

E. German protests mark sharpening political crisis

BY GREG McCARTAN

Thousands of East Germans crowded into the West German embassy in Prague, Czechoslovakia, during the first week of October seeking permission to emigrate to West Germany.

The Prague embassy became the main way for citizens of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) to emigrate to West Germany

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after the East German government curtailed travel to Hungary.

During September an estimated 12,000 East Germans emigrated through Hungary after the government there announced it would grant East Germans political asylum, in effect aiding them in moving to West Germany.

Some 11,000 people were transported by train from Prague to West Germany follow-

ing the embassy occupation.

The East German government then restricted travel to all countries, including Czechoslovakia, cutting off the flow of those seeking to leave.

Meanwhile, protests have been mounting inside East Germany demanding that the government adopt economic and political measures similar to the perestroika- and glasnost-type policies being implemented in the Soviet Union and some other Eastern European countries.

The largest political protest in East Germany since the massive worker's revolt in 1953 was held October 9 in the city of Leipzig. Although there was a strong police presence, the authorities allowed the action to take place and did not attack it as they had protests earlier in the week.

Some 50,000 reportedly marched around the city's center following a church service chanting, "We want to stay!" and "Gorby! Gorby!" referring to Soviet President Mikhail

Gorbachev. Protesters also chanted, "On to perestroika!" and shouted out the name of Dresden Communist Party leader Hans Modrow.

Of top Communist Party officials, Modrow is regarded as the most supportive of capitalist market measures and lifting restrictions on political activity.

These events highlight the growing pressures inside East Germany resulting from economic stagnation and the attractiveness to many East Germans of the higher standard of living found in capitalist Europe, even though East Germany is by far the most economically developed country in Eastern Europe.

The capitalist class was expropriated in 1949 in Germany's eastern zone, which had been occupied by Soviet troops since 1945 when they helped defeat Hitler's military forces.

East Germany, with a population of 17

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Savimbi aid condemned during U.S. visit

BY RONI McCANN

NEW YORK — The minister of foreign affairs for the People's Republic of Angola, Pedro de Castro Van Dunem, was the guest speaker at a meeting in Harlem on October 8.

Van Dunem, who came to New York to address the United Nations General Assembly, was accompanied by Ambassador Manuel Pedro Pacavira, Angola's UN representative, along with a delegation of Angolan government leaders that included its ambassadors to Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Gabon.

The Angolan people, led by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), waged a successful struggle for independence that culminated in 1975 when they kicked out the Portuguese colonialists. Since then they have had to fight against invading South African troops and a band of mercenaries inside Angola called UNITA headed by Jonas Savimbi. UNITA is politically and financially backed by Pretoria and Washington.

The meeting was organized by the Coalition for Peace in Angola, headed by Ben Chavis, executive director of the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice. The coalition is made up of church, labor, anti-apartheid, and human rights organizations.

The meeting heard an update on the situation in Angola, and speakers encouraged participation in a protest against Savimbi on his arrival in New York.

Some 150 protesters picketed Savimbi when he came October 10 for a meeting with the Council of Foreign Relations. Police manhandled protesters who tried to block Savimbi's entrance, including Chavis who was roughed up. More than 50 police were present.

Throughout Savimbi's U.S. stay he has been treated as if he were a head of state with beefed-up security and escorts. After he was ushered inside, the protesters held a rally and press conference and then marched to the UN.

Previously in Washington, D.C., protesters met Savimbi at every stop he made, including 50-60 pickets in front of the Grand Hyatt Hotel where supporters of Savimbi gathered for a \$500-a-plate dinner.

At the Harlem meeting Elombe Brath of

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100,000 march, demand housing



Militant/Margrethe Siem

Contingent of hospital workers at October 7 march in Washington, D.C. Protest demanded government aid for homeless, housing.

BY IKE NAHEM

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On October 7 thousands of homeless women, men, and children from all 50 U.S. states and Puerto Rico led a demonstration of some 100,000 protesters here demanding, "Housing now!"

Formed last April, the "Housing Now!" coalition that sponsored the action, won the support of more than 200 national labor, Black, Latino, women's rights, antiwar and religious organizations.

A central demand of the protest was to restore the \$25 billion that has been slashed from federal housing assistance programs since 1981.

The organized-labor contingent was thousands strong stretching several long blocks down Constitution Avenue. More than a dozen national labor unions marched behind a huge AFL-CIO banner reading, "Housing now! Which side are you on?"

Sandra Page, a striking Eastern Airlines flight attendant from Pittsburgh, came with a busload of protesters organized by the United Steelworkers union. She marched with 20 other Eastern strikers in the International Association of Machinists contingent. "For me," she said, "the strike has been such a growing experience. I never would have

come here a year ago."

Strikers carried signs saying, "Frank Lorenzo wants us evicted: support Eastern strikers," and "On strike against Eastern Airlines, Eastern strikers for decent, affordable housing!"

Hundreds of members of the United Auto Workers made up one of the largest labor contingents. Dozens of truck drivers with union jackets marched behind a large banner that read "Teamsters Joint Council supports affordable housing now!"

Fresh from a major victory over hospital employers, New York City hospital workers from Local 1199 of the Drug, Hospital and Health Care Workers Union led hundreds of enthusiastic hospital workers from several East Coast cities who chanted, "We're fired up, can't take no more!"

The march was notable for its youthfulness, including thousands of college students.

A group from Boston College carried a banner that read, "Stop funding wars in Central America! Housing now!" The picket signs of Kent State University students said, "Stealth bombers no! Housing yes!" A student from the University of California at Berkeley held a sign, "America! Home of the

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IAM fuelers step-up fight to support Eastern strike

BY SUSAN LaMONT

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Out of some 50 aircraft fuelers who work for Ogden Allied Services at National Airport near here, some three-quarters have signed a petition aimed at strengthening the strike at Eastern Airlines and reinforcing unity within the Machinists union.

That might not seem unusual, given the broad support for the strike that exists among airline and airport workers around the country.

But workers at Ogden — who in Washington are members of International Association of Machinists Local 1747 — have a different relationship to the strike than most workers. Among the planes they fuel each day are the 30 or so Eastern flights now coming into National.

The petitioning effort began in late September when IAM Local 796 issued a leaflet

addressed to "our brothers and sisters at Ogden Allied and all airline workers at Washington National Airport." Local 796 represents striking Eastern workers at the airport. The leaflet explains the stakes for all airline workers in supporting the Eastern workers' fight and appeals to them not to cross the strikers' picket line.

"The fight at Eastern has always been crucial for the entire IAM membership," the Local 796 leaflet says. "It's particularly critical now because IAM members in Washington, D.C., as well as Miami, Pittsburgh, Boston, and New York are being forced to service scab aircraft in increasing numbers. If union fuelers and others honor our picket line, it will affect the ability of Eastern to carry out its scab schedule."

Ogden is one of the subcontracting companies hired by Eastern to do fueling, clean-

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E. Germany protests mark deepening crisis

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million, inherited a highly developed economic infrastructure after the division of imperialist Germany following World War II. The working class in the GDR is also relatively more educated and skilled in comparison to other Eastern European countries.

Growing economic pressure

But, since 1985 economic growth in the GDR has fallen from 3.6 percent a year to just over 1 percent in 1989. Exports have slipped, cutting the foreign trade surplus by more than 60 percent in the same period.

Most of the country's exports go to West Germany or the Soviet Union. Exports to the Soviet Union are used to pay for oil and other energy resources, which the Soviet government now pegs at world-market prices.

The West German government exempts East German exports from tariffs, treating East Germany as an extension of its own territory.

Moreover, its farm produce is exempted from European Community duties. The EC, often referred to as the Common Market, is made up of 12 capitalist governments in Europe that attempt to coordinate economic and other policies.

This trade break has led some to dub East Germany as the EC's "13th member." It has helped give the GDR a competitive advantage over imports from Asia. But, because of lower industrial investment and a widening gap in labor productivity, this competitive edge has been slipping.

Labor productivity is 25 percent lower than in capitalist Europe as a whole and one-third less than in West Germany.

While shortages of basic necessities have not been as extensive as in Poland, Hungary, and the Soviet Union, most East Germans don't compare their standard of living to the rest of Eastern Europe. They look to capitalist West Germany with which they have many economic and social ties.

At the moment West German capitalism is in an economic upturn. Industry in the country is working at close to 90 percent capacity — the highest level since 1970. The economy is expected to grow at an annual rate of more than 3 percent in 1989, and exports have risen to 7 percent of the GNP — the highest for any advanced capitalist country.

Industrial workers in West Germany have the highest average wage and the legal work-week is among the shortest in Europe. There is also a shortage of skilled workers as a result of the economic upturn.

The economic links between West and East Germany have kept travel, communication, commerce, and political exchange at a level that is not seen between any other Eastern European and capitalist country.

Ties between East and West

It is apparent from the significant emigration that the working class in East Germany has become an important surplus labor pool

for the West German economy. In addition to the many young skilled workers leaving the GDR over the past month, at least 100,000 more emigrate legally each year.

West Germany does not consider East Germany "abroad." All GDR citizens are viewed as citizens of West Germany.

Moreover, West Germany has put up more than \$1.1 billion in the past two decades for a range of projects, many to improve communications and travel in the GDR. They include the renewal and extension of roadways between Berlin and the West, improvement of inland waterways, and projects to link the two countries' power grids, and build a new railway to West Berlin.

East Germany also receives an estimated \$2.5 billion a year in income from West Germany from visitors, in postal services, and roadway taxes, as well as fees for permitting use of toxic waste dumps. The Bonn government finances a regular shortfall in East German payments for West German goods, in effect providing a permanent, low-interest loan to the GDR.

The West German government arranged \$1 billion in loans to the GDR in 1983-84,

and promises more "concrete, long-term" economic aid and other assistance if the GDR adopts "fundamental" changes in its political and economic system.

New protests mounted

The growing size and visibility of protests inside East Germany are a recent development. A notable feature of the current wave of demonstrations is the change in demands from the right to leave the country to greater democracy and implementation of capitalist market measures.

Demonstrations prior to the October 9 protests were broken up by police using water cannons and clubs. East German chief of state Erich Honecker likened the unrest to the recent pro-democracy mobilizations in China and warned that there was "a fundamental lesson to be learned from the counterrevolutionary" Chinese student protests.

The East German government has resisted implementing the scope of capitalist market measures being adopted in the Soviet Union and most other Eastern European countries, known as perestroika.

During a state visit on the 40th anniversary

of the founding of the GDR, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev encouraged Honecker to work "in cooperation with all the forces of society."

Referring to the decision by the East German government not to interfere with the October 9 protest, Valentin Falin, a top foreign policy adviser to Gorbachev, said, "I believe the leadership made the correct decision in the interests of the people and the state."

He urged Honecker to join with Moscow in building a "common European house. Every state," he said, "must have its comfortable accommodation, including East Germany — certainly, a house with open doors and fresh air."

Several opposition groups have sprung up over the last several months, including New Forum. These groups are calling for freedom of expression and media, abolition of curbs on travel, legalization of groups such as the New Forum, and increased dialogue between the government and the population.

New Forum was outlawed at the end of September as being a subversive and anti-socialist organization.

Aid to Savimbi condemned on U.S. tour stops

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the Patrice Lumumba Coalition welcomed the audience of 70. "Whether or not the White House recognizes the people of Angola, we recognize the people of Angola and are struggling with you," he said. Chavis introduced the Angolan delegation and described the impact of the March 1988 victory at Cuito Cuanavale, a town in southern Angola, where Angolan troops, SWAPO combatants, and Cuban internationalist volunteers dealt a decisive blow to the invading South African apartheid forces.

"It takes a lot to chase the racists off your territory," said Chavis, "and people all over the world were grateful."

Foreign Minister Van Dunem said the victory at Cuito Cuanavale opened the door to independence for Namibia and has "enabled the Angolan government to increase its efforts to solve the so-called internal problem, referring to the U.S.- and South Africa-backed UNITA."

As a result of the victory, accords were signed on December 22 at the UN by the governments of Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States.

The accords mandated the reduction of 50,000 South African troops and its 24,000-strong territorial force in Namibia to 1,500 by July. South African troops in Angola had already withdrawn in September.

Cuban internationalist volunteers would also begin to return home, the final withdrawal to be in 1991. Resolution 435 would be implemented in Namibia, including UN-supervised elections.

In June Angolan government leaders and



Militant/Barbara Bowman
Some 150 protesters picketed Savimbi's visit to New York October 10.

heads of UNITA agreed to a cease-fire at a meeting hosted by more than a dozen African heads of government in Gbadolite, Zaire.

Since the cease-fire however, Savimbi's bandits have consistently violated the pact. Van Dunem reported that UNITA has carried out 285 attacks, 199 ambushes, 67 abductions, 56 lootings and were responsible for 127 anti-personnel and land mine explosions. This has resulted in 1,226 deaths, 2,071 wounded, and 705 disappeared. In addition, Savimbi's forces have destroyed 135 houses, 263 cars, and stolen 1,107 head of cattle.

Most recently UNITA carried out an attack in the town of Samba Caju killing 15 unarmed peasants and wounding 40.

During the 14-year war more than 200,000 Angolans have been killed, some 20,000 children orphaned, and 50,000 Angolans left amputees. Angola now has the highest per capita amputee rate in the world.

Among the persons killed since the cease-fire were six Cuban soldiers whose truck was ambushed by UNITA elements on August 14. Cuban President Fidel Castro denounced the terrorist action in a letter to UN Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar asserting that Cuba will act in such a way as to guarantee the safety of its internationalist combatants.

At the request of the Angolan government, tens of thousands of Cubans volunteered to fight against the apartheid invaders, who first entered Angola in 1975. The Cuban government put enormous resources into the 14-year effort.

Since the December accords the Cuban government has strictly abided by the provisions of the withdrawal of its combatants, and thousands of Cuban troops have returned home.

The South African and U.S. governments, however, continue to aid Savimbi's mercenaries. An ad in the October 5 *New York Times* by the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice stated that while the peace process was under way last summer the U.S. government increased its aid to UNITA, sending \$40 to \$80 million a year.

"The United States is responsible for the attacks," said Van Dunem. Washington is responsible for giving legitimacy to Savimbi's fight to overthrow the legal government of Angola and wants to put Savimbi in its place, the foreign minister said.

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Strikers on picket line outside a Boeing facility in Seattle

Jim Levitt

Wichita Machinists are 'taking on the biggest'

BY ALVINO CARRILLO
AND KEVIN SHAY

WICHITA, Kan. — "This strike doesn't just affect us, it affects everybody in the aircraft industry. Everyone is watching. We're taking on the biggest."

Those are the feelings of striking Machinist Darfus Stewart, a 36-year veteran worker at Boeing Military Airplanes.

Some 12,000 members of International Association of Machinists District Lodge 70 are on strike against the Boeing Co. here.

The IAM union hall was a beehive of activity on October 7, as hundreds of strikers and their families came to walk the picket lines at each of the gates around the huge facility. From a tent set up next to the union hall strikers received their picketing assignments and were shuttled back and forth by a steady stream of vans and cars.

Inside the tent striker Chris York and his wife staffed the dispatch center. York explained that union members sign up for two hours of picket duty a week, but that many are volunteering for more.

York, like many strikers, readily expressed solidarity with the strikers at Eastern Airlines. "Tell them to keep it up, keep the pressure on," he said. "I'm getting tired of union-busting. The union is the only thing keeping us from working in sweatshops."

Cliff, part of the security team at the union headquarters, said, "This is all new to me, it's exciting. I like to stand up for what I believe in. We're just asking for what is fair."

This is also the first strike for many of the strikers here. The union estimates the average seniority at four to five years. Many were hired as Boeing piled up record profits and union members went six years without pay increases.

The strike is "what we have to do to get a fair share," said Larry Letdurneau, who has 10 years in the plant.

"Boeing made more profits in the last six years than during the previous 18 years. We want to be paid back," he said.

Court injunction

The first day of the strike the local organized mass picketing, stopping every car going into the plant and attempting to convince the non-contract employees not to cross the lines.

Traffic was backed up for nearly three hours by the 4,000 strikers at the gates.

The company then obtained a court order limiting the number of pickets to between two and six per gate and prohibiting strikers from speaking in an abusive or intimidating manner.

On October 9, before dawn, several thousand strikers rallied again in front of the plant. At the start of first shift pickets stopped every car going into the plant and encouraged the occupants to honor the strike.

The court injunction placed a 30-second limit on the time a striker can spend in a conversation with each driver. Cops stood in front of the gates timing each conversation with stop watches.

Byron Stevenson is a union steward and gate captain for one of the picket teams. Walking the line by one of the empty parking lots, he said the plant was pretty well shut down.

Kansas is a "right to work" state. Unions are prohibited from contractual agreements in which all workers must become union members. Although not all workers are in the union at Boeing, few appear to be crossing the picket lines.

Stevenson said the strike is already receiving broad support in the area. One grocery store chain donated a truckload of food. Security guards at Boeing took up a collection for the striking local. The guards' contract expires soon.

The Boeing strike is being watched closely here. Wichita is a center of the aircraft industry in the United States. Beech Aircraft, Cessna Aircraft, Learjet, and the Italian plane maker Piaggio Aviation are all located here. Each is planning to expand in the next few years.

Back at the union hall, a van painted with the slogan, "No gains — No planes," pulled into the parking lot. A striker with a T-shirt bearing the slogan "We want our fair share — Walk the line in '89" headed out for his picket duty.

"We're on strike and will stay on strike until we get what we feel is fair," Cliff said. "I believe in what we're doing, so I'll make the sacrifice."

BY JOE CALLAHAN
AND ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

INTERNATIONAL FALLS, Minn. — Workers here who were arrested and jailed after a September rally to support Boise Cascade strikers, during which some company mobile homes were damaged or burned, have had their bails reduced. This has facilitated many of their releases.

Authorities made the decision following a support rally of 11,000 workers held at the state capitol in St. Paul September 16.

Originally the court had set bail for several of the 30 arrested at \$30,000 cash, and in one case \$50,000. These were lowered to a maximum of \$15,000 bail — \$3,000 to be paid in cash and the remainder in bond.

Police videotape rally

Between September 18 and 24 four more workers were arrested and charged with rioting. They were identified for arrest from videotapes taken by the police at the September 9 rally. The workers were released on their own recognizance.

To date 36 workers here have been arrested. Koochiching County District Judge William Kalar has scheduled a hearing on October 16 for the 26 charged so far. Many have been charged with "riot," "arson," and "assault." A hearing for two charged with

Aircraft giant idled, Boeing strikers press for pay, less overtime

BY KAREN RAY

SEATTLE — The strike by 58,000 IAM members has halted production at Boeing Co., the world's largest aircraft manufacturer.

The 45,000 members of the International Association of Machinists in Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, and an additional 12,000 at the company's Wichita, Kansas, plant, are striking to recoup some of the wage and benefit concessions given over the past six years. Another demand of the strikers is to roll back extensive overtime required by the company.

Another 300 workers at Boeing's subcontracting plants for the military's "Stealth" bomber in the Mojave Desert northeast of Los Angeles also walked off the job last week.

The company has so far refused the union's request to restart negotiations.

Boeing, with a worldwide work force of 164,000, employs 106,000 in the Seattle area. One out of 18 jobs in the state of Washington is related to the aerospace industry. More than 8,500 companies in the state supply Boeing with more than \$1.4 billion worth of products and supplies each year.

Boeing's production facilities are spread throughout the Puget Sound, north and south of here.

