

# Stock price dive shows growing instability of world capitalism

## What's behind Wall Street's market plunge

BY PETER THIERJUNG

NEW YORK — "Friday the Thirteenth — Nightmare on Wall Street," the front page of the *New York Post* blared on October 14, the day after a 190-point plunge on the New York Stock Exchange sent jitters through the capitalist world.

The drop was the second largest ever, surpassed only by the 508-point crash of Oct. 19, 1987. It was the 12th worst percentage loss in the exchange's history. Because of the volume of sell orders, trade in many stocks was shut down, and several were unable to resume trading that day.

The Chicago stock futures market suffered a "financial bloodbath," the *Washington Post*

**For coverage of the Pittston, Eastern, and Boeing strikes see articles on pages 2, 3, 6.**

said. There trading shut down completely early in the afternoon, leaving millions of dollars in sell orders unexecuted.

The financial losses were staggering, totaling almost \$200 billion. The value of USX stock, the largest steel company in the United States, dropped \$151 million. A few Wall Street firms lost as much as \$100 million on United and American airlines stocks. At least one trading firm in Chicago went under, requiring a \$50 million unprecedented emergency bailout to pay off creditors to prevent further losses.

Within hours Wall Street executives and U.S. government officials began meeting in

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Militant/Jon Hillson

## Stakes in Machinists', coal strikes

The steep drop in stock prices on Wall Street October 13 took place in a context where employers and bankers can no longer be confident that a major bankruptcy, loan default, crop failure, bank collapse, downturn in the business cycle, stock market dive, or other partial crisis will be absorbed by the strength of the international capitalist economy.

The plunge in stock prices, like the stock market crash in 1987, takes place in a differ-

## EDITORIAL

ent world than during the large-scale expansion of the international capitalist economy in the 1950s and '60s.

Today these partial crises have the growing potential to spiral out of control and trigger a credit collapse and a worldwide depression and generalized social crisis.

The shock waves of the 190-point drop on the Dow Jones immediately spread throughout the capitalist world. The governments of the United States, Britain, Germany, and Japan worked overtime to avert just such a collapse.

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## Freed S. Africans vow to continue struggle

BY RONI McCANN

The Holy Cross Anglican Church in Soweto, South Africa, was packed with more than 1,000 people, and deafening chants of support for the African National Congress

shook the building. Inside, just hours after their unconditional release from apartheid's jails, seven ANC stalwarts held a press conference.

Eight political prisoners, some jailed for 26 years, were released by Pretoria October 15. Along with the ANC leaders, including Walter Sisulu, former ANC secretary general, was a member of the Pan Africanist Congress.

A huge ANC banner formed the backdrop for the press conference as the long-time anti-apartheid leaders made it clear they would continue their political work as members of the ANC. "We will carry out whatever the ANC wants us to do," said Ahmed Kathrada, one of the released. It's possible they might apply for a passport to visit the banned organization's headquarters in Lusaka, Zambia.

The seven vowed that the ANC would continue the fight against apartheid on all fronts, including the armed struggle, and called on Pretoria to release Nelson Mandela, jailed with them in 1964. The ANC's position on negotiations was reiterated — the climate for such talks must be created first, which means lifting the state of emergency, freeing all political prisoners, and ending the ban on all organizations, among other things. Thousands remain imprisoned in South Africa, and Pretoria executed two on September 29.

A statement from Lusaka by the ANC National Executive Committee hailed the releases. "This constitutes an important victory brought about by the unrelenting struggle of our people and the international community for the unconditional release of all South African political prisoners."

A statement issued by the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the United Democratic Front on behalf of the Mass Democratic Movement read, "These are tried and tested leaders of our people." They remained "unflinching in their refusal to be separated from the liberation movement and

masses of our country."

The day before the press conference South Africans numbering 150,000 poured into the streets in cities throughout the country to protest apartheid and celebrate the anticipated releases.

Some 40,000 marched in Port Elizabeth and 10,000 each in Johannesburg and Cape Town. Durban crowds swelled to 5,000, and 4,000 turned out in Pretoria. Secunda, a small town in the Transvaal, had its first major anti-apartheid march, of 6,000, most of them trade union members.

Called by COSATU, the marches protested the Labour Relations Amendment Act, which restricts trade union activities. Since the 3-million-strong national strike in September, COSATU members have been leading union and job actions as part of the defiance campaign.

The National Union of Mineworkers struck diamond giant De Beers October 12 after the company refused the 37.6 percent wage increase the unionists demanded, offering 17 percent instead. "Considering the huge profits realized by De Beers, it is surprising that they could fail to accede to the union's demands until workers were forced to strike," said a NUM statement. Some 9,500 NUM members out of 10,000 participated. The average monthly wage of Black miners is \$185 while white miners make \$1,000.

On October 16 the workers agreed to suspend the strike and resume negotiations. The NUM announced its members would march through the streets of Johannesburg October 28 and had been granted a permit to do so by the Rand Supreme Court. Protesting miners will wear their boots, overalls, and helmets to march in the "city of gold built by the sweat and toil of miners." NUM officials said the march would also commemorate the more than 65,000 miners killed digging gold and coal "for the mine bosses."

## Guildford 4 to be freed in Britain

BY PETE CLIFFORD

LONDON — Four people known as the Guildford Four, who were framed up for Irish Republican Army bombings in London and nearby Guildford, are to be freed from prison after serving 14 years.

The four — Paul Hill, Gerard Conlon, Carole Richardson, and Patrick Armstrong — were all jailed for life in October 1975. Their convictions were based on confessions obtained by police interrogators. There was no identification or forensic evidence.

