 *New Yorker*.

The interviewer asked the company members if they were surprised when Papp canceled.

François Abu Salem, coauthor and director of the play, replied, "I must say, I was more surprised when he invited us."

He added, "But we weren't coming with a political point of view. It wasn't meant to be a play with a message or a theme."

Abu Salem explained that he and his coauthor and companion, Jackie Lubeck (a Brooklyn emigré to Israel) wrote the play "only because we happened in life to meet a man who was unable to adjust to the present time. He had lost his village and we went through the whole process with him of going back and looking and remembering what was there."

Abu Salem said the name of the theater company, el-Hakawati, means "The Storyteller."

"Around the Mediterranean," he said, "story-telling was for a long time the only way people could share their histories. . . . There is no tradition of theater in Arab culture."

El-Hakawati, he said, is the only professional theater company in Palestine. Its next project is to establish a small school for the performing arts in East Jerusalem.

When *Kufur Shamma* was staged in East Jerusalem only a handful of Israelis saw it, since few of them go there.

Those who did see it, Abu Salem said, "have been very

moved and have not uttered a word of protest. They said things like, 'It's a very important and painful play for us.'"

He added, "We wish there were Israeli theater companies who would have the same effect on us."

"Israeli theater," he continued, "is much richer than ours, but the Israeli writers who have tried to touch the contemporary reality of relations between Arabs and Jews haven't gone deep enough. They either feel sorry for us, or feel sorry and guilty."

"They haven't gone very far toward understanding the transformation they have been through as a colonizing country."

The interviewer commented that the humor in the play was similar to U.S. Jewish humor.

Abu Salem responded, "Well, where are the Jews from? The usual colloquial expression for Jews in Arabic is *ibn' amm*, 'cousins.'"

Continuing in the broader context, Abu Salem observed, "I don't like the idea of a state that is solely Muslim or solely Jewish. I've always thought that the separation they're talking about for the future — the two states — is pragmatic but in the long run not a very productive or generous kind of solution. I think the Israelis have got to rediscover that they belong to the Middle East — where they've always belonged, you know? We've got to be together again and live together."

What comes through all this is a serious-minded artist and a pioneering theater company that deserves a wide audience.

I don't like it when anyone is denied the right to be heard. And I particularly don't like it when the victims are Palestinians, a people who are fighting so courageously against oppression and injustice.

But in the case of el-Hakawati vs. Joseph Papp, I also feel personally cheated.

LETTERS

New readers drive

I have enjoyed reading the *Militant* since my subscription began and look forward to each new issue.

My hope is that the new readers drive will be a big success and that our paper will become bigger and reach more people. The *Militant* and the *Militant* alone is the paper that not only tells the truth, but clearly spells out just what socialism is and what it isn't.

Victory to the new readers drive and our valiant candidates across the nation, in New York and Greensboro, who have the courage to tell the truth!

M. Davidson
Lexington, Kentucky

Zimbabwe

In his letter on "overpopulation" in the July 7 issue, Andy Feeney's reference to "the Marxist leadership of Zimbabwe" was more than enough to astound the average Zimbabwean. That such a grossly misplaced description was ever used in such an important debate was particularly unfortunate.

For the record, the Robert Mugabe government is far from Marxist, even at a purely theoretical level, despite its widely published claims, which are pure rhetoric. In fact, the regime is much more right-wing than many others in Africa that have never proclaimed themselves Marxist or even just socialist.

Despite the significant reduction in the population growth rate through population-control programs heavily inspired and sponsored by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, Zimbabwe's socioeconomic and political system, which is capitalist, is now in serious crisis. Crime, unemployment, poverty, destitution, and moral degeneration are fast approaching alarming proportions.

In its panic, the regime thinks the solution lies in opening up the economy to naked looting and plundering by imperialist transnational corporations; hence the recently unveiled divestment code.

Top political leaders openly admit that there is nothing socialist about Zimbabwe's social, economic, and political direction today and that there is nothing Marxist about the government's policies and economic plans.

As contradictions heighten, critics, especially of a leftist leaning, such as university lecturers, trade unionists, and other progressives, are ruthlessly muffled through the use of the notorious State of Emergency and other draconian instruments so gratefully inherited from the Ian Smith regime.

Unfortunately, the Mugabe government has succeeded in hoodwinking the world community, especially through its strong anti-apartheid stance and Marxist rhetoric, that the government is a revolutionary, Marxist one. This has, as a result, isolated and seriously disadvantaged Zimbabwean Marxists, progressives, and the masses generally, whose criticism of the government is dismissed by many of the world's progressives as extremist and subversive radicalism.