Boeing is also the third-largest exporter in the United States. Of the \$12 billion worth of aircraft sold in the first eight months of the year, \$8.4 billion went overseas.

"They do something like a billion dollars a month in exports," said Gene Kingsbury, an aerospace analyst at the U.S. Department of Commerce. "A slowdown in shipments is going to affect the trade deficit directly."

With a 10-year, \$80 billion backlog in aircraft orders, Boeing's profits have soared. Profits for the first half of 1989 hit a record \$346 million, following \$614 million profit in 1988.

The three commercial airports adjoining Boeing's production facilities are quiet as supervisors scramble trying to ready planes that await final touch-up for delivery.

Since the strike began, the Federal Aviation Administration has increased the number of inspectors at all Boeing facilities. The union announced two customers, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and Qantas Airways Ltd., sealed the doors of their unfinished planes to prevent work from being done on them until the strike is settled.

Because Boeing is central to the area's economy, the strike is big news here.

A local television station runs a daily newscast called "Boeing on Strike." Strikers call

the hotline to report news from the picket line. Non-IAM Boeing workers call up and report on how much work supervisors are performing. Television crews have been refused entrance into the company's facilities.

Union halls in Portland and Seattle are busy with strike organizing activity. In both areas dozens of strikers join the picket lines every day in addition to their regularly assigned picket duty. They are convinced that a strong union presence is needed to win the strike.

IAM District 751 in Seattle is organizing a "family day" for October 14, to encourage entire families and supporters to picket at gates around the Seattle area.

On October 9 hundreds of Machinists rallied in front of the flight line entrances at the Everett, Washington, plant at the beginning of first shift.

Later that day, the state labor council met and pledged support to the strike. The council set up a strike fund and a food bank.

Earlier in the week a striker's arm was broken by a scab driving a pickup truck outside the Everett plant. Another striker was arrested after trying to stop the truck. The scab was not arrested.

Children regularly participate on the picket lines, as strikers take advantage of the opportunity to spend time with their children. Many have been separated from their families for months because of forced overtime.

Forced overtime has emerged as a central issue in the strike. Workers are permitted to refuse overtime only after having already worked 200 hours of overtime in a three-month period or after working four weekends in a row.

The effect of working these long hours and the toll it takes on the quality of the workers' lives is a frequent topic of discussion on the picket line.

The rejected contract offer reduced forced overtime to three weekends in a row. A striker in Portland said the company "wants us to be married to Boeing."

At the Renton, Washington, plant a striker observed, "This overtime issue isn't going to go away. Boeing already said that it wants to increase production even more — from 27 planes a month to 34 a month. If we don't get some protection from this overtime in our new contract, things could be just as bad for the next three years."

Other unionized workers at Boeing are crossing the picket lines because they have

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Bail lowered for jailed Minnesota workers

setting fire to a scab's car is set for October 30.

Five other workers were laid off from their jobs at Moonlight Rock waste dump, owned by Boise Cascade, for their participation in the September 9 protest.

That rally was held in support of 150 construction workers who walked off their jobs at Boise Cascade on July 18. The walk-out was in protest of Boise Cascade's use of the notorious union-busting firm BE&K, which it had hired as general contractor for its \$535 million paper mill expansion project.

Boise Cascade has also hired Vance Security, a firm headed by former U.S. president Gerald Ford's son-in-law Chuck Vance. Vance recruits, trains, and arms goons for its Asset Protection Team and uses them to provoke workers on strike. Recently they've been hired in the coalfields, including by Pittston Coal Group. The United Mine Workers of America has been on strike against Pittston for six months.

Boise Cascade's "security" force of 150 has been used to try to terrorize workers. On September 23 a scab truckdriver, for example, attacked pickets with a large ratchet. Other strikers have received threatening phone calls and one worker was beaten up and forced to flee town for the weekend.

The Minnesota AFL-CIO approved fund-

ing for a major public information campaign against Boise Cascade, BE&K, and Vance Security. The state federation's one-time, \$1-per-member charge for the information effort is expected to raise more than \$200,000.

Boise Cascade fined on safety

Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Administration inspectors are in the process of inspecting the paper mill for violations. One mill worker said that the inspectors had already found 50 safety hazards just in the office area of the plant. Boise Cascade was recently fined \$1.6 million for safety and health violations at its mill in Rumford, Maine.

Strikers report that since the strike-support demonstrations some scabs are leaving the area to return home.

Strikers have issued a leaflet to BE&K construction workers informing them of union jobs available in southern California, Alabama, and Texas. Several weeks ago some ironworkers from Texas came to International Falls after being told there was work — and no strike. Although they had no money, the workers said they were turning around and driving back to Texas. One striker lent them \$25.

Funds to support the defense of those indicted can be mailed to Strike Fund Legal Fees, P.O. Box 86, Ranier, Minn. 56668.

St. Louis Curtis meeting wins support, funds

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

1979 expulsion from the party and remove the party's leadership from office. The suit is based on Gelfand's claim that his constitutional rights were violated because "FBI agents" in the party's leadership engineered his expulsion.

The federal judge found that

Dan Hellinger, a member of the Latin American Solidarity Committee, thanked supporters of the defense effort for explaining and reexplaining the facts of the case, "Because it was the evidence, or rather the lack of evidence, that won our support for the case."

Ann Riley Owens, co-chair of the Equal Rights Committee of the United Mine Workers union Local 2295, also spoke. She reported on the struggle of the Pittston coal miners and how imprisonment has long been used to keep miners from standing up for their rights.

Greetings were read from Tim Kamenski, a member of United Auto Workers Local 110 and of the Communist Party. Tom Curl, an Illinois farm leader, said in his greetings, "Mark is a fighter for the interests of the majority, farmers and labor. He was framed up because of his good work on their behalf. I will continue to speak out in his defense until he is free."

More than \$500 was raised at the meeting.

Twenty New Jersey union officials signed a statement protesting the denial of correspondence in languages other than English to Mark Curtis and other prisoners. Supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee staffed a table October 7 at the annual convention of the New Jersey Industrial Union Council, AFL-CIO.

Many of those who stopped by the table were already familiar with the frame-up of Curtis or had met him at other union gatherings prior

to his imprisonment. Others heard about the case for the first time and took packets of material or bought copies of the pamphlet *The Frame-up of Mark Curtis: A Packinghouse Worker's Fight for Justice*.

Among those signing the protest statement were officials from the Communications Workers of America, International Union of Electronic Workers, International Association of Machinists, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and United Food and Commercial Workers Union.

"Officials at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory in Anamosa provide an apt illustration of the arbitrary and capricious 'rules' to which prisoners are subjected. An inmate at the institution, Mark Curtis, has recently been denied permission to receive *Perspectiva Mundial*, a Spanish-language socialist monthly published in New York, as well as *Lutte ouvrière*, a French monthly," Erwin Knoll, editor of the *Progressive* magazine, wrote in the July issue.

Knoll scored restrictions and difficulties his magazine faced when sent to prisoners. He also called attention to a May 14 U.S. Supreme Court ruling allowing prison authorities to bar publications under regulations that are "reasonably related" to the maintenance of order and security. "Security" is the justification used by prison authorities for denying Curtis the non-English publications and correspondence.

"It isn't fashionable these days to express concern about the rights of 'criminals,'" Knoll concluded.

"But those of us who remain outside the walls would do well to remember that when *anyone's* rights are diminished, everyone's rights are placed in jeopardy."

An international campaign is being conducted by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee to win prisoners the right to obtain literature and correspondence in the language of their choice and to share literature with each other.

Thousands have joined in this campaign, which forced prison officials to release to Curtis a Spanish-English dictionary, a Spanish verb book, and individual copies of the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial* and the French-language quarterly *Lutte ouvrière*. The policy, however, remains in effect. Non-English correspondence has been denied to Curtis.

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.

Pat Barker from St. Louis and Janice Lynn from Newark, New Jersey, contributed to this week's column.

DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

Curtis. For more information 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*.

"I want to start off tonight by telling you of an important victory for defenders of constitutional liberties and supporters of the right of the working class to have political space free from arbitrary legal harassment," Kate Kaku told a Curtis defense meeting at the St. Louis' Immanuel Lutheran Church on September 30.

Kaku, a leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and Curtis' wife, reviewed a Los Angeles federal court ruling in favor of the Socialist Workers Party, the defendant in a 10-year harassment lawsuit waged by Alan Gelfand and the Workers League.

Gelfand charged in his suit that the SWP is run by FBI agents and demanded that the court overturn his

Gelfand's "initiation of this litigation was not in good faith" and did not "have any substantial basis in fact for any of his allegations, nor did he have a good faith belief that the allegations were true." The judge also concluded that years of pretrial discovery had as its main purpose "to generate material for political attacks on the SWP by the Workers League."

A central activity of the Workers League over the last 18 months has been to peddle the frame-up charges against Curtis as truth and smear the efforts of his defense committee.

The judge's ruling "helps expose the true character of the Workers League's campaign against Mark's defense effort," Kaku said.

Gloria Hoover, who along with her family has been framed up by Mississippi police, chaired the meeting. "Individual causes and personal convictions are not readily accepted by the government," Hoover said. "Everyone in charge wants us to be silent when something bad happens to us. We are here tonight to tell the authorities in Des Moines that we will not stand by silently while an innocent man is in prison."

Socialist candidate blasts W. Virginia ballot laws

BY MICHAEL MAGGI

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Dick McBride, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from West Virginia, addressed the West Virginia Election Commission at its first meeting on rewriting the state election code.

"The West Virginia ballot laws are among the most undemocratic in the country," McBride told the commission here October 4.

The laws violate the democratic rights of all voters by placing "almost impossible burdens" in the way of independent working-class candidates to get on the ballot, McBride said. The candidate told reporters that he will seek ballot status for the 1990 elections.

McBride explained to the commission that working people want to see more alternatives on the ballot because of their experiences in the last few years. "As the economy gets worse and working people have a harder and harder time making ends meet, many are looking for alternatives," he said.

"Working people are looking at the example of the coal miners' strike, the strike against Eastern Airlines, and others as an important

way of fighting back," McBride explained. "Our social struggles also have to be political struggles as we need more democratic rights, including a more open ballot, to allow for working-class politics to be expressed."

West Virginia law currently requires a high number of signatures on petitions and exorbitant filing fees. This makes it harder for independent campaigns to qualify for the ballot because they rely on volunteer workers.

The filing fee is based on a percent of the tens of thousands of dollars paid a U.S. senator. But McBride is a grocery store clerk in Morgantown barely making minimum wage, not a Rockefeller, he pointed out, like the incumbent U.S. senator, Jay Rockefeller.

In addition, the law requires anyone signing a nominating petition for any candidate to completely give up their right to vote in

the primary for any other candidate in any other election race.

The nominating petition also violates the right to a secret ballot and right to privacy by requiring anyone signing the petition in the January-May petitioning period to declare that they want to vote for that candidate and not merely that they believe they should be on the ballot.

McBride also told the commission in a prepared statement, "The West Virginia election code is part of several undemocratic practices such as limiting the right of organizations to set up political tables in downtown Charleston, requiring the labor movement to pay thousands of dollars for insurance in order to demonstrate in the streets, limiting the sales of newspapers on college campuses, and police harassment of Socialist Workers candidates in previous elections."

The election commission is meeting to consider rewriting the election code, but its chairman replied to McBride by extolling the virtues of the "American two-party system."

McBride gave the commission copies of the legal brief in a lawsuit brought by the SWP against several provisions in the state's election law. The suit is supported by the West Virginia Civil Liberties Union and is currently on appeal in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Supporters of the McBride campaign attended a rally on October 8 in solidarity with union coal miners on strike against Pittston Coal Group in Logan, West Virginia. A support statement from McBride was distributed to participants.

McBride was the SWP's candidate for Morgantown City Council in the April 25 election there.

Houston candidate wins ballot status

BY KATY KARLIN

HOUSTON, Texas — Greg Rosenberg, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Houston, filed 2,000 signatures here September 25 to have his name on the November ballot. This was well over the required 1,148.

Accompanying Rosenberg was Mary Pritchard, who announced her candidacy for the 18th Congressional District on the SWP ticket. The socialist mayoral candidate was informed the next day that his name is officially on the ballot.

The signatures had been collected by SWP campaign supporters over the past several months at their work places, in working-class communities, and at special events.

The SWP campaign received a warm response at an August 26 demonstration of 4,000 supporters of abortion rights. At the action more than 200 signed petitions to put Rosenberg on the ballot.

Rosenberg, 23, is a member of the International Association of Machinists. At a press conference following the filing, the SWP mayoral candidate said the difference between him and his opponents, incumbent Kathryn Whitmire and Fred Hoffheinz, is that his campaign seeks to mobilize working peo-

ple to defend themselves.

"An example of this is the strike against Eastern Airlines," explained Rosenberg, who has been active in the Eastern picket lines.

Rosenberg also told reporters that his campaign demands the expulsion of the South African consulate from Houston. "The illegitimate government of South Africa is a racist regime," he said. "The representatives of the South African people, from the trade unions to the African National Congress," Rosenberg pointed out, "have called for sanctions against it."

Pritchard, 37, who is running for the seat left vacated by the death of Rep. George Leland, said the demands for affirmative action are at the heart of the socialist campaign. She is a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union.

While Rosenberg and his supporters were present, the Administrative Assistant David Hudson, in consultation with a city attorney, accepted the SWP mayoral candidates petitions.

Two all-news radio stations, and the Fox Television outlet were present at the filing. KPRC, Houston's main AM news radio ran excerpts of Rosenberg's statement September 25.



Dick McBride

Militant/Eric Simpson



Greg Rosenberg

Militant/Chester Wilson

Artists busy at work on Pathfinder mural

BY SELVA NEBBIA

NEW YORK — If you walked along Charles Street on Manhattan's West Side October 3 in the evening, approaching West Street you'd run into an unusual scene.

On the side of the corner building was the lighted image of Cuban President Fidel Castro. The huge image was being produced from the sidewalk by a projector on a forklift 20 feet away.

Cuban painter Aldo Soler, standing on the first level of the six-story scaffold on the side of the Pathfinder Building, quickly traced the outlines of the revolutionary leader's face. Soler would use this outline the next morning as a basis for his portrait of Castro on the Pathfinder mural. Setting up the projection involved several hours and 10 people; the artist's tracing was over in 15 minutes.

Nearing completion, the mural, which celebrates the revolutionary figures whose writings are published by Pathfinder Press, is the site of much activity these days. A few large portraits, many smaller ones, clouds and grass, as well as "background" touches are being added to this collective effort.

'Artists from all over'

"I think this is a fantastic project," explained visual artist Seitu Jones while painting on the wall. "I was very excited to have come out here at this point in time, to be able to work with so many artists from so many areas of the world, Cuba, New Zealand, India. Right now there are at least 10 other artists at work on the mural," he said.

"It's been exciting to be able to collaborate too with folks from other cultures," said Jones. "For example, I am now collaborating with a Native American artist, Chris Spotted Eagle. We are working on the portraits of Native American fighters Anna Mae Aquash, and Sitting Bull."

A native of Minnesota and now living in St. Paul, Jones has completed the portrait of W.E.B. Du Bois, one of the figures represented in the mural whose work is published by Pathfinder. "Du Bois was the father of

Pan-Africanism in the United States and the man who founded the NAACP at the turn of the century," explained Jones.

Jones is also giving Ann Erpino a hand with the clouds she is painting at the top of the mural. Erpino has been painting on the mural for the last two summers and has agreed to stay on to help complete the project by November 19.

While in California, Erpino heard a show on the radio about the Pathfinder mural and decided to be part of it. "I enjoy doing this," she explained. "It's volunteer work and I like what it's about. This is my first political mural and in the process of working on it, I have learned a lot about the people depicted on the wall."

'Little people'

Besides working on many of the details around the huge printing press that is at the center of the mural, Erpino has done the sky and many of the "little people" who surround it.

These little figures march behind banners, dance, and climb on top of the books and the parts of the press. They represent the world's millions who have fought and are currently fighting for justice all over the globe. Besides these unidentified toilers and the portraits on the large pages being churned off the press, there are many in the crowd who represent well-known fighters and martyrs of the working-class movement.

Artist Nina Matthews recently completed the portrait of Mohandas Gandhi, a leader of the Indian independence struggle against Britain. Matthews is from India and studies art at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. She found out about the project while in California.

"This is the first mural I've ever done," said Matthews. "I love it. I want to do this when I get back to India."

"I like to consider myself a political artist," she explained, "because there are too many things going on in the world and art is a very viable way to comment on them."

From Argentina, Patricia Sotorello learned



Painters Patricia Sotorello, Aldo Soler (center), and Seitu Jones.

Militant/Selva Nebbia

of the mural in Chicago where she is currently residing. She studied art in the school of fine arts at the University of La Plata.

"When I first heard of the mural it seemed such an ambitious project," said Sotorello, "so much so that I thought it would be impossible for me to get a chance to work on it." While in Chicago she met a group of mural supporters who were helping to raise funds and publicize the project. They encouraged Sotorello to become part of it.

Sotorello is painting the portrait of Flora Tristan. "She was a woman who fought for women's emancipation in the 1830-40 period," she noted. "Tristan was born in France, the illegitimate daughter of a Peruvian aristocrat. She visited Peru at the time of the independence struggle and supported that cause." Tristan was called by some "a female Simón Bolívar," added Sotorello.

The portrait of Simón Bolívar, hero of the independence struggle of Latin America, is being painted not far from that of Tristan. Colombian painter Alirio Vargas is adding the final touches to Bolívar wrapped in the bright yellow, blue, and red flag of the independence movement.

Kathryn Sharp, a theater scenery painter from Brooklyn, is doing the portrait of women's liberation fighter Evelyn Reed, who wrote several books on anthropology and women's rights published by Pathfinder. Uruguayan-born painter Luis Perero is adding touches to various parts of the mural.

South African artist Dumile Feni, who painted the portrait of Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress, stopped by to work on scenes of the South African freedom struggle and to meet the other artists currently painting on the wall.

Inside the Pathfinder Building, artist Carol Byard looked through photos of Malcolm X. She was preparing for the portrait of the U.S. revolutionary leader that she will soon be painting on the wall. Mural Director Sam Manuel is busy in the mural office and at the mural site itself helping to organize the whole effort.

Greg Preston, an auto worker from St. Louis, is painting grass at the very base of the mural. "It's a new experience for me," Preston pointed out. "I've had a chance to sell and read the Pathfinder books by those portrayed on the wall, and now I get the

opportunity to work on this huge promotional piece."

At the very top, close to Erpino's sky, Malcolm McAllister is finishing the portraits of V.I. Lenin and other leaders of the Communist International in its first five years. McAllister is from New Zealand and is the mural site coordinator. Not far away, Aldo Soler — who has just finished the portrait of Fidel Castro at a lower level of the wall — is beginning his portrait of Karl Marx, a founder of the modern communist movement.

As all this work is going on, two video makers are recording the process. Passersby stop and talk to the artists and other project supporters. Many photograph the mural and walk away with mural brochures.

Funds to complete the mural are needed. Send your contributions to Pathfinder Mural Project, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Portland event raises \$700 for mural fund

BY LISA HICKLER

PORTLAND, Ore. — Sixty people attended "An Evening to Support the Pathfinder Mural" here September 26. Mark Severs, the mural fund coordinator, showed slides of the Pathfinder mural and made a presentation.

The event was held at the Laura Russo Gallery, one of Portland's top galleries, which showcases the most prominent local artists.

Joining Severs on the panel was Elisabeth Linder, mother of Ben Linder — the young Portland engineer murdered by the contras in Nicaragua two years ago. Artist Jenny Kahn will add Ben Linder's portrait to the mural in the next few weeks.

"One of the things I particularly like in the mural are the scores of unidentified people," explained Elisabeth Linder, "the normal people, who to me are the Bens, the common people who are fighting for peace and a better world."

Some of the artists present at the meeting included Manuel Izquierdo, Gina Wilson, Lucinda Parker, and Michele Russo. Several artists who worked on the Portland Central America Solidarity Committee mural also attended, as well as Central America solidarity and women's rights activists.

More than \$700 was raised for the mural project. An enthusiastic response greeted the announcement that Cuban artist Aldo Soler would be speaking in Seattle later this fall.

SEATTLE — A meeting here with Mark Severs, who was joined by Fred Dube and Elisabeth Linder, raised \$370 for the Pathfinder Mural Project. Dube is a member of the African National Congress of South Africa and is a professor at Evergreen State College in Olympia.

While in Washington State, Severs also made a presentation in Granger at a meeting of farm workers hosted by the United Farm Workers of Washington State. The meeting was opened by Bill Nicasio, vice-president of the UFWWS. After a lively two-hour discussion, the unionists contributed \$20 to help complete the mural.



A scene with Ann Erpino's "little people" on the Pathfinder mural.

Militant/Selva Nebbia

'Most revolutionary public wall ever in U.S.'

BY DUNCAN WILLIAMS

SAN JOSE, Calif. — In a recent interview Alan Barnett discussed the significance of the Pathfinder mural and its place in the mural art of this hemisphere.

Barnett, a professor of humanities at San Jose State University, is the author of *Community Murals: A People's Art*, published in 1984.

The Pathfinder mural "will undoubtedly be the most radical, revolutionary public wall ever permitted in the United States," he stated, "because to put images of these people on public walls and keep them there just hasn't happened."

"There has been very little radical art produced in this country," Barnett continued. "So this is an incredible breakthrough, one that has not been achieved before in the whole century."

"That says something not only about Pathfinder and the people behind the mural, but about the content of the whole times and the fact that progressive people, as unsuccessful as we feel, have nevertheless been able to provide an opening up."

Barnett and his wife, Ruth, were longtime activists in the civil rights and antiwar movements of the 1960s and later in legal defense and prisoners' rights work. They have traveled to Nicaragua and Cuba twice and throughout Latin America.

Commenting on the aesthetic aspects of the mural, Barnett said, "I was talking with a prominent artist just a week ago, an old-timer, who thought it was rather traditional and conventional in its form. I was not persuaded. It's legible, for one thing, it's realistic, and yet it's fresh."

The press that is at the center of the mural, says Barnett, reminds him of a "big red dragon, both the rolls of newsprint and the vertebrae-like presses. The dragon is the seminal image in so many cultures. You think of Quetzalcoatl, the Aztec god of culture. You think of the lucky dragon in China. The Greeks thought humankind was born from the sowing of dragon's teeth. The idea of this dragon rearing up over the earth and spitting out the revolutionary wall of fame — I think it's a splendid idea."

The mural will have a large impact, Barnett predicted. "I think it's important as one looks at the aesthetics of it to look at the sheer fact of its possibility."

"It makes possible new murals, it permits steps by many other people to do similar things or even to go beyond it in time."

Walk-throughs, expanded pickets target Eastern

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

SUPPORT EASTERN STRIKERS!

pilots, the walkout crippled Eastern, 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.

A twice-monthly expanded solidarity picket line at Los Angeles International Airport in support of striking Eastern workers has attracted other striking unionists.

During September the picket line was joined by meat-packers on strike against the Ol' Virginia com-

pany. The packinghouse workers distributed information on their strike while walking the picket line with the striking Eastern workers.

Members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union on strike against the sportswear maker La Mode have also turned out for the expanded pickets. On September 23 more than 150 unionists participated.

Machinists in Los Angeles are reaching out to other unions as well, such as the Amalgamated Transit Union. At the recent ATU convention, striking Eastern workers set up a table, sold strike T-shirts and buttons, and addressed the convention participants.

Students at the University of Louisville in Kentucky have begun to organize strike-support activity.

Strikers, with the help of members of the U of L Progressive Student League, handed out more than 200 leaflets explaining the issues in the strike. Sixteen students signed up to work on bringing strikers back to the university for a speaking engagement, and a number are discussing setting up an Eastern and miners' strike support committee on campus.

The strike got another boost when the university's sports team decided to stop flying Eastern after discussing the strike with pilots on the picket line.

Nearly 200 supporters of the strike participated in a walk-through at Washington, D.C.'s National Airport on September 29. It was the third walk-through of the airport in a month.

Each successive action has received broader support from area unions. The September 29 protest included railroad workers, Teamsters, Seafarers, food workers, telephone workers, musicians, nurses, textile workers, and Machinists from other airlines.

Thirty other airline workers met the protest as it entered the Main Terminal. They had been organized by flight attendants at Trump Shuttle to greet the walk-through. Five fuelers from Ogden Allied also greeted the strikers. The fuelers, members of IAM Local 1747, have been forced to fuel Eastern aircraft.

The strikers and their supporters passed nearly every ticket counter in the airport, then went outside the terminal and through the parking lot where they could be seen by hundreds of airline passengers.

When the marchers tried to reenter the terminal near the Eastern counters, they were met by police who told them to leave because the strikers' clapping "was an inconvenience to passengers."

Outside the terminal Lee Russell, president of IAM Local 796, pointed to the harassment by the police and said, "What about me? I'm in-

convenienced by this strike too. But if we stand by and let them do this to us one at a time we'll all go down. I'm walking back through the terminal and exercising my constitutional rights."

The entire rally headed back into the terminal. There were no further incidents.

The largest strike-support action in several months in Portland, Oregon, took place September 19.

Sponsored by the Oregon State AFL-CIO, an airport rally drew more than 150 unionists from around the state. Many of the participants came from the state AFL-CIO convention taking place in Portland at the time.

Striking Eastern workers addressed the convention and set up an information table. The strikers got a hand staffing the table from United and Northwest airlines Machinists. Some \$1,300 was raised through button sales and a collection on the convention floor for flight attendants, who receive no strike benefits.

An Eastern strike information table was also set up outside the October 3 contract vote meeting of Boeing Machinists in Portland. The aircraft workers rejected the Boeing Co.'s offer and voted to go out on strike. The Boeing workers donated more than \$100 to the Eastern strikers.

On September 25 Eastern lost its 12th attempt to prosecute striking members of Local 1018 at the La Guardia and Syracuse, New York, airports.

The latest case had been postponed by Eastern on three occasions in an attempt to secure witnesses to testify against Mario Zayas, a striking Eastern ramp worker at La Guardia in New York City. The company claimed Zayas had broken the windshield of a van full of scabs crossing the picket line.

At the last court hearing the union provided six witnesses ready to testify on Zayas' behalf. The company came up with only one witness, a member of Eastern security.

Just prior to the hearing Eastern's lawyer agreed not to press charges as long as Zayas was not rearrested in the next six months. Since this did not mean any admission of guilt, Zayas and the union accepted the deal.

The other 11 cases, four in Syracuse and five in New York, were also dropped by the company.

Striking IAM members Nancy Brown from Local 796 in Alexandria, Virginia, and Ernie Mailhot from Local 1018 in New York, along with John Charbonnet from Portland, Bronson Rozier from Louisville, and Janice Sams in Los Angeles contributed to this column.

Atlanta strikers keep a high profile at airport

BY SUSAN LaMONT

ATLANTA — The strike against Eastern Airlines has a high profile at Hartsfield International Airport here.

One of the first things an arriving passenger sees coming into the North Terminal is a group of striking machinists and pilots picketing near the baggage claim area. You can't walk very far inside or outside the airport without seeing groups of pickets.

There are 2,800 members of International Association of Machinists Local 1690 on strike here. They picket the airport 24 hours a day, in eight-hour shifts.

Atlanta was a major hub for Eastern before the strike started and is projected as the center for the "new" scab Eastern. Strikers estimate several hundred Eastern flights a day currently fly into Atlanta.

The airline has a maintenance hangar here, which strikers also picket — under the close eye of cops, who come out regularly to make sure that no more than six strikers are on the line, as ordered by court injunction.

Strikers are proud that only three local members have crossed the picket line. The local has also worked to block Eastern's efforts to hire more scabs.

"Eastern recently went to an aviation school in Memphis, Tennessee, to try to recruit scab mechanics," John Wallace explained on October 5. Wallace, a ramp worker with 22 years at Eastern, is picket captain for the 4:00 p.m. to midnight shift on Thursdays. "So they got two young guys to come here to go to work. They were living in the YMCA. Eastern had told them that there wasn't really a strike anymore — just a bunch of dissidents and troublemakers. Eastern told them to ignore us."

"One evening before they started work, they were in a bar and happened to meet our local president Mike Flynn," Wallace continued. "He told them what was really happening with the strike. He brought them over to our 'tent city' and more strikers talked to them. We convinced them not to take the jobs at Eastern and helped them get jobs at Lockheed."

"Tent City" is made up of two large tents set up in a field near the maintenance hangar. It's where strikers come to be dispatched for picket duty, catch up on the latest strike news, and grab a bite to eat or get a drink. The field outside the tent has been the site of several rallies during the strike.

Several strikers talked about the need for more such activities. "We need 4,000 or 5,000 people out here at the airport to support us,"

said one ramp worker. "We need to get more visibility," agreed another. "The media has forgotten about us."

Inside the terminal, two strikers were taking a break. William Breban and José Valentin, both ramp workers, are from Puerto Rico and have worked for Eastern for more than 20 years.

"It doesn't look good right now," said Breban. "But we are still confident. We're right. We aren't fighting for more money — we're fighting for our pride, for better working conditions, for self-respect. These are the main issues."

"The strike would have been over a long time ago if the government had been looking out for us," said Valentin. The bankruptcy court, he added, works for Lorenzo. Like many other strikers, Valentin is hopeful that the congressional resolution calling for the appointment of a "blue-ribbon" panel to look into the strike may lead to something positive for the strikers.

Outside by Eastern's doors on the departures level, another group of pickets was talking. "I'm still optimistic that we will eventually win, once the truth is known," said Howard Thompson, a ramp worker with 11

years. "We're here for the duration. It hurts at first when you go out, but then you adjust. We just can't allow someone to come and do what Lorenzo has done to us."

Over at Tent City, Leo, an aircraft mechanic with 32 years at Eastern, said he thought the strikers' fight was "between the unions and big business, not just between the union and Eastern."

"All big business cares about is if Lorenzo can knock wages down 50 percent," he said. "If they can break us, it will affect wages throughout the country — everyone's wages will be cut."

IAM fuelers step up support to Eastern strike



Striking IAM Local 796 member Susie Winsten with four Ogden Allied fuelers, at Washington, D.C.'s National Airport. The fuelers — who have been forced to service Eastern flights — are trying to deepen support for strike.

Continued from front page

ing, ramp work, and catering for its scab flights. In some cities these companies are organized by the IAM, in others, they are nonunion. In all cases, workers at them make lower wages and have fewer benefits than unionized workers at the major airlines, if they have any at all.

The Ogden Allied petition was addressed to local, district, and international officials of the IAM. It urges the IAM to "authorize and

allow our union brothers in Local 1747 to put solidarity into action by not fueling or working on Eastern's equipment for the duration of the strike."

"It is high time," the petition adds, "that the IAM and all union members honor each others' picket lines, for surely the battle against the Frank Lorenzos of the world will not end with this strike. If we unite together and use our union's power, we can and will win a victory for the entire labor movement in winning the

strike against Eastern Airlines."

On September 27 three Eastern strikers teamed up with an Ogden Allied worker to talk with other fuelers at the afternoon shift change at the airport.

Of the 23 Ogden workers who came by, 21 signed the petition. "It's about time," one said. "We should have done something before."

Since then, Ogden workers have been circulating the petition inside at work, and 15 more have signed.

At the September 29 "walk-through" the airport organized by IAM Local 796, five Ogden fuelers came — in their uniforms — to cheer on the strikers. Local 1747 member Jeff Garland also spoke at the rally.

Support for the petition effort is growing. "We do want to help the Eastern strikers," explained Tony Cangiano as he came out of work October 4. "That's why we're circulating this petition." Cangiano has worked for Ogden for 22 years.

Several Ogden workers said that without the help of district and international IAM officials, they won't be able to stop fueling Eastern planes. "Now if we stop, we'll just lose our jobs," explained one worker.

Another Ogden worker explained that some Local 1747 members have walked the Eastern picket line and donated money to the strike.

Eastern strikers plan to circulate the petition more widely among IAM members at National and at Dulles International Airport, another of the three airports in the Washington area.

Already nearly 100 members of IAM Local 1759 at Dulles — most of whom work for United Airlines — have signed the petition.

October 21-27 set as target week for int'l sales drive

BY SUSAN LaMONT

With the international circulation drive at the midway point, supporters of the socialist press have set October 21-27 as a "target" week in order to step up the pace of the drive and make it possible to reach the November 12 windup ahead of schedule.

The scoreboard this week shows that the drive as a whole is slightly — one percentage point — ahead of schedule. But a quick glance at the breakdown at the bottom shows that the drive is "on time" only because *Militant* sales are ahead.

The target week will make it possible to catch up on sales of the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, French-language quarterly *Lutte ouvrière*, and the Marxist magazines *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale*, bringing the drive to a successful conclusion for all the publications. The overall goal is 9,000 new readers.

Supporters will want to start mapping out plans for the target week now, including special efforts to catch up in the publications that are lagging. The goal should be to involve the maximum number of supporters on well-

organized teams throughout the week, clearing the decks of other activity to make this possible.

Plans for the target week may include special regional teams. Recently a sales team visited mining communities in Virginia, Kentucky, and West Virginia, selling 28 subscriptions to miners and their families in just a few days. More than 50 subscriptions were sold in one week by a cross-Canada team.

The *Militant's* firsthand coverage of the strikes at Eastern Airlines, Pittston coal company, and Boeing's aerospace operations are of special interest to many unionists. At a United Auto Workers-organized Boeing plant in Toronto workers bought 23 copies of the *Militant* in 25 minutes at a morning shift-change sale October 10.

On October 7 *Militant* supporters from many cities participated in the Housing Now! demonstration in Washington, D.C., along with thousands of other unionists, students, homeless people, and political activists. Demonstrators were eager to read the socialist press — 198 bought subscriptions to the *Militant* and seven subscribed to *Perspectiva Mundial*.

New Zealand: good response to regional sales teams

BY AGNES BRIGHT

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand — A four-person sales team from here recently visited the city of Dunedin and sold 14 subscriptions to the *Militant* and 1 to *Perspectiva Mundial*, along with 6 copies of *New International*, 22 single copies of the *Militant*, and US\$55 worth of socialist literature.

The trip to Dunedin, which is on the southeastern shore of New Zealand's South Island, began with an early morning visit to the Fisher and Paykel stove and dishwasher manufacturing plant, where two *Militant* subscriptions and two copies of the *Action Program* and two copies of the *Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis* pamphlet were sold.

During the day, the team set up a literature table at the university that generated considerable interest. Information about the international defense campaign for framed-up U.S. unionist Mark Curtis went quickly.

In the evening the team set up a table at Dunedin's main shopping center. Friday-night shoppers bought three copies of the *Action Program* and several books, including *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution*. A set of all six issues of *New International* were

sold to a satisfied *Militant* subscriber.

BY JANET WARMAN

PALMERSTON NORTH, New Zealand — A sales team from Wellington visited Massey University here in September and sold 21 *Militant* subscriptions and nine copies of the *Action Program* around student hostels and from a literature table on campus.

Many students come to Massey from other countries, especially to take agriculture courses.

A *Militant* subscription and *Action Program* were sold to a student from Papua-New Guinea, who wanted the paper sent to his home so that it could be circulated among his friends.

A student from Indonesia also bought a subscription. "In our country, newspapers like this are not allowed," he explained.

Several Pathfinder pamphlets about Cuba were purchased by a student from Iran.

A student from Somalia decided to subscribe to the *Militant*, and another from Tanzania got an *Action Program* because of what it says about the fight to cancel the Third World debt.

Protests aim to free Irish artist

NEW YORK — Prominent individuals, organizations, and supporters of democratic rights have begun to send messages of protest to the U.S. Attorney Andrew Maloney demanding the release of Gerard Kelly.

Kelly, a muralist from Northern Ireland and a republican activist, was arrested by the FBI at Kennedy Airport here September 27. Since then he has been imprisoned at the Metropolitan Correctional Center, accused of giving "false" information on an immigration form.

British Labour Party members of parliament Jeremy Corbyn, Alice Mahon, and Chris Mullen, signed a statement protesting Kelly's arrest and demanding his immediate release. Labour Party front bench spokesman on the media and the arts, Mark Fisher, and the general secretary of the Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians, Alan Sapper, also added their names to the letter.

Accompanied by his fiancée Caron McMullan, Kelly, a resident of Belfast, Northern Ireland, came to New York to paint on the Pathfinder mural on Manhattan's West Side. McMullan was also detained at the airport and released after being questioned by the

FBI. She has been seeking support for Kelly since then.

Three Irish-American weeklies — the *Irish Echo*, the *Irish Voice*, and the *Irish People* — carried stories on Kelly's arrest. McMullan was on several radio shows explaining Kelly's plight, including WBAI's "Radio Free Erin" show. An article also appeared in *An Phoblacht*, the paper of Sinn Féin in Ireland.

Supporters of Kelly's release gathered 100 signatures in a petition demanding his release at a Newark rally October 7 for Irish activist Joe Doherty. Doherty has been imprisoned by U.S. authorities since 1983.

About 70 signed the petition at an Irish Northern Aid Unity Dance in Queens, October 6. Deborah Jackson of the American Society of Jurists, Darrell McPherson of the Labor Committee Against Apartheid, and Elombe Brath of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition were among those who signed at a reception for Angola's foreign minister.

Protest messages can be sent to: Andrew Maloney, U.S. Attorney, Eastern District, 225 Cadman Plaza E., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201. Send copies to: Pathfinder Mural Project 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.