Albert Musarurwa
Harare, Zimbabwe

Puerto Rico

I want to congratulate you for this great newspaper that tries to unmask U.S. imperialism and works at the side of the struggling class.

I want to thank James Harris for the eloquent speech on Puerto Rico before the United Nations, where he went to expose the United States as a colonial empire. The only way we can win our independence is through bloodshed — Puerto Ricans to-

gether, fighting shoulder to shoulder.
Carlos Jimenez
Hammond, Indiana

Gives me a laugh

Reading the Great Society column made me think the enclosed item may be worth a mention. It probably qualifies for the "hot air" story of the year. [See Great Society, page 13].

The column always gives me a laugh and, often, provokes other responses as well. Keep up the good work.

L.A. MacGregor
Auckland, New Zealand

P.S. The population of New Zealand is 3.5 million.

Castro's July 9 speech

When the news broke that Cuba had executed Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa and three others, a mass of thoughts and questions flooded my mind. Here was a big political question, and when the *Militant* published Fidel Castro's July 9 speech on the case, I read every word of it.

Now the dramatic turn of events in Colombia has prompted me to go back and read it again.

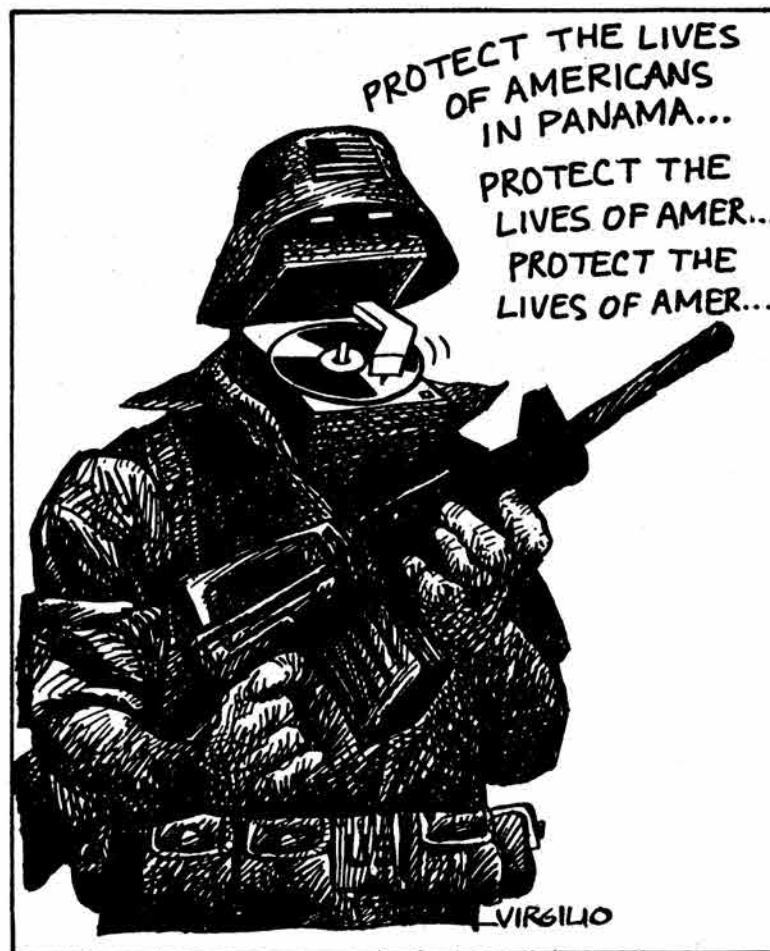
Fidel tackles many things here. We get the fullest account of the war in Angola and the stakes involved in the battle at Cuito Cuanavale. "Even the revolution was at stake there," Fidel says.

Cuba has an exemplary 30-year record of fighting drug trafficking. Fidel explains the pressure on the revolution to make its position on this question very clear, for the truth to be unmistakable. He explains that the revolution's morale and prestige and international credibility are essential weapons for survival, to maintain the support of workers and peasants in Latin America and around the world.

Fidel places the decision to execute Ochoa and the three others in the context of the circumstances facing Cuba today — the only real starting point there is. The events in Colombia are stunning proof of this.

This powerful speech helps us to understand how Cuba's decision, by putting the revolution first, brings us all a step closer to the time when execution will no longer be necessary.