More than 200 demonstrators at October 7 housing march in Washington, D.C., bought subscriptions to *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Subscription drive scoreboard

	DRIVE GOALS			Militant		New Int'l		Perspectiva		Lutte	
				subscriptions		single copies		subscriptions		subscriptions	
Areas	Goal	Total Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES											
Detroit*	260	205	79%	207	179	30	8	18	15	5	3
Greensboro, NC	110	80	73%	85	69	15	7	8	3	2	1
St. Louis	185	124	67%	150	108	25	10	7	5	3	1
Des Moines, Iowa	225	137	61%	170	116	25	4	25	17	5	0
Washington, DC	165	100	61%	100	83	25	3	35	13	5	1
Morgantown, WV	137	82	60%	100	66	25	14	10	2	2	0
Baltimore	175	101	58%	135	89	25	8	10	4	5	0
Cleveland	105	60	57%	75	51	18	6	10	2	2	1
Austin, Minn.	87	46	53%	65	33	10	0	10	13	2	0
Brooklyn	410	198	48%	260	99	60	38	65	47	25	14
Miami	300	144	48%	180	99	40	11	50	20	30	14
Philadelphia	225	108	48%	155	90	30	1	35	17	5	0
Kansas City	117	56	48%	80	44	20	3	15	9	2	0
Birmingham, Ala.	177	82	46%	140	81	25	1	10	0	2	0
Omaha, Neb.	122	56	46%	85	52	20	2	15	2	2	0
Pittsburgh	165	75	45%	120	66	30	8	10	1	5	0
Price, Utah	52	23	44%	35	21	8	1	8	1	1	0
New York	665	280	42%	330	177	150	42	150	55	35	6
Atlanta	210	86	41%	155	74	30	5	20	7	5	0
Seattle	138	56	41%	95	49	20	2	20	5	3	0
Phoenix	77	31	40%	45	19	15	6	15	6	2	0
Salt Lake City	137	52	38%	100	32	20	15	15	5	2	0
Newark, NJ	490	184	38%	250	117	95	31	95	33	50	3
San Francisco	240	88	37%	165	57	35	16	35	15	5	0
Portland, Ore.	195	70	36%	150	61	20	0	20	8	5	1
Twin Cities, Minn.	320	111	35%	250	104	35	0	30	6	5	1
Oakland, Calif.	200	67	34%	125	51	30	2	40	14	5	0
Milwaukee	123	41	33%	85	37	15	0	20	3	3	1
Houston	227	68	30%	150	54	30	5	45	7	2	2
Boston	250	70	28%	160	40	35	11	40	13	15	6
Chicago	360	100	28%	225	66	50	14	75	19	10	1
Los Angeles	510	135	26%	285	84	90	9	130	42	5	0
Charleston, WV	112	26	23%	90	24	15	1	5	1	2	0
National teams	-	49	-	-	49	-	-	-	-	-	-
Binghamton, NY*	45	21	47%	36	18	3	2	4	0	2	1
Cincinnati	10	4	40%	10	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Denver	20	3	15%	10	0	-	-	10	3	-	-
Louisville, Ky.	8	2	25%	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other U.S.	50	33	66%	40	28	5	2	5	3	-	-
U.S. TOTAL	7,404	3,254	44%	4,906	2,493	1,124	288	1,115	416	259	57
AUSTRALIA											
	60	27	45%	35	15	6	3	17	8	2	1
BRITAIN											
South Yorks	107	51	48%	70	24	25	22	10	5	2	0
London	165	58	35%	105	37	30	11	25	10	5	0
Manchester	74	21	28%	50	20	18	1	5	0	1	0
South Wales	62	13	21%	40	10	10	1	10	1	2	1
Other Britain	-	18	-	-	17	-	-	-	1	-	-
BRITAIN TOTAL	408	161	39%	265	108	83	35	50	17	10	1
CANADA											
Toronto*	250	146	58%	140	91	40	17	55	32	15	6
Montreal	230	103	45%	90	33	40	10	40	34	60	26
Vancouver	145	57	39%	100	41	20	2	20	12	5	2
Other Canada	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
CANADA TOTAL	625	308	49%	330	166	100	29	115	79	80	34
FRANCE											
	40	13	33%	5	0	5	0	10	6	20	7
ICELAND											
	20	12	60%	15	11	3	0	1	1	1	0
NEW ZEALAND											
Wellington	86	47	55%	70	46	12	0	3	0	1	1
Christchurch	77	35	45%	60	27	10	7	5	1	2	0
Auckland	162	56	35%	120	44	30	6	10	6	2	0
N.Z. TOTAL	325	138	42%	250	117	52	13	18	7	5	1
SWEDEN											
	66	36	55%	35	16	5	4	25	16	1	0
PUERTO RICO											
	35	4	11%	7	0	2	0	25	4	1	0
Int'l teams	205	80	39%	100	64	25	3	75	11	5	2
Other int'l	-	8	-	-	6	-	-	-	2	-	-
TOTAL	9,188	4,041	45%	5,948	2,996	1,405	375	1,451	567	384	103
DRIVE GOALS											
	9,000			5,800		1,400		1,400		400	
TO BE ON SCHEDULE											
		4,000	44%		2,578		622		622		178
*Raised goal during drive											

*Raised goal during drive

Meeting celebrates Ken Shilman's life and contributions

Communist for nearly 30 years

BY MARGARET JAYKO

OAKLAND, Calif. — Some 100 people attended a public meeting here October 1 to celebrate the life and political contributions of Ken Shilman.

Shilman died September 7 of cancer at the age of 47. He was a longtime leader of the Socialist Workers Party. Meeting participants included a dozen members of Shilman's family, in addition to coworkers, comrades, and friends. Union activists from Shilman's two most recent jobs in the Northern California Bay Area — at the Unocal oil refinery and the FMC tank manufacturing plant — were on hand.

Shilman's participation in the civil rights movement of the early 1960s was addressed by speaker Nelson Blackstock, who was himself an activist in the struggle against segregation.

In 1961, Shilman became a "freedom rider" — one of the youthful activists who traveled to the deep South, integrating buses and bus terminals as they went, in an effort to force the federal government to uphold the law against segregated interstate transportation facilities.

Arriving in Jackson, Mississippi, in June 1961, Shilman was arrested for what would be the first of several times as a result of his antisegregation activities. His picture, along with those of fellow freedom riders Joe McDonald and Price Chatham, were splashed across newspapers and television screens around the country. Shilman was widely quoted, in the *New York Times* and other major media, telling the truth about the brutality meted out to the freedom riders by Mississippi cops.

'A courageous fighter'

Later that year, while participating in the defense of Robert F. Williams, Shilman met the SWP. Williams was a leader of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Monroe, North Carolina. He came under heavy attack from racist vigilantes and was then framed up on kidnapping charges by the government. The SWP was in the forefront of the Williams' defense effort.

Williams is currently the organizer of the People's Association for Human Rights, Inc., in Baldwin, Michigan. "Ken was a courageous fighter, humanitarian, and great champion of the people's cause," Williams wrote in a message to the meeting. "When the besieged Black people of Monroe . . . were facing the most intense and dangerous phase of their do-or-die struggle . . . Ken responded beyond the call of duty by placing his body and soul on the firing line."

Ken's mother, who had flown in from New York for the meeting, supported her son's civil rights activities. Her house in Oceanside, Long Island, was a popular resting place for freedom riders, a fact that didn't sit well with the FBI and some of her white neighbors.



Mike O'Toole

In 1979 Shilman was helping lead the party's expansion into the coalfields of West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Shilman went to Birmingham to talk to SWP members there about the need to orient to the mine workers' union in Alabama, given the important role of the United Mine Workers of America in the fightback against employer attacks. Blackstock was the organizer of the newly formed Birmingham SWP branch.

In addition to SWP members seeking jobs in the mines, the party also strove to meet and talk politics with as many miners as possible. From the beginning, one form this took was selling the *Militant* at mine portals.

On June 7, 1979, Blackstock and Eric Flint were selling the *Militant* at the entrance of a U.S. Steel mine. The headline that week was about an anti-Ku Klux Klan protest in Decatur, Alabama. In an assault instigated by the mine owners, KKK thugs attacked Flint and Blackstock, permanently crippling Blackstock.

Shilman, who learned of the attack the same day, took the first plane from Pittsburgh to Birmingham and helped lead a national political campaign in defense of free speech, against U.S. Steel. UMW members around the country, as well as other unionists, were centrally involved in this fight.

Solidarity with Stearns, Jericol miners

Mary Zins, currently a member of Local 2295 of the UMW in southern Illinois, was part of the party's move into the Appalachian coalfields in the late 1970s and early 1980s. She recently returned from a trip to Britain and France where she spoke with miners from those countries. She described Shilman's role in building a branch of the SWP in Morgantown, which is a coal-mining center in northern West Virginia.

Zins described how the Morgantown branch threw itself into building support for the Stearns strike in Kentucky and the 110-day national UMW walkout in 1977-8. A struggle to defend the miners at the Jericol mine in Harlan County, Kentucky, followed when the mine owner refused to sign the contract won in the national strike. At that time Gerald Cornette was president of UMW Local 8771 at the Jericol Mine.

"I first met Ken during the miners' strike at the Jericol coal mine in 1978-79," recalled Cornette in a message to the meeting. "Later on, I ran into Ken in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and then in Birmingham, Alabama."

"In Birmingham, we both spoke at a rally against bigotry, hatred, and the Ku Klux Klan," continued Cornette. Shilman, he said, was one of those "quiet people . . . working in the background, carrying the torch, spreading the word, about working people. . . . Ken will never be forgotten by those of us who knew and loved him. Every time there's a fight for social justice, a labor strike, or people trying to organize a union — we'll remember Ken."

Shilman's starting point, said Zins, was how to strengthen the hand of the miners and their union against the employers. He always stressed that "our eyes had to be on the fighters — the youth, the women, the Blacks," she pointed out. And "our eyes had to be on the union as a whole. So we ended up taking a lot of regional trips."

Working-class unity

Marie Cobbs worked with Shilman at the FMC plant where they both got hired in 1984. Cobbs was one of several Black women subjected to company-inspired racist and sexist harassment by some coworkers, as well as foremen.

It was difficult, Cobbs told the meeting, to keep an objective, communist political perspective in the face of this. Shilman played a central role in helping her and other workers who were targets of this abuse to understand and explain to coworkers the need to unify the working class across race and sex lines, explaining how such reactionary harassment



Militant photos by Arnold Weissberg

Marie Cobbs (left) and Mary Zins spoke at gathering

only weakens the union and benefits the employers.

Cobbs then introduced Mike O'Toole, vice-president of International Association of Machinists Local 562 at FMC.

O'Toole had worked with Shilman to win support for the strike in Austin, Minnesota, by United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 in 1985-86. Shilman told him there were two things you had to explain to workers when you asked for solidarity with P-9. One was the offensive the employers have been carrying out against the unions in the 1980s. And the second was that serious fights, like the one P-9 was involved in, gave a glimpse of what the future holds for all working people.

"Ken understood and believed in the working class," observed O'Toole. Shilman helped promote a tour of IAM members to Nicaragua because he thought it was important for workers to go there to see for themselves the problems and advantages of Nicaragua's workers' and farmers' government.

"Ken had a unique ability to clarify things," the union official stressed. During the 1987 contract negotiations at FMC, Shilman helped orient union activists who were organizing the membership to vote down the proposed contract. "He said, 'You've got to tell people this is designed to gut the union.' And I can personally attest that he was right."

'Things are hot again'

Shilman was excited about the struggles of the Eastern workers and Pittston miners. "Things are hot again," he would say," recalled O'Toole. "He understood and explained to me many times that as long as you're in the capitalist system, there's no happy medium between labor and manage-

ment. It's always going to be a war and it's always got to be a war."

The final speaker was Elizabeth Stone, a longtime member of the SWP National Committee.

The thing that stands out above all about Shilman, said Stone, was his grasp of the key challenge facing working people today. "If we are to effectively counter the employers' attacks on us, we must rely on ourselves. No other force can do it for us," stressed Stone. Fighting for the self-mobilization of the working class, to make it stronger and more confident, is what Shilman devoted his life to.

He was drawn to places like Monroe, North Carolina, and Cuba, she said, because they were battles involving working people. Shilman joined the SWP in 1962, said Stone, not only because he wanted to be in a party that defended the Cuban revolution, but one that was also dedicated to accomplishing in the United States what the workers and farmers had done in Cuba.

Listening to Malcolm X

Stone explained that in the early 1960s Shilman, along with other party members, would go to the Audubon Ballroom in New York to hear the revolutionary, working-class fighter, Malcolm X, speak. "We would take the *Militant* with us," said Stone. "The *Militant* would often carry speeches by Malcolm X. It was very hard to get the truth about Malcolm X from anyone else or anywhere else except the *Militant*. We would listen to Malcolm and sell the newspaper."

For many of the years Shilman was politically active, said Stone, there weren't big working-class struggles. Students tended to be in the fore of the mass protest movements

Continued on Page 13

Contribute to the Pathfinder Fund

Pathfinder Press publishes writings and speeches by communist and working-class fighters such as Fidel Castro, Ernesto Che Guevara, Malcolm X, Maurice Bishop, Thomas Sankara, Farrell Dobbs, James P. Cannon, Nelson Mandela, Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, V.I. Lenin, and Leon Trotsky.

A special effort has been urged to raise \$100,000 by November 1 in the \$150,000 fund that was launched by Pathfinder in August. Because of growing receptivity, Pathfinder needs funds right away to help reprint additional quantities of

some new books and pamphlets, including Malcolm X: The Last Speeches, of which 16,000 copies have already been shipped.

Even with increased sales, Pathfinder does not come close to covering costs without special contributions from supporters. Pathfinder needs your financial help to continue its ambitious publishing and promotion of revolutionary working-class literature.

So far \$38,400 has been collected. The deadline for completing the fund is December 1. Please contribute as generously as possible.

\$150,000

\$100,000

\$38,400

- ☐ Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____
- ☐ I wish to pledge \$ _____ toward the fund.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Province _____

Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____

Clip and send to Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

FSLN chooses candidates for '90 elections

Ortega, Ramírez nominated; Nicaraguan convention discusses platform

BY JUDY WHITE
AND SETH GALINSKY

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Punctuated by the sound of whistles, noisemakers, the traditional music of Nicaraguan *chichero* bands, and the slogan, "Everything will get better," some 1,500 members and supporters of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) met here September 24 to adopt their platform and name their candidates for the February 1990 elections.

A few weeks earlier the United Nicaraguan Opposition, a coalition of 14 opposition parties, nominated Violeta Barrios de Chamorro and Virgilio Godoy as its candidates for president and vice-president.

The day-long FSLN convention followed what was reported by *Barricada*, the FSLN's daily paper, to be a "broad and prolonged democratic process of consultation inside the FSLN and with other social movements and sectors." This process it said was aimed at incorporating their demands into the platform and at developing a list of nominees from each region of the country for the presidency, vice-presidency, and the 90 National Assembly seats to be filled.

FSLN leader Bayardo Arce opened the convention and introduced discussion on the platform, noting that the goal must be to develop a platform that is "realistic, responsible, and possible to accomplish" in the coming years.

The document sets out economic goals to be met by the FSLN, among them to pave an additional 310 miles of highway, to double the number of telephone lines in Managua, to boost exports by 20 percent a year, and to build 6,000 homes annually.

It also sets goals in health, education, culture, and recreation; and for workers, artisans, small manufacturers, women, youth, professionals, and war victims.

Ortega, Ramírez nominated

FSLN leader Tomás Borge nominated Daniel Ortega and Sergio Ramírez as candidates for president and vice-president.

The U.S. government has failed in its attempt to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution militarily and economically, Ortega told a press conference here, two days after he won the nomination.

"Now we face each other in the political

and electoral arena," Ortega stated. "There does not exist a real opposition here. It is an artificial one. The United States is the real opposition."

Ortega rejected the idea of a debate with the opposition. But a debate or discussion with U.S. President George Bush, "the main leader of the opposition," is possible, he said. "Bush knows exactly what he wants. I am willing to dialogue publicly with President Bush, in a constructive sense."

The U.S. and Nicaraguan governments agree with each other on peace, democracy, and stability for Central America, Ortega said. "We are willing to work with the United States to strengthen our areas of agreement."

The FSLN platform calls on opposition political forces to play a constructive role in the framework of "guarantees to maintain social, cooperative, communal, and private property forms" and "the social pact between the government, businesses, and workers."

In the section on agrarian reform and development, the FSLN promises to protect "ownership of land" and to give out land to 25,000 additional peasants.

A pledge to grant credits to working farmers and guarantees that they will not lose their lands as the result of inefficiency or indebtedness was modified during the discussion to also include capitalist landowners.

Labor code

Among the FSLN's pledges to workers was to enact a new labor code. The current code contains provisions allowing employers to arbitrarily fire workers, actions "that have become a daily occurrence both in state and private enterprises," according to a recent article in *Trinchera*, the weekly newspaper of the pro-FSLN trade unions.

The section on women includes a promise of "campaigns on family planning and sex education." It also pledges to "struggle for the stability and unity of the family."

A demand by Félix López, a leader of the pro-FSLN teachers' union, ANDEN, that "a law supporting the right to abortion" be projected as part of the platform on women was not brought to a vote at the convention.

Ray Hooker, a National Assembly member from Bluefields, hailed the section of the platform dealing with the Atlantic Coast. "For the first time," he said, "an election platform has taken up the genuine aspirations of the inhabitants of the Coast," referring to the isolation and national oppression the Atlantic Coast's peoples faced in the past.

This section of the draft pledges the FSLN to provide "strong support for the autonomy process," including respecting the traditions and religious beliefs of Coast residents; relaunching bilingual, bicultural education and literacy programs; participation by Coast communities in the exploitation of the area's natural resources and development projects.

In his nominating speech, Borge said, "In the present historic context, the people of Nicaragua are getting ready to discuss the foundations that will carry them into the next century."

Borge continued, "In the coming years we are going to do what it has been impossible to do because of the war. We are going to carry out a social revolution. We are going to surprise humanity with profound, humane, democratic changes."

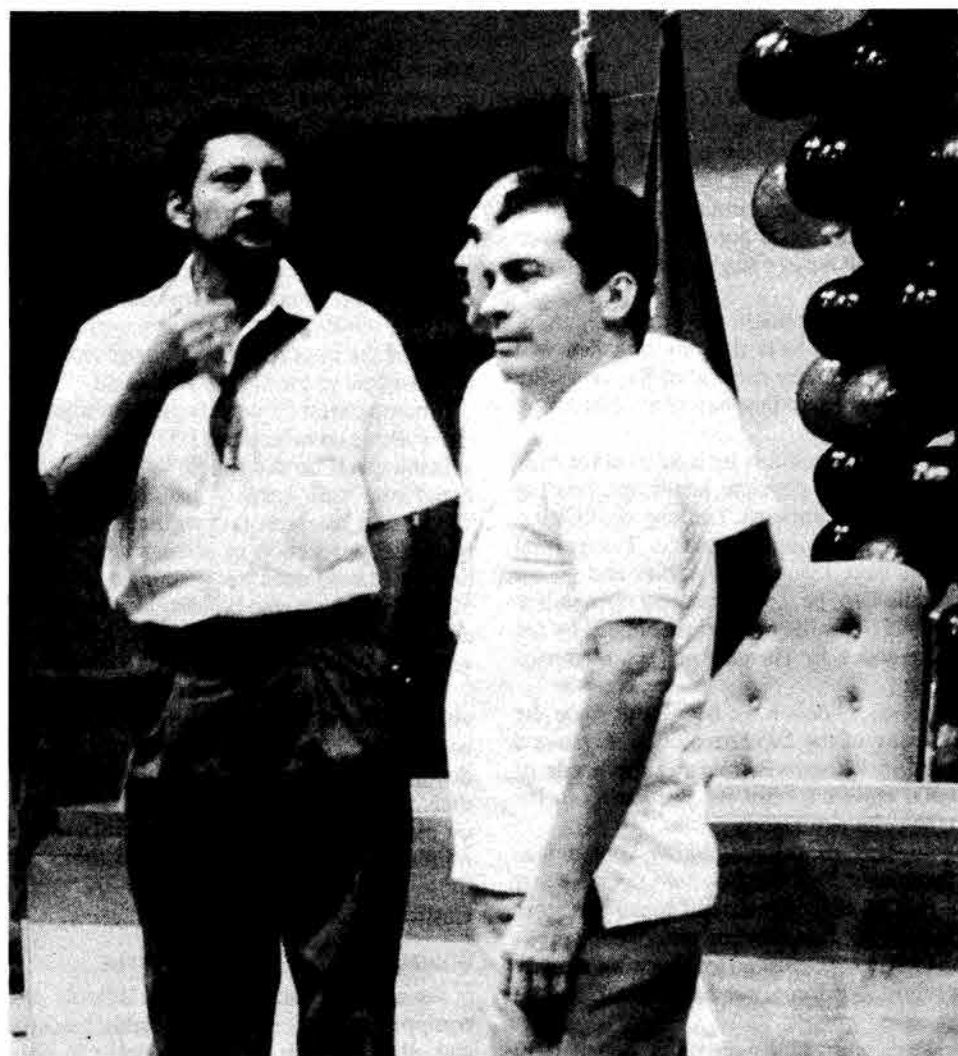
Borge: 'We are original'

"We are original," the FSLN leader said. "We have charted our own course. The compass that guides us is made of our clay, our own roots, and our own blood. Without shunning other experiences, we have chosen a singular path, which through its creativity and independence is a hope for other peoples."

In nominating its National Assembly candidates, a number of prominent capitalist businessmen, farmers, and ranchers, most of whom are not members of the FSLN, were chosen. The number of such candidates is greater than in the 1984 FSLN slate.

The elections "will open up a new situation both internally and internationally," Ortega told the press. "That is, the polarization that exists at this moment inside Nicaragua will disappear immediately after the elections."

"We are convinced," the president continued, "that immediately after the elections, the European countries are going to open up



Militant/Judy White
Sandinista National Liberation Front leader Bayardo Arce (left) at September FSLN nominating convention in Managua. Daniel Ortega and Sergio Ramírez were nominated for Nicaragua president and vice-president.

greater amounts of financing," Ortega said that Japan would also join in. "International opinion will ratify the democratic, popular, revolutionary process in Nicaragua," he stated.

"We will have a definitive peace after the elections. Then the Sandinista Front will undoubtedly be in a better position to promote a number of programs that were affected by the years of war."

Israelis ban faxing in Gaza

BY HARRY RING

The Israeli military has banned the use of facsimile machines in the Gaza Strip. The move is aimed at muzzling a growing network of Palestinian news correspondents who are helping to get out the facts about the Palestinian uprising, the *intifada*.

To justify the ban on fax machines, Israeli authorities asserted that they were being used to promote the *intifada* by circulating documents and leaflets.

In fact, the machines are a key piece of equipment for the news services that have been springing up at the very time Palestinian papers are being suppressed.

The fax machine decree was announced August 27. Earlier that week Raanan Gisin, a spokesperson for the Israeli Defense Forces, lashed out at Palestinian press agencies, branding them "war bodies." The electronic media, he asserted, has become "a means of war for terrorist organizations."

From the beginning of the *intifada*, the Israeli regime moved systematically to muffle the Palestinian press. Censorship was stiffened. Papers were even barred from using material reported previously in the Israeli press. News offices were raided and editors and reporters jailed without charges. Several journalists have been deported from their homeland.

Meanwhile, there has been a hothouse growth of Palestinian news services.

These news agencies provide extensive, detailed coverage of the *intifada* as it is being waged in towns, villages, and refugee camps across the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Their reporting is used by Palestinian papers still able to function, by Israeli and foreign correspondents, and by the media in other Arab countries.

The reporting is regarded as accurate and reliable.

An account of this development was featured in the September issue of *Newsletter on Freedom of the Press*. It is published in Jerusalem by a committee called Forum of Action for Freedom of the Press and the Reopening of *Derech Hanitzotz/Tariq al-Sharara*.

Derech Hanitzotz/Tariq al-Sharara (Hebrew and Arabic for "Way of the Spark") was the first Israeli paper shut down because it stood in solidarity with the *intifada*. The paper was closed in February 1988, and four editors were jailed for nine to 30 months.

The defense committee newsletter article on the Palestinian press reports: "As the *Intifada* developed and spread, no single journalist could cover all events. Here entered the news agencies."

"This new phenomenon was based on a simple system: three or four mainly young people, educated and fluent in English, would obtain a facsimile, a video camera, and a telephone line and start passing information on to anyone interested. . . . There is a press service in almost every West Bank town today."

The article continues: "Each news office has its own sources who come every day and relate what happened the previous day." By afternoon the items have already been transmitted to press agencies in Jerusalem, to the Palestine Liberation Organization radio in Iraq and to a radio station that broadcasts news bulletins all day from Damascus, Syria.

The article adds: "Israeli and foreign journalists cannot work without these news offices, which they term 'Arab sources.'"

"Not only the press, but human rights organizations and other information centers depend on information supplied them in this manner."

"In the beginning," the report continues, "there was apprehension about working with these agencies due to some of their amateurism. However, with time, as the competition among them grew, their reliability was enhanced."

"There is, for example, almost no exaggerations in the numbers of injured and killed. The Palestinian population has learned the value of reliable information."

"Israel has buried the established Palestinian press," the newsletter observes, "but has given rise to a most effective network of alternate information."

Zimbabwe government jails student, labor leaders, shuts campus

BY GREG McCARTAN

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe indefinitely closed the country's only university following student protests last week.

The protests followed the arrest of student government leaders Arthur Mutambara and Enock Chikwache, who could face charges of organizing an "illegal meeting" on the campus.

The students had submitted a request to hold a commemoration at the end of September on the anniversary of the first big student actions against government corruption a year ago. Those protests led to the resignation of five cabinet ministers over the illegal sale of cars.

The government refused to give a permit for the commemoration, and the student leaders issued a statement accusing the government of practicing "state terrorism."

The government responded by arresting the two leaders. Students immediately protested the arrests, and the government sent riot troops to the campus who used tear-gas to break up the protests. Forty more students were arrested, and the school's 10,000 students were told to pack their bags and leave the university within one day.

Following the closure of school the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions issued a statement deploring the government's "naked use of brute force and the suppression of individual rights."

"One will never understand the reasoning behind the unleashing of hundreds of riot police onto a young, unarmed student population," the statement read.

Morgan Tsvangirai, the general secretary of the ZCTU, was then also arrested by plainclothes police officers at the union's offices.

Cuba special schools built by volunteers

BY SELVA NEBBIA

Cuban President Fidel Castro marked the beginning of the 1989-90 school year with the inauguration of six special schools in Havana. In a speech given September 4 at the Solidarity with Namibia School, one of the specialized institutions, he also reviewed the achievements of the recent construction minibrigades.

The special schools are but one part of three major projects the minibrigades will have completed by the end of the year. The other two are building day-care centers and polyclinics.

The special schools include ones for children who have physical handicaps, hearing and sight impairments, learning disabilities, or serious behavioral problems. Two special schools were inaugurated earlier and 16 are scheduled to be completed by December. This will bring the number to 24 built by the minibrigades in Havana in less than two years.

Special schools have been built since the beginning of the 1959 revolution, explained Castro in his speech, meeting the needs of 40,000 children. "But we needed room for 80,000," he explained.

"So when the minibrigade movement was resurrected," said Castro, "we decided that we had to take this on and make sure that 100 percent of the children with special problems had a school to go to. Since we already had the labor force, we had to look for the resources."

The minibrigades were reinitiated in 1986 with the beginning of the rectification campaign. The backbone of the minibrigades is the voluntary labor of thousands of Cubans who have been carrying out construction projects. In Havana, more than 30,000 participate in the minibrigades.

A good percentage of the children with learning disabilities who attend special schools eventually overcome their handicap and are able to be incorporated into the regular school system, explained Minister of Education José Fernández to Castro during the president's visit to some of the new schools.

At the school for the visually impaired in Guanabacoa, children not only receive an education but many of them are cured because the school also serves as a hospital where children are treated.

"What have we ahead of us?" Castro asked. "What is ahead is the task of improving the quality of education." He explained that one of the ways that this will be achieved is by generalizing the teaching of computer skills in the schools. By next year, Castro explained, computer science, for example, will be introduced in all the high schools.

Special steps are also being taken to teach computer use to engineers and other professionals who graduated before this was taught at the university level.

Repair, expansion, and completion

Castro pointed also to the role that the minibrigades have played in repairing and expanding many of the existing schools and universities. Major improvements, for example, were made to several medical schools.

The minibrigades have begun to work on projects that had "been sleeping an eternal sleep," explained Castro, in order to finish them quickly.

By the end of the year all neighborhoods in Havana will have their own polyclinic.

While the Construction Ministry is responsible for major industrial projects such as dams, factories, and communications centers, it is the minibrigades that have carried out many of the important social programs over the past few years, Castro explained.

Among the other projects the minibrigades are working on is building 100 bakeries. This is being done "so that people will have warm bread near their homes," explained Castro, "because it has been proven that large-scale industrial production of something as traditional as bread does not guarantee quality." Minibrigades are also building supermarkets and bus terminals, as well as building and repairing homes.

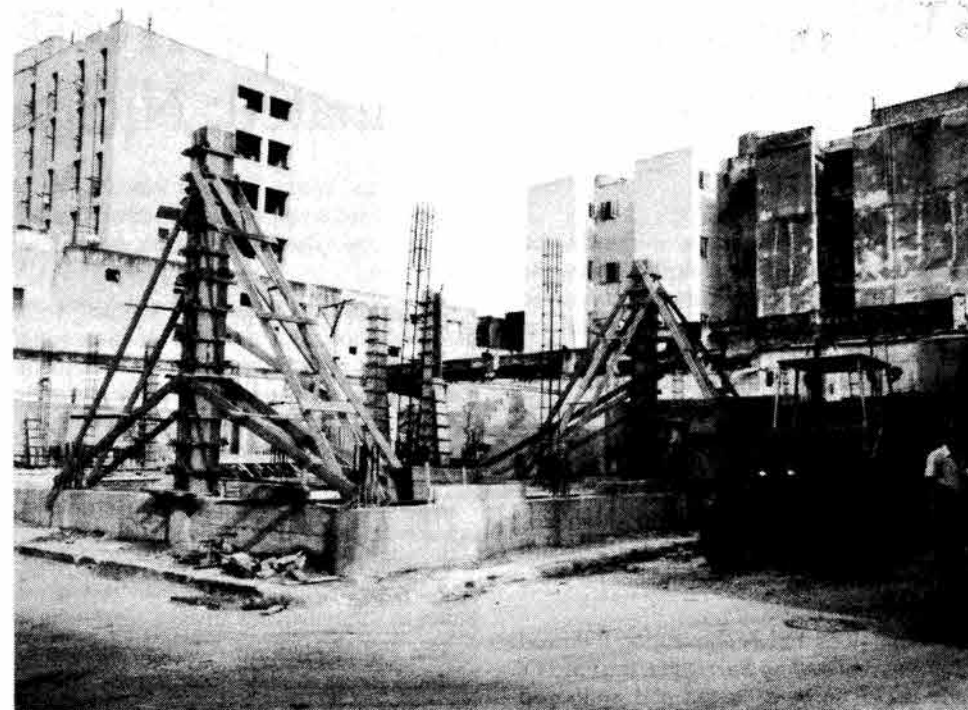
The achievements of the minibrigades are vital to the development of Cuba, Castro underlined. They "should not let their guard down, they should not let their spirits nor their morale fall, they should not soften up on us," he said. "Because it is thanks to the minibrigades we can accomplish today all those things that we could not in the past," Castro added.

Students grow vegetable gardens

As at other schools, special schools are equipped with their own vegetable gardens and other facilities so that students can produce some of the food consumed at the school.

"Our concern is not the economic aspect of having children or adolescents producing part of their food," explained Castro, "our concern is its pedagogical effect."

Castro used the Solidarity with Namibia School as an example. It has its own vegetable garden, a building for raising chickens and for producing eggs, and space for raising



Militant
Supermarket being built in Havana, July 1989. Schools, bakeries, and stores are built by volunteers.

sheep and rabbits for meat.

"Children take turns at performing the different productive activities," said Castro, "and they develop great enthusiasm. They get great satisfaction from helping to produce what they consume."

At the end of the year, the project in Havana will have been completed and new schools will also be built for children with special problems in the rest of the country. Up to now, children who had no access to a special school were tutored at home by visiting teachers.

110 new child-care centers

Last year, explained Castro, the minibrigades completed 110 day-care centers in Havana. These were built over the course of two years. Before the project was initiated centers with facilities for 19,000 more children were needed. The 110 new centers have a capacity to care for 24,000.

"We will continue," said Castro, "building

new centers every year as the number of working mothers goes up, but not on such a massive scale."

"We believe that one day," said Castro, "not only those children of working mothers should go to the day-care centers. I hope that one day we will have enough centers and the resources so that every child can go to a child-care center. Otherwise those who attend will have better skills than those who do not."

In his speech, Castro underlined the importance of Cuba becoming an "education power." "At the beginning of the revolution," he pointed out, "people spoke of the hundreds of thousands of adults who were illiterate, and of the hundreds of thousands of children who had no teachers, who lacked schools."

"Today there is no child in the country without a school to go to," said Castro. "Not only that," he added, "we have a reserve of 17,000 teachers, which we employ in promoting the improvement of the other teachers and professors."

Quayle visits Manila, activists held

BY RUSSELL JOHNSON

MANILA, Philippines — More than 150 people were arrested here during the visit of U.S. Vice-president Danforth Quayle. He was in Manila from September 26 through 28 as part of a Southeast Asia tour that was in major part aimed at pressuring the government of President Corazon Aquino to agree to the extension of the leases on the U.S. military bases in the Philippines. The leases are due to expire in September 1991.

Most of those detained were union members belonging to the May 1 Movement (KMU), a Philippine labor federation. Led by KMU national officer Nick Elman, they were arrested September 27 while Elman was attempting to persuade police to allow them to rally outside the Senate building, which Quayle was visiting.

In an interview Elman explained that he was told that a rally would not be allowed and they were ordered to disperse. Before they could do so more cops arrived, pushed

the demonstrators back into their vehicles, and invited them to "continue the dialogue" at the western police district headquarters.

While most of those detained were released the same day, Elman and three other leaders were held until Quayle had left the country the following day. "They charged me with 'disobedience' and 'illegal assembly,'" Elman explained, "even though we never actually got to hold our assembly."

Later that day a rally of 500 staged near the presidential palace was dispersed by riot police. Several student leaders were arrested. League of Filipino Students Chairman Nat Santiago was able to escape the dragnet. Santiago, who is already awaiting trial on earlier charges of "inciting to subversion" and "illegal assembly" for protests against the U.S. bases, had been ordered arrested by the military for "inciting to sedition."

The military subsequently announced that it would not act on the arrest order unless Santiago led further "violent" demonstra-

tions. The LFS chairman, who has been a central organizer and spokesman for the campaign to dismantle the U.S. military bases, said that he had not committed any crime against the Filipino people. The mounting charges against him were a form of harassment aimed at limiting his ability to speak and act for the campaign, he said.

Philippine labor wins nationwide increase in minimum wage

MANILA, Philippines — Workers here won a significant victory last June when the Philippine congress legislated an almost 40 percent nationwide increase in the minimum wage. This amounted to a 25 peso a day gain for industrial workers and 20 pesos for agricultural workers. The increase was limited to 15 pesos for workers in small businesses (22 pesos = US\$1).

Few workers receive significantly more than the minimum wage unless they work paid overtime. The minimum wage was previously set at 64 pesos for the nonagricultural work force.

The increase was in response to a campaign involving all of the major Philippine labor federations. A nationwide strike had been called for the end of May. President Corazon Aquino had opposed a uniform national wage increase and insisted that it be limited to 15 pesos in Manila and six in the countryside.

For the past two years the Philippine economy has been expanding at a rate of about 6 percent per year with substantial investment coming from Taiwan and Japan. At the same time inflation is beginning to accelerate, surpassing 10 percent over the last year.

Under pressure from the imperialist banks the government has cut subsidies on basic consumer goods such as rice and cooking oil, increased school fees, and placed a high priority on making payments on the \$30 billion foreign debt.

— R.J.

Hong Kong refugee camp 'a danger to life'

BY CLIVE TURNBULL

LONDON — One man died and 15 were seriously injured in the latest protest by Vietnamese refugees against the inhuman conditions in the camps where they are held in the British colony of Hong Kong. The protest last month followed a cholera outbreak affecting 11 people at Tai Ah Chau camp in the previously uninhabited Soko Island 12 miles east of Hong Kong.

Conditions were described in the London *Guardian*. "They have been fed dry rations, put in pigsties and canvas and bamboo shelters, without running water or the most basic sanitation. The conditions are ideal, says Dr. Mitchell Smith, the refugee coordinator of Médecins Sans Frontières, for breeding either violence or disease."

The report also describes conditions at Shamshuipo, a former World War II prison camp in Kowloon, as "one of the most squalid places." It holds 2,000 people.

"Their cells — that is the best word for them — are nine feet by six feet wire pallets, one chair between two, stacked three high and 20 deep in a tin shed."

"Naked children lie in open drains. Old men with dying eyes freeze in the noon sun. On the wrong side of the wind, you can smell Shamshuipo two blocks away."

The 4,400 occupants of Tai Ah Chau are now to be evacuated and transferred to Hei Ling Chau island, a former leper colony currently holding 3,100 Vietnamese who in turn are to be moved to the mainland.

Some 55,000 Vietnamese refugees are held in camps on cross-harbor ferries, in disused factories, and even on the airport runway.

Conditions at Tai Ah Chau had been attacked by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) as "a danger to life" in a report two weeks before the cholera outbreak. The British colonial adminis-

tration's response was to condemn the UN report as "alarmist."

The UNHCR has also protested the brutal suppression of refugee protests. In July one man was killed and several injured as the colony's police force attacked demonstrators protesting plans for forceable repatriation to Vietnam.

A week before the latest protest, 1,000 refugees at Tai Ah Chau who demonstrated against inadequate rice rations were attacked with tear gas by police.

The barbaric camp conditions are the result of the British government's policy of discouraging refugees. The London weekly *Observer* quoted a top government official as saying the Vietnamese "cannot expect a bed of roses when they come to the territory."

The British government claims that Hong Kong is too overcrowded for the Vietnamese to be allowed in.

'Ideas of a memorable Thomas Sankara'

The following "Open Letter to Thomas Sankara," by Chenjerai Hove, appeared in the *Harare Herald*, the main daily newspaper in Zimbabwe. The article was published in October 1988.

Hove is one of Zimbabwe's best-known writers. His most recent novel *Bones* won the prestigious Noma Award for literature written and published in Africa.

Hove wrote the "Letter" as a form of a review of *Thomas Sankara Speaks: The*



Militant/Ernest Harsch
Thomas Sankara speaking at International Women's Day meeting in 1984.

Burkina Faso Revolution, 1983-87, published by Pathfinder in New York.

Sankara was the central leader of the revolutionary government in the West African country of Burkina Faso, formerly Upper Volta, from 1983 to 1987. The government was overthrown and Sankara assassinated in a counterrevolutionary coup by top army officers on Oct. 18, 1987.

* * *

Dear Thomas,

Now that you are gone for a year, and your speeches have been selected and published, I want to dialogue with you about some of the things you said, some of the ideas that made you a memorable Thomas Sankara.

You know, I was privileged to see you speak during the Nonaligned Movement summit in Harare in 1986. In that summit, you were the youngest of them all but you challenged your elders to rethink their positions on NAM and its passive approach to world problems.

You were honest to point out, "We believe that the world is divided into two antagonistic camps: the camp of the exploiters and the camp of the exploited."