Morag Knaggs
London, England



Granma Weekly Review/Virgilio

Correction

The "Learning About Socialism" column in the September 22 issue, stated that David Dinkins won "one-third of the votes of Democratic voters who are white" in the September 12 Democratic Party primary in New York City.

This was taken from a *New York Times*/WCBS-TV poll as reported in the *New York Times*. Subsequently, the *Times* ran a correction stating, "Of all whites who voted in the Democratic primary, 29 percent voted for Mr. Dinkins."

It added, "Of all Dinkins voters, however, 34 percent were white, according to the poll."

Drugs

The discussion on legalization of drugs has missed a significant point.

For practical purposes, drugs have been legalized for whites.

Look at the facts as reported by New York's Division of Substance Abuse Services, Division of Criminal Justice Statistics, and the Department of Correctional Services: whites make up the majority of drug users; 47 percent of the clients in state-funded Drug Free Treatment Centers; 39 percent of all Division of Substance Abuse clients; at least 29 percent of arrests for the sale or possession of drugs (1987), but less than 10 percent of commitments to state prison (573 compared to 2,694 Blacks and 3,147 Hispanics).

I am not arguing for legalization. I am arguing that New Yorkers need some sober thoughts about current policies. Politicians and policymakers outdo themselves in tough rhetoric with calls for more severe, and as it turns out, selective sanctions. More concentrated and lethal drugs drive out the bulkier and less lethal. Newer and younger marketers replace the arrested and imprisoned,

spreading abuse to new populations.

To me, it is inescapable that illegal (and legal) drug abuse is an issue of public health — a catastrophic public health issue, much more than one of crime.

Jim Murphy
Director
New York State Coalition
for Criminal Justice
Albany, New York

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

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

Colt strikers win jobs, back pay

BY RONI McCANN

HARTFORD, Conn. — "We came out together and we'll go in together — that's our motto," said Sebastian "Chick" Faraci, one of the 850 striking workers at Colt Firearms here. Everyone around him agreed.

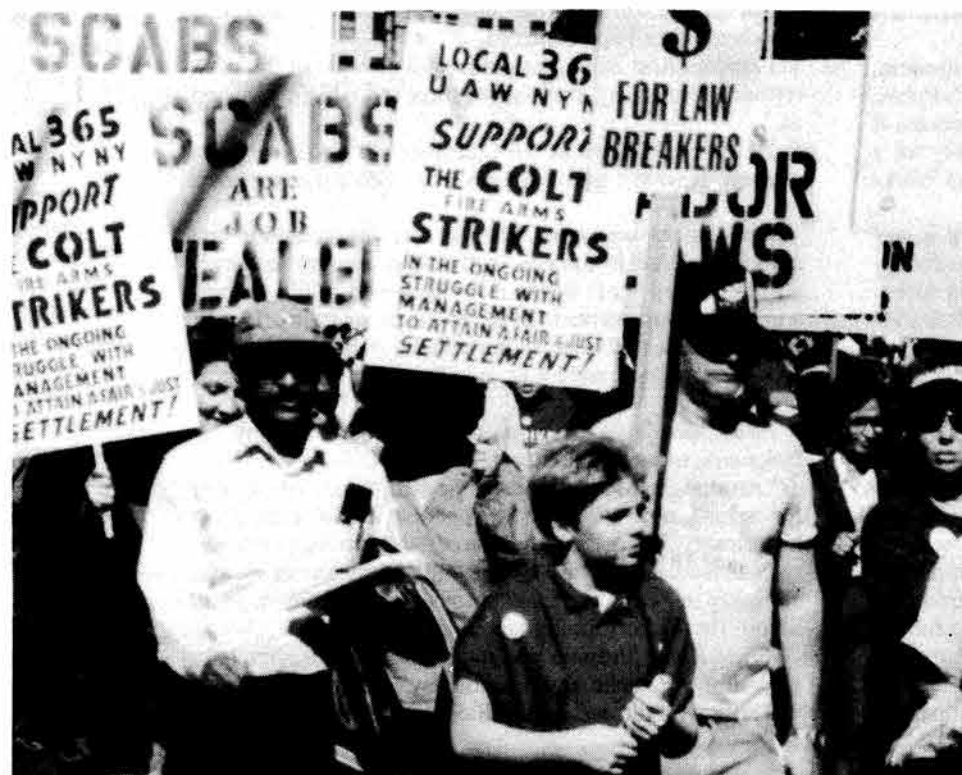
That day might not be too far off. After a three-and-a-half year strike, an administrative law judge found Colt guilty of unfair labor practices on September 7. The company is ordered to rehire every striker with back pay, an amount the union estimates at \$40 million. "This is a big victory and we need it," said Faraci.