You frankly bemoaned the absence of the spirit of the founding fathers of the Non-aligned Movement: "But today we surprise ourselves by wanting to cry out, 'Tito, Nehru, Nasser, Kwame Nkrumah, wake up, the Non-aligned Movement is dying.' We want to say to them with all the strength of our lungs and faith, 'Help us, Namibia is still occupied, the Palestinian people are still searching for a home, and we are being traumatized by the foreign debts.'"

Yes, I cry with you as I see the clarity of your thoughts and perception. You saw and had the courage to say it in your speeches. In the speech to the UN General Assembly, I hear the voice of the village peasant, the exploited worker, the oppressed everywhere.

You bravely told them all, friends and foes: "I am here to address this 39th session in the name of a people that has decided, on the soil of their ancestors, henceforth to assert itself and to affirm and take charge of its own history — both its positive and negative aspects — without the slightest inhibition."

To my conscience, this was your positive contribution to our history, for you tackled it without any apologies. Some of our leaders deny their people's participation in history, but you refused to apologize for us, to make us feel like children in the making of our history.

And you said it with much pain, facing the very faces which do not want us to create our own history, those who prefer us dead and buried, never to rise again.

Sankara, this speech to the United Nations did much for us. You were clear about so many issues. I know that most of our leaders brushed you aside for being a young man, a crazy one. And you admitted it in an interview with a foreign journalist when he asked you whether there was already a "Sankara madness."

"You cannot carry out fundamental change without a certain amount of madness. In this case, it comes from nonconformity, the courage to turn your back on the old formulas, the courage to invent the future . . . it took the madmen of yesterday for us to be able to act with extreme clarity today.

"I want to be one of the madmen." Yes, you were one of those rare ones who remained with a vision, the vision that taught you that bureaucracy can hijack the revolution. That is why you personally answered over 50 letters addressed to you from the people every week.

"Yes. We must dare to invent the future. . . . All that comes from man's imagination is realizable for man," you said. A leader with a vibrant imagination.

I write this letter because I already painfully miss you. But I hear the voice of your conscience every day, every night, haunting me, asking me questions about this continent which seems to be suffering more and more as it loses its brightest stars like you.

Challenged the petty bourgeois

You make me feel guilty when you express your fears concerning the participants in the improvement of the lives of our people. You challenged the petty bourgeoisie because it "is not prepared to give up its privileges . . . because it has tasted the Western way of life. Because of this, these petty bourgeois forget that all genuine political struggle requires vigorous, theoretical debate, and they refuse to rise to the intellectual effort of conceiving new concepts equal to the murderous struggle that lies ahead of us."

I hear your live, sincere voice in those words, challenging me to action. You stated it clearly when you said revolutions cannot be made of speeches and slogans, they are made of action. After all, slogans lose meaning and appeal with time.

"We must even put a stop to certain kinds of praise that are poorly disguised and badly controlled expressions of feudal reflexes," you said while refusing a slogan in your praise. "Thomas Sankara, may he forever be president," the slogan went, and you refused it as an empty slogan.

Although it may sound bad of me to write to a dead person, I believe you are not dead. Actually you prophesied your own death, knowing only too well that it is the memory after death that matters.

You grew up in the era of leaders who had been cheated into believing that they were demigods, only to have their statues torn to pieces soon after they died. "I have told myself, either I'll finish up an old man somewhere in a library reading books, or I'll meet with a violent end, since we have so many enemies. Once you've accepted that reality, it's just a question of time. It will happen today or tomorrow."

Such was your clarity of vision that to read your speeches makes one see the dream that you harbored for your people, for all the struggling people of the world.

Emancipation of women

On the emancipation of women, I have not read anything clearer from any leader. You put it so well, questioning some of the assumptions which many leaders make.

Your characteristic honesty pains me so much, it makes my heart wear out with the fatigue of missing you as I hear your voice speaking to all the women of the world, to the men as well: woman, "this vast and complex combination of pain and joy; solitary and forsaken, yet creator of all humanity; suffering, frustrated, and humiliated, and yet endless source of happiness for each one of us; . . . this being called weak, but possessing . . . flesh and blood and spiritual conviction — this being, women, is you . . . our comrades in struggle, and because of this fact you should by rights assert yourselves as equal partners in the joyful victory feasts of the revolution."

When you spoke about aid, you made it clear that you refused aid that crippled the creativity of our people. If our people receive aid, they must do so from friends who would not reduce them to beggars.

So, when they received aid, it must be aid

that helps them to reassert themselves, their dignity and pride. But look at what has happened in most of those countries which did not listen to people like you. Our people have been made slaves, conquered slaves who are seemingly happy in their slavery because of aid.

Thomas, I respect you for all you said. But

I am sad that you openly admitted you rarely took the trouble to read literature. It is not good for a leader not to read books about people. Literature may be fiction, but it talks about the dark corners of human experience.

Maybe you would have been able to sense the intentions of your murderers before they

Continued on Page 13



PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

GREG McCARTAN

The Pathfinder publishing house, located in New York with distributors in Australia, Britain, Canada, and New Zealand, publishes the works of working-class and communist leaders who have made central contributions to the forward march of humanity against exploitation and oppression.

Pathfinder bookstores are located in 42 cities in seven countries. The addresses of the bookstores are listed on page 12.

A review of Pathfinder's *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* by Carlos Tablada appeared in the August 24 issue of *An Phoblacht/Republican News*, published weekly in Dublin, Ireland.

The book "is to be welcomed," the review stated, because while Che's stature as a guerrilla leader is well known, "Che as a thinker, planner, and someone who played a vital role in building the Cuban Revolution, post-1959, is a figure less well served by history."

An Phoblacht stated, "What is important about this book is that the ideas contained were formulated by Che as a result of the problems he encountered in the early days of the Cuban Revolution."

Calling the current rectification process in Cuba "an attempt to return the revolutionary process in Cuba to fundamentals," the review explained, "it is quite clear that Tablada is hopeful that [Che's] ideas will again become the engine, the dynamo that will drive the rectification process — just as they did in the days following the overthrow of Batista."

The book was recommended "for anyone with an interest in Cuba, Che, Latin America, or the vexed question of how to build socialism."

Several London newspapers covered a series of recent attacks on the Pathfinder Bookshop in that city.

During August and September several men, shouting racist and anti-Irish remarks scattered books across the floor of the shop, unhinged a T-shirt display, and tried to destroy some of the shirts. A shirt featuring Irish republican martyr Bobby Sands was a particular target of the attackers.



Militant/Sam Kolis
Display of Malcolm X titles at B. Dalton's in Decatur, Georgia, near Atlanta. Malcolm X books were popular at recent book festivals in Amsterdam and Detroit.

Peter Clifford, manager of the shop, told the press one man threatened him, saying the shop would be petrol bombed. He told Clifford to remove the Sands T-shirts and literature on Nelson Mandela.

Clifford appealed for support in pushing back these attacks, and said the shop "will continue to feature material on the antiracist struggle and books by authors such as Malcolm X, Fidel Castro, and Nelson Mandela."

Pathfinder sales were brisk at two recent events — one in Amsterdam in the Netherlands, the other in Detroit.

Bob Bruce reports from Detroit that at the three-day African World Festival over \$500 worth of books were sold. The festival is a yearly cultural event held in the city at the end of August.

"Books by Malcolm X were by far the most popular," he said. Twenty-one copies of *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches* were bought up by festival-goers. "A number of people were excited" at seeing the selection of never-before published speeches, he said.

Another 36 books by or about Malcolm X were sold in addition to titles by communist leaders Fidel Castro, Karl Marx, and V.I. Lenin. The pamphlet *I Am Prepared to Die*, by imprisoned African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, which Pathfinder distributes, was also popular, with 19 being sold.

"Business was brisk at the Pathfinder stall at the mid-September 'Europe Against the Current' fair held in Amsterdam," said Bridget Elton from London.

Elton was part of a team to the weekend fair, which was billed as a festival of independent publishers. "I didn't think there were any communists in Holland," said one surprised participant. "It's nice to see you here." Many participants in the fair, having never seen Pathfinder titles, wondered where they could purchase them in Holland.

Books by Thomas Sankara and Malcolm X were of particular interest, with all the books by Malcolm X selling out. A total of \$280 worth of literature was sold over the weekend.

In addition to Pathfinder titles, the publishing house also distributes books on labor history, Marxism, the Black struggle, and national liberation struggles put out by other publishers.

Several new titles include volumes 24, 30, and 31 of the *Collected Works of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels*. Pathfinder already carries volumes 1-23, 25, 28, 29, and 38-43. Each volume is available individually for \$15.

Christians and the Sandinista Revolution: An Interview with Luis Carrión by Marta Harnecker is also now being carried by Pathfinder. Carrión is a member of the National Directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front in Nicaragua. The pamphlet sells for \$1.50.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

A Conversation on Contemporary Cuban Art. Featuring Cuban painter Aldo Soler. Also speaking: Dumile Feni, prominent artist and member of the African National Congress of South Africa. Sat., Oct. 21. Reception 6:30 p.m.; program 7 p.m. Patriotic Hall, 816 S Figueroa St. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Pathfinder Mural Project. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Countdown Event for National Mobilization for Women's Lives. Sun., Oct. 22, 1 p.m. Federal Building, West Los Angeles, 11000 Wilshire Blvd. For more information call (213) 395-4447 or 650-8705.

San Diego

Mural Art, Public Art, Political Art, Border Art. A evening for the Pathfinder Mural Project. Speakers: Dumile Feni, Black South African artist in exile, contributor to the project; Victor Ochoa, Chicano muralist, cofounder Chicano Park Mural Project. Fri., Oct. 20. Reception 7 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. Centro Cultural de la Raza, Balboa Park at Pepper Grove on Park Blvd. Sponsors: Centro Cultural, Friends of Nicaraguan Culture, Pathfinder mural supporters. For more information call (619) 232-8263.

FLORIDA

Miami

Celebrate the Publication of Malcolm X: The Last Speeches. Sat., Oct. 21. Refreshments 7 p.m.; program 8 p.m. Translation to Spanish. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

The Cuban Revolution Today. Cuba Confronts Corruption and Bureaucracy. Sat., Oct. 14. Dinner 6 p.m.; forum 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50, dinner \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

IOWA

Des Moines

New Rise in Labor Militancy. A panel discussion. Sat., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

The Eastern Airlines Strike: Part of a Rising

AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND-PACIFIC

Join the 7th Australia-New Zealand- Pacific Work/Study Brigade to Cuba

Dec. 30, 1989 to Jan. 28, 1990

For more information write the Australia-Cuba Friendship Society, P.O. Box K364, Haymarket, NSW 2000, Australia. Telephone (02) 798-8740. For bookings and flight details phone Julie at STA Travel (02) 516-2007.

Australia \$3,350, includes air fares, accommodations, and meals. Four days spent in Mexico. STA Licence No: 2TA001112.

Labor Militancy. Speakers: Rich Colley, chief shop steward International Association of Machinists Local 846 on strike against Eastern; Jack Neill, member IAM Local 846; others. Sat., Oct. 21. Dinner 6 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2, dinner \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

Uprising in Southern Africa: From Angola and Namibia to South Africa. Cuba and Angola: *Response to the South African Escalation.* Video showing of Part III of Cuban documentary. Sat., Oct. 28. Dinner 6 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2, dinner \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Revolutionary Cuba Today. Speaker: representative of Young Socialist Alliance. Tues., Oct. 17, 7 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance discussion series. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

A Victory Against Disruption of the Working-Class Movement: Ruling in the Gelfand Case. A panel discussion. Sat., Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

Defend Abortion Rights. Build the Nov. 12 March on Washington. A panel discussion. Sat., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

Abortion is a Woman's Right. Speakers: Rachel Murray, acting coordinator Students for Choice, University of Nebraska at Lincoln; Ellen Madison-Holts, Multi-Cultural Committee, Women's Development Center; and Hilda Cuzco, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Socialist Workers Party Campaign Rally. Speaker: Cathy Sedwick, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of New Jersey. Translation to Spanish and French. Sat., Oct. 14. Reception 6:30 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$5 (reception and program). Sponsor: Socialist Workers 1989 Campaign. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

A Conversation on Contemporary Cuban Art. Featuring Cuban painter Aldo Soler. Mon., Oct. 16. Reception 7 p.m. Program with slideshow at 8 p.m. Aljira Center for Contemporary Art, 2 Washington Pl. Sponsor: Aljira Center, Frontline Artists, Pathfinder Mural Project. For more information call (201) 643-3341 or (201) 643-6877.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Celebrate the Painting of Malcolm X on the Pathfinder Mural. Meet the artist, Carole Byard, teacher at Parsons School of Design. Translation to Spanish and French. Sat., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. 464 Bergen St. Donation: \$3. Sponsors: Militant Labor Forum and Pathfinder Mural Project. For more information call (718) 398-6983.

Manhattan

The Struggle for Abortion Rights in Canada and United States. Speakers: Christine Rice, New York City National Organization for Women coordinator for November 12 national abortion rights march on Washington, D.C., and Bernadette Julian, Québec Coalition for Abortion Rights, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Translation to Spanish and French. Sat., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. 191 Seventh Ave., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (212) 675-6740.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Defiance Campaign in South Africa. Sun., Oct. 15, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

TEXAS

Houston

Cuba: New Stage in the Fight for Socialism. Speaker: Greg Rosenberg, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor, member International Association of Machinists. Sat., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

UTAH

Price

Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis. Solidarity with the Pittston and Eastern Strikers. Speaker: Judy Stranahan, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor. Sun., Oct. 15, 4 p.m.; Reception and dinner. Talk 5 p.m. 253 E Main. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

Salt Lake City

Nicaragua Today: An Eyewitness Report. Speakers: Dr. Regula Burki, M.D., just returned from Nicaragua on medical aid project; Steve Warshell, Socialist Workers Party, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 2-591. Sat., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Northern Ireland: 20 Years of British Occupation. Speaker: Bob Quigley, Socialist Workers Party, recently returned from Northern Ireland. Sat., Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

Thousands of Workers on Strike Across the U.S. A panel discussion. Sat., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

The International Drug Traffic. Speaker: Don Rojas, former press secretary to Maurice Bishop, slain prime minister of Grenada. Sat., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Strikes at Boeing, Eastern, and in Coal: Rising Labor Militancy Today. A panel discussion. Sat., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

NEW YORK

Free Gerard Kelly!

A rally to protest the arrest of the Belfast artist by the U.S. government.

Sun., Oct. 22, 7 p.m.

Reception 6:30 p.m.

Irish Arts Center

553 W. 51st St., Manhattan

(C Train to 50th St.)

Donation \$5. Sponsor: **Pathfinder Mural Project** and the **Committee for Legal Justice in Northern Ireland.** For more information call (212) 741-0690.

BRITAIN

London

Royal Ulster Constabulary/Ulster Defence Regiment Aid Death Squads. Speaker: Pete Clifford, manager Pathfinder Bookshop. Fri., Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forum. For more information call 01-928-7947.

Cuba: International Solidarity with Southern Africa. Video showing of *Response to the South African Escalation*, Cuban documentary on the defeat of South African troops at Cuito Cuanavale, Angola. Speakers: Roberto de Armas, first secretary of Cuban embassy; Loyiso Pukwana, African National Congress of South Africa. Sat., Oct. 21, 3-6 p.m. at The Quad, LSE Students' Union, Houghton St., WC2. Sponsors: Britain-Cuba Resource Centre, London Committee of the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

Manchester

Cuba Today. Speaker: Marcella Fitzgerald, participant in José Martí Brigade to Cuba this year. Wed., Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m. Unicorn Hotel, Church St. near Piccadilly Gardens. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forum.

CANADA

Montréal

Two Years After the Stock Market Crash: What Lies Ahead for Us? Translation to English and Spanish. Sat., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. 6566 boul. Saint-Laurent. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière. For more information call (514) 273-2503.

Free Namibia! Sat., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. Translation to English and Spanish. 6566 boul. Saint-Laurent. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière. For more information call (514) 273-2503.

Toronto

The Stakes for Working People in the Fight for Abortion Rights. Speaker: Margaret Manwaring, Revolutionary Workers League; Carolyn Eagan, representative of the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics. Sat., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

SWEDEN

Stockholm

Cuba Builds Socialism. Speaker: Dag Tirsén, participant in 1989 Nordic Brigade to Cuba. Slideshow. Sat., Oct. 21, 3 p.m. at Vikingatan 10 (T-bana St. Eriksplan). Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum.

Concert for SWAPO and a Free Namibia. Artists: Peps Blodsbend, Anne-Lie Rydén, others. Sun., Oct. 22, 7:00 p.m. Folkets Hus. Tickets: 100. Sponsors: Isolate South Africa Committee, Africa Groups.

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SWEDEN

Stockholm: P.O. Box 5024, S-12505 Älvsjö. Tel: (08) 722-9342.

Makes ya proud — In an editorial opposing corporal punishment for school children, the *Chicago Tribune* noted that such punishment is illegal in "every industrialized nation except South Africa and the United States."



Harry Ring

Nonskid Purina — A full-page *New York Times* ad declares that New Yorkers can make their streets

less messy by feeding their dogs Purina Hi Pro dog food. The ad advises, "Hi Pro's high digestibility means smaller, firmer stools. . . . The more nutrients a dog digests, the less passes through his system — and onto our sidewalks."

The AIDS crisis — A *New York Times* business-page article informs that increased competition has saturated the perfume market. And, the article frets, "A few in the industry worry that the pall cast over the singles scene by AIDS will weaken the demand for fragrances."

Rules are rules — Avram Brody, a civilian employee at an air force base in California, is dying of cancer and wants to spend his last days with

family and friends in Massachusetts. The brass piously assert that regulations bar sending him in an air ambulance, and even if it could be done, somebody would have to pay. The cost, they say, would be more than a private air ambulance, which would be \$29,000.

See, they do care — To assure visiting officers a decent night's sleep, the Army Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama refurbished three guest houses. Each bedroom now has a \$1,000 bed, a \$712 pile of blankets, a \$518 bedspread and, for the truly cold-blooded, a \$400 quilt.

Must be rent controlled — In New York, just off Park Ave. Eight-

floor house, lots of bedrooms and fireplaces. Servants' quarters — \$40,000 a month. Or, if you don't like renting, it's yours for \$10.5 million.

The tick-tock set — "Ten years ago, it was acceptable to wear a Timex to a board meeting. Today, it just isn't done. Many of our customers drive a Mercedes. They choose their watches for the same reason: to own something that works really well but also makes a statement about who they are." — A Toronto purveyor of watches that go for up to \$100,000.

Train robbers — Despite a law requiring public meetings, New York's transit authority tried to

sneak in a secret hotel meeting to map plans for raising subway fares from \$1 to as much as \$1.25. Why at a hotel? So the fare-hikers wouldn't "be distracted by phone calls."

Rising operating expenses — The hotel schedule for that fare-hike confab included a continental breakfast, a coffee break, and a lunch of green salad, grilled chicken breast, and double chocolate cake with heavy cream. The straphangers' tab — about \$1,000.

You can bank on it — "The most important thing about acting is honesty. If you can fake that, you've got it made." — Comedian George Burns.

March on Washington demands aid for homeless

Continued from front page
free, free to be homeless." Howard University students chanted, "Housing is a right, a landlord's profit is not!"

The local turnout from Washington, D.C., which has among the highest per capita homeless rate in the United States was large. It included many homeless Salvadoran and other Central American refugees who marched with the Central American Refugee Center.

Activists from the National Organization for Women participated in the action and

bail out the savings and loan bankers. Stop playing penny politics while our children's future burns in the incinerator of poverty and homelessness."