The strikers are members of United Automobile Workers Local 376. In February 1985 Colt and the union sat down to discuss a new contract. "They weren't serious at all about negotiating," one striker said, "and at the same time they were firing people for union activities." After working 10 months without a contract, the unionists decided to strike.

Judge cites company

"The strike, which began on January 24, 1986, was caused and prolonged by the company's unfair labor practices," wrote Judge Marvin Roth in his 185-page ruling. Before the strike, the company accused unionists of sabotage inside the plant and setting fires. The company tried to convince workers to turn their backs on the union and refused to hand over information to the union on work they were subcontracting out of the plant.

Colt employed 1,050 workers at two plants located in Hartford and West Hartford, both organized by the UAW. After the strike by 1,000 unionists, production was maintained by 600 scabs hired by Colt and 200 "super-scabs" — union members who crossed the picket line. In August 1986 the union offered to go back to work but the company flatly refused. With a ruling of unfair labor practices



A 1987 rally to support striking Colt workers. Such events were held each year during the three-and-a-half-year fight.

the company is ordered to reinstate the strikers.

Spirits were up as more than 150 strikers gathered for their weekly meeting on September 19. Picket captain Terry Michaud explained activities the strikers organized over the three-year fight. Regular weekly meetings of 200-300 strikers were held. Weekly strike checks were distributed. Strikers picketed the plant at least six days a week and everybody participated at least four hours. One union member named John was

on the picket line every single day.

Michaud's team picketed on Thursdays, getting to the gate at 4:15 a.m. "You can work with people for years in the plant but you don't really know each other until you're on the picket line together," Michaud said.

Every year the Colt strikers organized a big rally in Hartford. "All different unions from throughout the city came to support us," said striker Faraci. Backing from workers in the community was good, they said. Strikers also came in from out of town. "We had

Pittston miners right up on our stage," said one unionist. "This victory is important for all workers in the United States," he said, "it'll help everybody do better."

Manuel Meneses, from Peru, has lived in the United States for most of his life and worked at Colt for 20 years before the strike. "The secret of our success was sticking together and not surrendering," he explained.

Meneses said that by the time they went on strike he "didn't care about losing the job, it's the principle involved and they can't take that from us. You give your loyalty and work somewhere all those years and you don't get any gratitude. The company speaks of the reputation Colt has, but it's our work that built that reputation."

Strikers stuck together

During the strike 37 workers died. Meneses explained that one was a close friend, younger than himself. "It was from stress and it's the company's fault, I blame them."

Meneses said it was difficult being out for so long, but the strikers worked together to survive.

Mary Bora, whose husband William worked at Colt for 34 years, was active in the strike and joined the picket lines. "The day we heard about the ruling my phone rang off the hook," she said. "Everybody called to congratulate us."

"When it's all over we'll have a victory celebration," said Faraci, "a big blowout — we all deserve it."

The company has until October 5 to decide to appeal the decision. "After this they might think twice before appealing," said striker John Serani, a toolmaker with 17 years at Colt.

On the way back to the Hartford train station the cab driver, from Nigeria, commented on the ruling. "It's a big victory," he stated, "they really fought for it."

British unions plan fight for 35-hour workweek

BY BRIAN GROGAN
AND CLIFF WILLIAMS

LONDON — Some 5,000 workers at plants in four of Britain's largest engineering companies are to be balloted by their unions for strike action. At British Aerospace, Rolls Royce, Smiths Industries, and Northern Engineering Industries workers are to spearhead the campaign of all the engineering unions for an across-the-board reduction in the working week in the industry to 35 hours with no loss of pay.

The CSEU says that the reduction of the workweek to 35 hours will create a minimum of 100,000 new jobs. Bill Jordan, president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union and leader of the CSEU, said in an interview here that this was what happened when the German metalworkers' union won a reduction to 37 hours two years ago.

Jordan explained that such arguments were getting substantial backing from workers in the industry. He pointed to a mass meeting that he had addressed at British Aerospace in Bristol in the southwest of the country, where the vote in favor of the campaign was 4,000 to 10. "Developments have taken everybody by surprise," Jordan said. "Three months ago everyone thought the campaign would have difficulty lifting off. Today it's got across in such a way that the employers are clearly worried, nervous, rattled."