Speaking for the AFL-CIO, AFSCME President Gerald McEntee said, "Labor is here where it should be and I want you to know that the AFL-CIO and the entire labor movement will be right here with you until everyone in this country has a decent place

to live."

Barry Zigas, president of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, spoke for the "Housing Now!" coalition. Zigas pointed out that while at least 3 million people in the United States are homeless, millions more are "one paycheck away from homelessness . . . doubled and tripled up in small apartments."

Janie Dixon carried a sign she made which

read, "I want a house now, my babies are crying!" Dixon, unable to find day care for her kids, was fired from her minimum wage job, then evicted from her \$400-a-month apartment. "I've been on the streets and shelters for six months now," she said, "but I don't feel so lonely today. I met people from New York, Philadelphia, and Florida. I hope something will come out of the demonstration. I like the unity."

At least 3 million people in the U.S. are homeless, millions are one paycheck away from homelessness.

publicized the November 12 mobilization in D.C. to support abortion rights.

Throughout the day musicians involved in fighting homelessness played for the crowd, including Tracy Chapman, Stevie Wonder, Los Lobos, and Jefferson Airplane.

At the afternoon rally near the U.S. Capitol, Southern Christian Leadership Conference President Joseph Lowery said to mounting applause, "We're sick and tired of this big lie there is no money. There's money when it comes to the contras and waging war on Nicaragua. There's money when it comes to South Africa's ally [Jonas] Savimbi to wage war on Angola. There's \$150 billion to

Continued from Page 11

deprived us of your contribution to this endless struggle which sometimes throws me into feats of despair. Yes, Thomas, real feats of despair, especially when every committed leader, a leader who listens to his people, is murdered as he begins to bloom.

In the few remarks about violence, I must say I felt your hesitation to use violence. Even when you talked about some of the executions you authorized, I felt a certain strain of resentment.

Yes, violence against a violent agenda, I agree with you. Life must be preserved, but if that life refuses the life of others, it must be fought against fiercely. But not with hatred but with the purifying power of the struggle.

You know, it is interesting to see how serious you were with the revolution. You clearly said that if an ambassador came to present his credentials to you, you simply asked them to jump on to a Land-Rover and drove him to a village.

"I continue to hear the voices which you gave to the people of the neglected world, the Third World."

There you said to him: "Your excellency, you are presenting your credentials to these people, not to Thomas Sankara in the state palace." This shows me how serious you were about listening to the people. You remained accountable to the Burkinabè to the very end. Some leaders forget about the ordinary workers and peasants as soon as they have voted for them. You taught our people that to vote

is not only a right but also a blessing. That is what dignity is all about for our people as they struggle to buy daily bread and get shelter for themselves and their children.

Thomas, I will not go on, but I continue to hear the many voices which you gave to the people of the neglected world, the people for whom a Third World had to be invented so that they could be dumped there.

You spoke for them in all those large halls and stadia without feeling ashamed about yourself. For many years to come, we will miss you but the more we miss you the more we are with you in this painful but on-going struggle.

Your brother,
Chenjerai Hove

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Oct. 19, 1979

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The government and mass organizations have redoubled their efforts to put a stop to counterrevolutionary terrorism following the murder of Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) militant Marcel Pallais. His bullet-riddled body was found near the Central American University campus here early October 5.

Pallais had been in charge of an effort to stop sabotage at the Villa Fontana Telecommunications Complex.

Immediately after Pallais' murder, units of the Sandinista People's Army (EPS) were deployed on all the main streets of Managua. Checkpoints were set up and all vehicles were searched for weapons. Substantial quantities of weapons were recovered. During subsequent nights, there was a diminishing of terrorist gunfire in Managua.

The FSLN has continued to urge citizens to be on the alert for counterrevolutionary activity. In the neighborhoods the Sandinista Defense Committees (CDS) — "the eyes and ears of the revolution" — remain on alert.

The Pallais assassination is the most recent incident in a resurgence of counterrevolutionary terrorist activity since late September. In response, the FSLN has launched a "Control Somocismo, Defend the Revolution" campaign through the CDS and taken social and economic measures to deepen the revolutionary process initiated by the overthrow of Somoza in July.

The FSLN is also taking important steps to reorganize and strengthen the militias. Many guerilla fighters have now been integrated into the EPS, essential for defense

against the ominous possibility of invasion by National Guard units in Honduras and El Salvador, backed up overtly or covertly by Washington and its client dictators in Central America.

THE MILITANT
Published in the Interests of the Working People
Oct. 19, 1964

From July 13 to 19 a labor trial of unusual dimensions took place in the federal courthouse in Lexington, Kentucky. Berman Gibson and eight other unemployed coal miners were charged with conspiring to dynamite a Louisville & Nashville Railroad bridge (which is still standing undamaged) at Daisy, Kentucky.

Failing to convict Gibson, leader of unemployed miners in Kentucky, federal prosecutors scheduled a retrial for October 14. That date passed, however, without trial.

The July trial grew out of a bitter coal miners' strike and was the second set of charges faced by these men in less than four months. In April Gibson and seven other "roving picketers" had been acquitted in a state court in Whitesburg of armed robbery and assault.

Without support of their union, the United Mine Workers, the Roving Pickets of Kentucky had waged a three-year battle with nonunion coal operators. Marching armies of miners up fortified mountains in the face of state police, deputy sheriffs, and hired thugs, the pickets had closed down all nonunion mines in seven eastern Kentucky counties. A phony truce initiated by the governor and the attrition of the protracted struggle finally undermined the strike.

Meeting celebrates Shilman's life

Continued from Page 8
that did exist, like the fight against the U.S. war in Vietnam.

"Ken understood the importance of these struggles as well," she said, pointing to the leadership role he played in the antiwar movement. At the same time, he was alert to the political stirrings that were taking place in the working class. An example of this was his efforts to involve GIs in the antiwar struggle. Driving a taxi in the Bay Area, Shilman learned from talking to the GIs he picked up that there was a shift occurring in their attitudes toward the war as they began to realize it would be a protracted and bloody fight against an army rooted among the Vietnamese people.

Shilman helped initiate an antiwar GI newspaper, *Task Force*, and played a leading role in building a 1968 demonstration in San Francisco led by 500 active-duty GIs, an action that helped spark increased GI participation in the antiwar movement nationally.

"Ken didn't dwell on what *wasn't* happening in the working class" these past three decades, said Stone. Rather, he focused on what *was* happening and what the party could do to strengthen the class and the party's influence in it.

Shilman's greatest satisfaction of all, said Stone, was knowing that communist workers were playing an important role in the developing rank-and-file leadership of the union battles at Eastern Airlines, in the coal mines, and elsewhere. Stone pointed out that Shilman's activities over the years played no small role in laying the groundwork for what's being accomplished today.

"Ken participated for nearly 30 years in the most significant task of all," concluded Stone — "building a party that can lead and mobilize the working class to change society."

Oakland SWP organizer Craig Landberg encouraged those present to contribute to Pathfinder publishing house's \$150,000 fund as a way of aiding the work which Shilman devoted his life to. Participants pledged and donated some \$2,500.

Boeing strikers

Continued from Page 3
no provision in their contracts for honoring the Machinists' picket lines.

Some 28,000 members of the Seattle Professional Engineering Employees Association, whose contract expires December 1, are crossing the lines, as well as Boeing workers who are Teamster union members.

One Teamster commented, "I've been a truck driver for 20 years, and this is the first time I've been forced to cross a picket line. It tore me up to have to do it. But there is nothing going on inside. Keep it up. You're going to win!"

Karen Ray is a member of IAM District 751, Local A, on strike at Boeing in Seattle. Bob Bruneau and Eric Simpson, also members of IAM District 751 on strike at Boeing in Seattle, and Connie Allen and Deborah Higden, members of IAM Local 63 on strike in Portland, contributed to this article.

NATO vs. the Common Market

Recent events in Germany — both East and West — have put a spotlight on the most important political development in Europe today, one with profound implications for world politics. The entire post-World War II framework for the way political relations between countries in Europe, the United States, and the Soviet Union have been viewed is breaking up.

At the heart of this process is the declining political and economic weight of U.S. imperialism in Europe relative to the growing strength of German imperialism. This is most clearly seen in the reduced role of the U.S.-dominated North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), on one hand, and the growing assertiveness of a European Community (EC) in which German capitalism is increasingly the central player, on the other. This, even more than relations between U.S. imperialism and Moscow, is the greatest source of tension and growing political instability in Europe today.

This shake-up is shattering a setup put into place 40 years ago. In the aftermath of the second world imperialist slaughter, five European countries and the Eastern part of a sixth — Germany — were occupied by Soviet troops who had played a decisive role in defeating the German military forces. Moreover, successful workers' and peasants' revolutions in Yugoslavia and Albania toppled capitalist governments. By 1949 the capitalist class had been expropriated in each of these countries.

To prevent any more countries from uprooting capitalist rule, the imperialists — dominated by the U.S. ruling class, the principal victor of the war — did two things that were to shape political relations in Europe for the next time period.

One was to form the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which built up an integrated conventional military force augmented by European-based nuclear weapons and backed by an ultimate reliance on U.S. nuclear might.

Many capitalist politicians argued that NATO's aim was to roll back the "communist menace" and restore "democracy," that is capitalism, in Eastern Europe. But, in reality, its real aim was to prevent any more countries from going the way of Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and so on. And by this measure, NATO was successful.

NATO was built around U.S. imperialism as the central military power in the world, including Europe. Britain and France soon acquired nuclear weapons and were the key junior partners in the military arena. Capitalist Germany, which was not permitted by the victorious powers in World War II to become a nuclear power, became the principal piece poised against Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Tens of thousands of U.S. and NATO troops and U.S.-controlled nuclear warheads were maintained on German soil.

The other step by U.S. imperialism to counter the extension of the socialist revolution was to launch the Marshall Plan, to provide vast amounts of capital to war-ravaged capitalist Europe. This helped facilitate the massive expansion of U.S. capitalism and established its weighty economic role in Europe.

But over the next 40 years, an evolution occurred that undermined U.S. imperialism's relative economic weight in Europe and exposed the political limits of its nuclear might.

The massive expansion of U.S. capitalism following World War II gave way to a slowdown in capital accumulation. By the end of the 1960s average profit rates began to drop more rapidly and the mass of profits began to stagnate. The result was intensified price competition between the imperialist powers that broke down the de facto industrial monopoly held by the U.S. capitalists coming out of World War II. In relation to U.S. imperialism, the relative economic weight of West Germany and Japan increased.

West Germany, for example, with a population of 60 million, has led the world in exports for each of the past

three years and purchases one-quarter of the gross domestic product of the 12-country European Community, often called the Common Market. The West German capitalists are playing the central role in organizing the plan to remove most barriers to the flow of goods, labor, and capital among the EC members by the end of 1992. At each stage it has been meeting resistance from the British capitalist rulers, whose relative clout in the EC has been declining.

At the same time Washington remains the dominant imperialist power — the chief cop protecting imperialist interests around the globe. Yet, the weight of this role in Europe has been undercut as the Soviet Union has achieved basic parity in nuclear weapons development and deployment. Without a first-strike capacity, the possibility of imperialism rolling back state property relations in Eastern Europe and restoring capitalism there or even significantly changing the military relationship of forces is virtually excluded.

Consequently, the military significance of the nuclear weapons stationed in Europe has been reduced, and with it the political influence that Washington wields over its allies because of its massive superiority in nuclear arms.

This has been underscored by two developments.

First is the offensive Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has initiated to press Washington to reduce its medium- and short-range missiles in Europe, particularly in Germany. This also helped undermine the Cold War postulate that the greatest threat to European stability was Soviet aggression.

This is all in a context in which neither Moscow nor Washington is seriously considering eliminating their massive nuclear capacities.

Second, the West German capitalists' military weakness has so far not been a significant obstacle to using governmental power to assert greater influence and independence from Washington on matters concerning Europe. This not only includes inside the EC and NATO, but in regard to initiatives to increase ties and influence in Eastern Europe, particularly with East Germany.

One of the cornerstones of the postwar order has been the division of Germany. Now, with the disintegration of this order, the specter of a stronger Germany that combines the resources of both East and West has sparked a chorus of alarmed commentaries, especially in France and Britain, but in the United States too. The massive emigration from East to West Germany in the past month has heightened speculation about the fate of this divided country.

If the East German Communist Party, under pressure from its mounting economic and political difficulties, decides to implement the perestroika- and glasnost-type measures that are being promoted by the Soviet leadership and other East European Communist parties, it will likely lead to even greater economic integration and political ties between the two parts of Germany.

Whatever the evolution of this process, there is no question that the growing confidence, independence, and influence of the German capitalist rulers will bring their interests into growing conflict with the economic and political aims of the U.S. ruling families.

At this point, the U.S. and European capitalist rulers and the privileged bureaucratic castes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union are the principal actors in this unfolding process.

However, the economic conditions that are fueling increased interimperialist rivalry will also lead to deepening crisis for the capitalist system as a whole and to a catastrophic depression. This will shake up working people in the United States, Germany, and throughout the world and spur a process of mass radicalization as workers fight to defend our rights and protect ourselves from the ravages of a bankrupt system.

Eight Free — Free Mandela!

Working people the world over and all fighters against apartheid won a victory October 11 when the South African government announced the unconditional release of eight political prisoners, all members of the African National Congress.

Five of the seven are long-time leaders of the ANC who were jailed in 1963 along with the foremost political prisoner in the world, Nelson Mandela. To be released are Walter Sisulu, Ahmed Kathrada, Andrew Mlangeni, Elias Motsoaledi, Raymond Mhlaba, Wilton Mkwayi, Oscar Mpetha, and Jafta Masekela.

This victory comes in the wake of a sustained campaign of defying apartheid laws taking place inside South Africa. Strikes, demonstrations, and antisegregation protests are more and more frequent as those struggling for freedom ignore restrictions and bans placed on them by

the minority regime and move to engage in political activity.

This has opened up needed political space for organizing against apartheid and is now being taken advantage of by the oppressed majority and their allies.

As anti-apartheid fighters continue their efforts inside South Africa, all supporters of the struggle to end apartheid internationally must also redouble our efforts.

Increased pressure is needed to force Washington, London, and all governments who continue to have ties with the racist regime to impose comprehensive, mandatory, economic and political sanctions against Pretoria.

This can help further isolate the apartheid regime and lay the basis for the future release of Mandela and thousands of other political prisoners.

What's in a name? Deepening crisis in Hungary

BY DOUG JENNESS

In William Shakespeare's play, *Romeo and Juliet*, Juliet asks Romeo, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet."

But what about the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party (often referred to as the Communist Party because of its close ties and structural similarity to Communist Parties

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

internationally)? It has just changed its name to the Hungarian Socialist Party. Is this simply a cosmetic name-lift that leaves the organization smelling the same? Or is there a more substantial shift involved?

Evidence shows that the October 6-9 congress where the party's name was changed reflected a much deeper process: the mounting crisis confronting the bureaucratic caste in Hungary and the disintegration of the organization that has been a key instrument in maintaining the domination of that privileged layer.

The congress essentially registered a split, with a big majority establishing, in the words of party official Imre Pozsgay, "a new party, with new programs, new rules, and a new name," and a minority that may attempt to constitute a party along the old lines.

The new organization explicitly repudiated any further pretense of being a Marxist-Leninist organization. According to Pozsgay, one of the most vigorous supporters of the new course and most likely to be elected president next month, communism in Hungary is now "history."

That the Hungarian Stalinists are not communists is not new, however. What's new is the end of the pretense, which can only be welcomed by working people throughout the world who've seen Stalinism taint the name of communism with its own reactionary policies.

The stated aim of the new party is to become more like the Social-Democratic formations in capitalist Europe, that is to go back before the October 1917 Russian revolution for models.

An immediate symbol of the change was that the party's official organ, *Nepszabadsag*, no longer appears with the slogan "Workers of the World Unite." And it now identifies itself as a "socialist daily," rather than the organ of the party.

The new party's leaders recommitted the organization to holding multiparty elections early next year. These elections had already been agreed to months ago.

A consideration in changing the name and character of the country's dominant party is that party officials fear they will be unable to win the coming elections. In four recent by-elections the party candidates were severely trounced. By publicly shedding their "Marxist-Leninist" cloak and adopting a series of structural changes that give the appearance of permitting more internal democracy, they hope to convince voters that they've changed.

The attempt to alter the face of the party, however, goes deeper than next year's elections. Like the Soviet Union and other East European countries, where the capitalist class has been expropriated and state ownership of mines, mills, and factories established, Hungary faces a decline in the rate of economic growth and stagnating labor productivity.

To raise labor productivity the bureaucracy has been introducing capitalist market methods, which will intensify competition among workers. They also are reducing government-financed social benefits.

At the party congress, Pozsgay stated that private enterprise has to be supported to "create an efficient economy." But it will be a tough transition and the "first phase will not be a welfare state," he stressed.

Linked to these steps, Hungary's bureaucracy is also trying to get more loans and investments from capitalist countries to help modernize its technology.

By the moves they are making, the dominant forces in the bureaucracy hope to convince working people to accept their economic measures and encourage capitalists to make more investments.

But none of this is going to improve the life of working people in Hungary nor resolve the coming crisis for the privileged stratum that parasitizes off what working people produce. As they try to step up the use of capitalist methods, the bureaucrats will increasingly run into the limits of what they can do, which are imposed by the fact that basic production is state-owned and capital can't be exchanged — at least not without a violent counterrevolution that would spark fierce resistance from the working class.

These limits are also a restraint on how much capitalists will invest or can help to stabilize the situation in Hungary or other East European countries.

Moreover, the perestroika-type schemes are based on the assumption that the capitalist system is not going to change. But all signs indicate that the conditions inside the capitalist countries, including the most advanced, are building up for a catastrophic crash that will also profoundly shake the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

And that, by any name, is going to shake up the working class and lay the basis for a genuine communist movement in these countries.

What do pharmaceutical mergers mean for workers?

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN
AND JANICE LYNN

NEWARK, N.J. — In July the Bristol-Myers company and the Squibb Corp. (based in New Jersey), announced plans for a \$12 billion merger. If this deal should go through, it would make the new company the second largest pharmaceutical company in the world. The first is Merck & Co., also based in New Jersey.

This deal is the latest in a series of mergers and acquisitions that have been rocking the highly profitable pharmaceutical industry.

UNION TALK

Earlier in the year, SmithKline Beckman Corp. and the Beecham Group, the British pharmaceutical giant, announced merger plans. They currently rank third.

Dow Chemical Co.'s pharmaceutical unit will be merging with Marion Laboratories, while Eastman Kodak Co. is entering the industry through its acquisition of Sterling Drug.

Hoffman-La Roche, the giant of the Swiss pharmaceutical industry, has restructured itself to more easily find merger targets.

Merck and Johnson & Johnson have reached agreements for joint ventures in the over-the-counter drug industry. This would open up the lucrative over-the-counter market to Merck, which up to now has specialized in higher cost prescription drugs.

Also, on September 28 Merck and E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. announced, "long-term research and marketing agreements to develop a class of drugs to compete in the \$6 billion market for heart treatments." According to the same article these two agreements would strengthen Merck's position in the industry.

Workers in the pharmaceutical industry are trying to figure out what this epidemic of mergers will mean for us.

This restructuring in the pharmaceutical industry aims to place the different companies in stronger positions in an increasingly competitive environment.