An example came recently from the director general of the Engineering Employers Federation, Peter Brighton. He denounced the proposed strike ballot, claiming that a 35-hour week would lead to a reduction of 60,000 engineering jobs and a total job loss of 350,000 throughout the economy.

These figures were worked up in a paper produced by an employers' think tank, Business Strategies Ltd., entitled "Shorter Hours, Less Jobs." This paper argued that reducing the workweek from its present 39 hours to

35 would add 7.5 percent to labor costs and lead to higher "factory gate" prices. The paper claims this would result in a 3 percent rise in the general rate of inflation, translating itself into lower production and job loss.

Average profits in engineering increased by 18 percent in 1988 alone, as the unions explain in their publicity material. The major companies, among which are those targeted for action, show increases in their pretax profits of from 22 to 47 percent over the past 12 months. This expresses a substantial rise in profitability as the employers have taken maximum advantage of the retreat by the unions in the past decade. Job cuts, speedup, and changes in working practices have accompanied a huge increase in the average number of hours worked by those with jobs. In April of last year 56.8 percent of male manual workers in Britain worked more than 10 hours overtime per week.

The last national fight by the engineering unions took place in 1979. Then a campaign of strikes, starting with one day per week, then increasing to two, led to a reduction in the workweek to 39 hours from 40, and to an extra week's holiday, giving a total of 33 days (including eight statutory days) per year.

Part of the 1979 agreement was no further negotiations on a reduction of hours for five years. But, as Jordan says, there have now been "10 years without any movement, and during those 10 years considerable movement by almost all the countries in Europe." He argued that a "reduction in the workweek is now long overdue."

Some employers have signaled their resistance to the union campaign from the word go. Management at the General Electric Co.'s Alstom factory in Preston in the northwest of England threatened disciplinary action against anyone supporting the claim. Despite such intimidation, the work force went ahead with a mass meeting and voted to pay the

union levy.

Similar threats in the Manchester area have prompted CSEU District Secretary John Tocher to warn that any firm actually taking disciplinary action would find itself added to the list of plants targeted for indefinite strike action.

At the Rolls Royce plant in Coventry in

the Midlands, more than 1,000 shop floor workers walked off the job after being denied permission to meet on company premises. They decided to pay the levy and adopted a resolution that stated that the demand for a shorter workweek was "fully justifiable and affordable out of the high profits being made by the industry."

Québec gov't threatens strikers

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTRÉAL — "All working people and all supporters of democratic rights need to fight together to prevent Premier Robert Bourassa from carrying out his threat to abolish the right to strike of government workers," said Michel Dugré, the Revolutionary Workers League candidate for the Montréal constituency of Laurier.

Dugré, a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, was responding September 20 to an appeal made the previous night by the Québec premier, who called on voters to give him a mandate to sharpen his attacks on Québec's more than 300,000 unionized government workers.

"What is at stake in the September 25 provincial election now is: Who runs Québec? Will it be the public's interests and the democratic authority or certain groups vying for private interests?"

For the past two weeks tens of thousands of nurses, health-care support workers, teachers, office workers, and others have been carrying out strike actions to press for sizable wage increases. The 95,000 health-care workers are demanding wage parity for women.

The nurses, who carried out a seven-day strike, will vote on a contract offer September 21. Under Québec's antiunion Essential Ser-

vices Act, Law 160, they face millions of dollars in fines the government has refused to lift.

The strike by the health-care workers has also been declared illegal under Law 160. If the government doesn't move substantially beyond its declared 4 percent wage raise ceiling, they will be back on the picket lines by midnight September 20 after a 48-hour truce to permit negotiations. Teachers who are carrying out a five-day legal strike are now considering an unlimited strike because they consider the negotiations a "farce."

"Bourassa's union-busting program reflects the interests of the ruling rich he represents," said Dugré. "The polls show that the majority of working people support the strikers regardless of whether the government declares their actions illegal. We know that in fighting for their rights they are fighting for us all — for an end to government cutbacks in health, education, and other social services."

Solidarity is growing. On September 19 Vancouver and District Labour Council delegates voted unanimously to send a telegram to Bourassa condemning his attacks against the public sector unions.

"Québec's government workers are today in the front lines of the fight to defend the rights and conditions of all working people," Dugré concluded.