The pharmaceutical giants have enjoyed relative monopolies over drug manufacturing and sales for decades through patent protections. Many of the best-selling prescription drugs, however, will have their patents expire in the early 1990s. This will open up hitherto protected monopoly markets to competition, including from cheaper generic versions of the drugs. This will drive down prices and profit rates.

In order to discover and develop new drugs, which will in turn then be protected by new patents, major investments are required. It is estimated that \$125 million is required for the research of each new drug.

For example, the Bristol-Myers-Squibb merger will give the new company \$600 million for research, almost equaling Merck research and development funds.

No single company has a dominant share of the overall drug industry. Merck, for example, only controls 9.2 percent of the prescription drug market in the United States. So, a battle over market share is opening up.

Pharmaceutical workers will be the first victims of this approaching economic war.

There are currently 65,000 people employed by 14 pharmaceutical companies in New Jersey alone, making it the largest industry in the state. We can expect that as the mergers go through, many of these workers will lose their jobs as the companies streamline their operations and eliminate what they consider "duplicate" plants and jobs. Plant closures can be expected.

There will also be greater pressures to reduce the cost of production by reducing labor costs through job combinations, layoffs, speedup, cutting corners on health and safety, and demands for wage concessions and benefit cuts.

The labor movement has already been down this beaten path. We have seen in industry after industry, (in auto, steel, meat-packing and right now in the airlines) competition

reaching a shrill pitch.

We have seen, company after company demand that workers sacrifice so that "their" jobs will be saved by making "their" company number one over some competitor. Such a course only weakens workers by dividing us along company lines.

What we have learned is that making concessions does not, in fact, save jobs. Companies continue to close plants. Those that remain force their workers to take cuts that lower living standards and make working conditions more hazardous.

Faced with this sharpening competition coming in the context of an overall economic downturn, we need to begin developing a strategy that can help us protect ourselves. We need to look to joining with other workers facing the same problems and not to "our" company becoming more competitive.

Our road forward is to band with *all* workers — all pharmaceutical workers throughout the world, and workers in other industries. We need to understand that we all have the same interests in protecting ourselves from attempts to drive down our living standards. To maximize our strength and capacity to defend ourselves, we must be united. Our concern should be "jobs for all," not just "my" job.

One of the best ways to begin on such a course is by building support for the nationwide strike of the Eastern Airline workers, as well as for miners on strike against Pittston.

As pharmaceutical workers we should also be concerned with the ability of working people to have access to medicines we produce. We can support the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers union call for fully paid health care for all.

Georges Mehrabian and Janice Lynn are chemical operators at Merck & Co. in Rahway, New Jersey, and are members of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers union Local 8-575.

LETTERS

Cuban economists

Three Cuban economists joined a panel of North American scholars here August 30 for a roundtable discussion on "Cuban International Economic Relations." Dr. George Carriazo, Pedro Cuscó, and Héctor Heras represented the Center for the Study of the World Economy (CIEM), in Havana, on the panel.

The other panelists were Dr. Cole Blaiser of the U.S. Library of Congress; Dr. Carmelo Mesa-Lago of the University of Pittsburgh; Dr. Archibald Ritter of Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada; and Dr. Sergio Roca of Adelphi University in New York.

The event was organized by the Latin American Studies Association and the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Latin American Studies. It was funded by the Ford Foundation.

The roundtable gathering, which drew 25 people, was the result of a prolonged effort by Latin American studies officials at the university. For several years the groups' attempts to organize academic exchanges with Cuba have been obstructed by U.S. government restrictions.

In their brief remarks, the speakers discussed the Third World debt; the U.S.-organized boycott of Cuba; prospects for Cuban foreign trade, with both capitalist and noncapitalist countries; and the restructuring of the Soviet economy.

Steve Marshall
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Palestinian unions

The Israeli occupation authorities persist in their policy of oppression against the Palestinian working class and its union movement, a policy which has escalated since the beginning of the popular *intifada* [uprising] in December 1987. Tens of thousands of Palestinian workers employed by Israeli companies have been fired because of complying with strike days called for by the Unified National Leadership.

More than 250 workers have been martyred since the beginning of the *intifada*. At the forefront was unionist Ahmad al-Kilani, executive committee member of the Public Institutions Trade Union Federation in the West Bank, who was assassinated in Ya'abad village near Jenin.

Thousands of workers have been arrested and injured. Hundreds of unionists remain under administrative detention, including Yassin al-Kawasmeh, executive committee member of the General Federation of Trade Unions. Twenty-six union centers have been closed since the beginning of the *intifada*. Most remain closed.

The number of workers forced to have green identity cards, which prohibit them from entering and working in Israel, has increased to over 2,000. Policies of racist discrimination force Palestinian workers to carry special badges in several Israeli work places and to gather before and after work in special stockades prepared for them.

On August 27 the occupation authorities expelled two Jerusalem union leaders, Majed Labadi, a leader of the General Federation of Trade Unions and the general secretary of the Printers Union in Jerusalem, and Odeh Ma'ali, a leader of the Union of Hotel and Restaurant Workers, along with three other colleagues. The number of expellees since the beginning of the *intifada* has reached 61, of whom 17 are workers and union leaders.

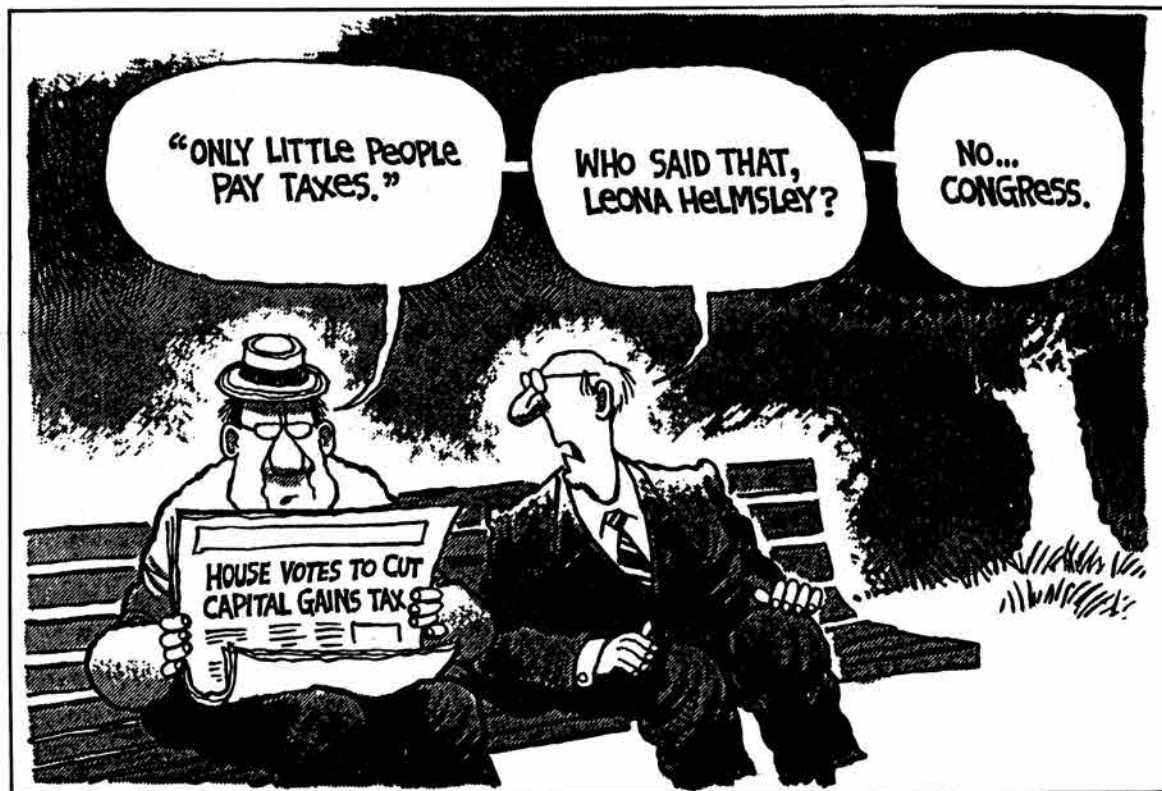
The General Federation of Trade Unions appeals to you to stand by its side and to use your ability to increase pressure on the Israeli government to cease its oppressive measures against the working-class and the union movement, especially, the policy of expulsion from the soil of this country.

Mahmoud Ziadeh
General Secretary
General Federation of Trade Unions
Nablus, West Bank

Against arts censorship

The recent controversy over the cancelled Robert Mapplethorpe photographic exhibition in Washington, D.C., is an important lesson in the need to defend free speech and public funding of the arts.

Detroit newspapers have covered the debate on the attempts by Jesse Helms, U.S. senator from North Carolina, to prevent the National Endowment for the Arts from funding museums, like the Corcoran, that choose to exhibit photographs of naked men. Helms is wellknown for



Rob Rogers

his bigotry and antiunion stands.

The issue is freedom of expression and art — not the personal opinions of the reactionary Helms, who incidentally fails to defend women's rights whether that be affirmative action or abortion rights. Violence against women is okay in his book, but not pictures of gay men.

The Pathfinder mural of revolutionary and Marxist leaders from around the world would be called obscene by Helms because it presents fighters in the struggles for social change. Art — mural or photographic — requires freedom of expression.

Mark Friedman
Detroit, Michigan

IAM Lodge 873 strike

Some 940 members of International Association of Machinists Lodge 873 struck the John Deere Co. plant in Horicon, Wisconsin, on October 1. Many of them were on picket lines in downtown Horicon that day in full view of hundreds of tourists who were visiting a nearby wildlife preserve.

This is the first strike in 31 years at the plant where lawn and garden tractors are manufactured. For the

last nine years workers there have agreed to wage freezes to help the company maintain its profits. Strikers say that during this period the company laid off more than 200 workers while machining, welding, and punch press jobs were taken over by subcontracted firms.

Despite a recommendation to approve the proposed contract by the shop committee, the membership rejected it by an 83 percent margin. Job security is the biggest concern. Management was surprised by the strike expecting that the "cooperative labor-management relationship" there meant a quick ratification.

Sandi Sherman
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

'Starve or strike'

For the first time since 1959 steelworkers are on strike in Johnstown. This tiny town in central Pennsylvania is dominated by the Bethlehem Steel Corp. Some 2,600 members of the United Steelworkers of America work at the company's Bar, Rod, and Wire (BRW) mill and Freight Car Division. On September 1 the FCD workers struck.

In the early 1980s this division was closed and layoffs occurred at

the mill as part of the industry's restructuring. Johnstown was devastated. The official unemployment rate reached 20.6 percent, one of the highest in the country.

The company reopened the FCD in 1983 after workers agreed to a \$5.25 cut in wages and benefits. Workers at the BRW mill also took the concessions. Neither have had a raise since 1983. Graffiti painted on the factory walls reads, "Try to feed your family on concessions" and "Starve or strike."

When FCD workers were offered a 50 cent raise, which was to be deducted from their stock-sharing plan, and the company demanded the elimination of their cost-of-living adjustment, the workers voted to strike. Bethlehem tripled its profits in the last quarter of 1988, workers angrily note.

Clare Fraenzl
Johnstown, Pennsylvania

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.

Abortion rights victory in Florida 10,000 prochoice supporters march on state capitol

BY RONI McCANN

In a major defeat for those seeking to restrict a woman's right to abortion, the Florida state legislature ended its special session, called by Gov. Robert Martinez, killing all 10 proposals to impose tighter restrictions on abortion. Five of the measures were introduced by Martinez.

Originally scheduled for four days, the session ended after 24 hours. On October 10, the opening day, thousands of supporters of abortion rights demonstrated outside. Some 10,000 prochoice supporters marched to the state capitol in Tallahassee and held

As we go to press the U.S. House of Representatives voted October 11 to restore federal funding for abortions for poor women whose pregnancies result from rape or incest. If the measure wins final passage in the Senate, it will reverse portions of the eight-year ban, known as the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits such funding except when a woman's life is in danger. President George Bush has promised to veto any bill easing the ban.

a rally on the capitol steps urging the proposals be defeated. Prochoice supporters came from all over the state including some 1,000 from Miami.

The four-day special session on abortion was called by Martinez immediately after the July Supreme Court decision giving states more power to limit abortion. Some 7,000 abortion opponents had demonstrated at the capitol October 9.

In another victory for abortion rights supporters, the Florida Supreme Court struck down a law on October 5 that required teen-

age women to get their parents' consent before having an abortion. The court said the law was a violation of the right to privacy.

"Florida's privacy provision is clearly implicated in a woman's decision whether or not to continue her pregnancy," the opinion stated. "We can conceive of few more personal or private decisions concerning one's body that one can make in a lifetime."

The victories in Florida come just weeks before the November 12 national action in Washington, D.C., to defend a woman's right to abortion. A West Coast rally in San Francisco is slated for October 15. As supporters continue to build the actions, battles are heating up in several states between those who are seeking to restrict abortion rights and those who are prochoice.

In Pennsylvania the Abortion Control Act of 1989 was introduced October 3 in the House of Representatives. Along with other restrictions, it would prohibit abortion after 24 weeks of pregnancy except if the woman's life is in danger. It would also prohibit abortions in public hospitals except in cases of rape, incest, or to save the woman's life.

A recent *New York Times*/CBS News Poll found that nearly two-thirds of all those living in Pennsylvania said they were concerned that a woman might lose the right to abortion.

Three days before the legislation restricting abortion was introduced opponents of the right to choose tried to shut down three clinics where abortions can be obtained in Pittsburgh. They were unsuccessful at all three.

Some 300 antichoice forces attempted to block the entrances at two of the clinics. Police arrested 190 of them and hauled them away in city buses.

At the third clinic six anti-abortionists car-



Militant/Steve Marshall

Prochoice escort team was on hand at Pittsburgh clinic to help patients through crowd of anti-abortion rights disrupters so that they could keep their appointments.

ried buckets of tar inside and, when police moved in, spilled them. The clinic remained open, however, and the protesters were arrested.

Michigan Gov. James Blanchard was one of several speakers at a state capitol rally of 3,000 prochoice supporters in Lansing on September 24. A bill that would require

women under 18 to get parental consent before having an abortion has been proposed in the Michigan state legislature.

Supporters of a woman's right to abortion will be demonstrating in cities across Canada on October 14. The federal government has announced it will try to restrict abortion rights in the fall session of Parliament.

Miners still out in support of Pittston strikers

BY BOB MILLER

ROBINSON CREEK, Ky. — More than 300 striking miners from Kentucky and Virginia were on the picket line here on October 9, outside the gates of Rob Fork Mining Co.'s Mine 29 processing plant. Pickets were beefed up following the arrival by helicopter of additional security police over the weekend. No coal trucks have entered the struck processing facility.

A week before, on October 2, striker Bobby Robinson, a member of the United Mine Workers of America, was hit on the picket line by a scab coal truck that was trying to lead eight other trucks into the processing plant. Charles Dixon of UMWA District 30 told the *Mountain Eagle*, "The truck driver just deliberately ran the coal truck into him, trying to intimidate the picket line." Robinson has filed charges against the trucker.

Three other miners were run down on October 5 by a pick-up truck leaving the mine.

On October 2 the UMWA called a strike against Rob Fork's Mine 29 and Sun Glo Coal Co., both in Kentucky, to stop these operations from providing coal to the Pittston Coal Group. Mines were also called out in West Virginia. Miners there returned to work October 6 when the companies agreed to halt shipments to Pittston.

Some 1,700 UMWA members have been on strike at Pittston mines in Virginia and West Virginia since April 5. Remaining Pittston miners, including 200 in Kentucky added their weight to the fight a few weeks later. In addition, some 44,000 union miners waged a six-week sympathy strike beginning in June to back up miners at Pittston.

Strikers at the Rob Fork plant said they supported the selective strike and were determined to remain on the picket line despite recent company threats to permanently close the mine.

A rally to support the Pittston miners was

held in Logan, West Virginia, on October 8. UMWA President Richard Trumka told the cheering crowd of 1,500 that "the strike is stronger now than on April 5."

Borrowing a popular slogan from striking Eastern workers, Trumka said the strike will last one day longer than Pittston.

The miners' union president denounced the Virginia courts for harassment of the union. A Virginia judge fined the union another \$6.9 million for "illegal" strike activities bringing the total fines against the union to more than \$30 million. Trumka called the

finer "outrageous."

It was also announced that the 80,000-member miners' union will be rejoining the AFL-CIO after a 40-year separation. Trumka stated that the affiliation merely formalizes a working cooperation the UMWA has had with the federation. He pointed out that miners, Eastern strikers, communication workers, and others have been walking the same picket lines.

At a previous rally, three days before, International Association of Machinists President George Kourpias hailed the continuing

solidarity between Pittston miners and Eastern strikers. He noted the 50,000 Boeing workers who have just joined the battle. Boeing workers struck on October 3.

"Everyone's going to stick with it," said Roy Blankenship, a striking Pittston miner. Blankenship was shot in the arm by a Vance security thug in August while picketing in West Virginia.

More than 200 rounds of ammunition were fired at the shack and portable toilets, strikers explained. Five guards have been indicted for attempted murder for this shooting.

London youth protest cop brutality, frame-up

BY MARTYN AHMET

LONDON — Some 250 Black and white youth picketed Tottenham police station in north London on October 6. The picket was called on the fourth anniversary of the killing of a 49-year-old Black woman, Cynthia Jarrett, who died as a result of a police raid on her home in the Broadwater Farm Estate, a housing project. No police have been brought to trial for Jarrett's death.

In contrast, three Black youths, Winston Silcott, Mark Braithwaite, and Enghin Raghup, were framed up for the alleged murder of a police officer who died during the attack that followed Jarrett's killing. They are now serving life sentences in prison.

Carrying placards that read, "The Tottenham 3 are innocent!" "Stop racist attacks," and "Justice for Black people," the protesters demanded a public inquiry into the circumstances that led to the police raid and subsequent uprising.

The action, called by the Broadwater Farm Defence Campaign and Broadwater Farm Residents Association, was addressed by

Shaun Waterman, Millard Scott, and Stafford Scott from the defense campaign. Stafford Scott explained that Broadwater Farm residents were "no longer prepared to suffer the injustices and intimidation meted out on Black people by this racist police force."

The picket also protested a police raid on the estate just a week earlier. More than 400 police in riot gear, some carrying axes, sledgehammers, pickaxe handles, and crowbars, invaded dozens of houses and occupied the estate for hours. The stated reason was to crack down on what police termed as "drug barons" operating in the housing complex.

"This raid was not about drugs," commented Millard Scott. "It was a deliberate attempt to criminalize and terrorize our community."

The local government body, Haringey Council, has raised with the police its concerns about the attack. A packed meeting of 200 called by the Broadwater Farm Defence Campaign and the Residents Association was held on the Monday night after the invasion. Shaun Waterman of the defense campaign spoke of "a flood of complaints" from resi-

dents about their treatment by the police.

Yvette Brooks told the meeting, "I have never been so humiliated in all my life." She was explaining how police took away her 10-week-old baby, and ordered her into a police van where she was strip searched.

Millard Scott, who was chairing the meeting, cited other examples of police behavior. Some residents returned to their homes to find a police leaflet explaining their home had been searched in their absence. No search warrants had been produced. In one such case, Scott said, the front door had been "totally dismantled."

Of the 38 people who were arrested, nine were charged with public order offenses arising out of the police action. Not a single person was charged with any serious drug offense.

Stafford Scott said one man was arrested because he had a Miami stamp in his passport. "Does this mean that Black people between the ages of 15 and 30 can't go to another country where there is a drug problem?" he asked the angry meeting.