Their appeal was due to be heard in January. Defense lawyers described the release as "historic."

The decision to free the Guildford Four follows a massive international campaign that won backing from two former Home Secretaries, two Law Lords (equivalent to Supreme Court judges), the archbishop of Westminster, and the Irish government.

Ludovik Kennedy, writer and campaigner on behalf of the four, said, "The important thing now is they require a free pardon and massive compensation."

Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams said, "What happens today to the Guildford Four can happen tomorrow for the Birmingham Six and all Irish political prisoners."

Seven others — known as the Mag-

uire Seven — were jailed, based solely on evidence forced from the Guildford Four. One of them, Giuseppe Conlon, died in jail after six years. The last to be released, Annie Maguire, served 11 years.

Hill, one of the Guildford Four, has been moved to different prisons on 50 occasions and spent the equivalent of four years in solitary confinement. He has been awarded compensation for the beatings he has suffered. He is strip-searched before and after each family visit.

Hill was the first victim of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), under which thousands of people, mainly Irish, have been detained, questioned, and imprisoned without charge over the last 14 years. The law was enacted in the midst of press hysteria following the bombing of a pub in the Midlands city of Birmingham in 1974. Six men — the Birmingham Six — are still serving sentences after being framed up for that bombing.

Labour member of Parliament Chris Mullin, author of *Error of Judgement — The Truth About the Birmingham Bombings*, said, "It can now only be a question of time before the authorities are obliged to own up to that other great miscarriage of justice, the conviction of the Birmingham Six."



# Oil workers support Pittston miners

BY JIM ALTENBERG

ST. PAUL, Va. — As part of a three-day campaign of solidarity with striking Pittston miners, members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers from 10 states joined 1,500 miners and supporters in a rally October 11.

Some 1,700 members of the United Mine Workers of America have been on strike against Pittston Coal Group since April 5 in Virginia and West Virginia. Miners in remaining Pittston mines in Kentucky walked out a few weeks later.

"The message of solidarity and your struggle has touched every working American," Joseph Misbrenner, OCAW president, told the crowd. "This is a time of reawakening of the American labor movement."

## First woman underground miner hired in Australia

Gaileen Mallyon — Australia's first woman to be hired as an underground coal miner — began employment at Capcoal's Central coal mine in Queensland, reported *Common Cause*, publication of the Miners Federation of Australia, in the September 1989 issue.

Over the past decade laws covering employment underground that apply to both men and women equally have been adopted throughout Australia. In Queensland, one of Australia's six states, legislation barring women from working underground was lifted this year.

"I want, and expect, to be treated no differently to any other coal miner in the colliery," Mallyon told *Common Cause*. "I would have not applied for the job if I did not feel I was capable of doing the work. All I want is to be treated and judged as an equal to any other miner," she said.

Queensland miners' union President Andrew Vickers welcomed Mallyon's employment. "When women first won the right to work underground in the United States, in the mid-1970s, they faced some opposition and conservative attitudes but now, while all the problems have not been solved, American woman miners are an integral part of the coal industry and the miners' union," he stated.

On the page opposite the article on Mallyon's hiring, *Common Cause* printed a letter from Kipp Dawson, a coal miner who is female and works in an underground mine in Pennsylvania. Dawson, a member of United Mine Workers of America Local 1197, congratulated the miners' federation for "recognizing the right of women to seek and hold employment of our choice." She also welcomed the support miners in Australia have given to the current fight against Pittston Coal.

Misbrenner discussed the possibility of a merger between the OCAW and the UMWA. "We're working on both sides to bring it about." He said that reporters had asked him if the fines, now in the range of \$30 million dollars, levied against the UMWA during the Pittston strike would affect the merger. "We don't check profit and loss sheets, unlike corporate America. The goal of unions is the betterment of mankind."

Participants included oil and chemical workers from as far away as Houston and Philadelphia, union militants from OCAW-organized plants in this region, and unionists on tour from Belgium, Poland, Sweden, and West Germany.

Two officers of the OCAW local at BASF in Geismar, Louisiana, joined the rally. Unionists at BASF went on strike in 1987 after the company ended a years-long lockout and fired the entire maintenance department, some 125 workers.

Also present were members of OCAW Local 3-523 from Ashland, Kentucky, who had just won a contract with substantial improvements following an eight-year battle to maintain union recognition after ARMCO steel bought the coke plant where they work.

The rally featured a number of international guests. Jacek Merkel, a newly elected member of the Polish parliament and director of Solidarity's economic policy department addressed the crowd. Solidarity has won "because of the international solidarity of workers. You will win because of the same thing,"



Militant/Jim Altenberg

St. Paul, Virginia, October 11. Participants in rally of oil and mine workers in support of the Pittston Coal strikers.

he said.

Also speaking were top officials of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. Founded in 1949, the ICFTU is a federation of unions that includes 88 million workers in 97 capitalist countries. ICFTU officials came to Virginia to learn about the Pittston strike and lend their support. They visited Camp Solidarity, where strike supporters stay, and various picket shacks. They plan to meet with UMWA President Richard Trumka, Pittston Chairman Paul Douglas, and government officials.

ICFTU General Secretary John Vanderveken explained that he is used to looking

into workers' conditions and battles in South Africa, Poland, and Chile. He said this was the first time federation officials felt it necessary to investigate events in the United States.

Peter Michalzik of the ICFTU-affiliated Miners International Federation said miners at Pittston were not alone. ICFTU offices, he reported, were receiving calls from miners in Latin America and South Africa asking how they could help the Pittston miners.

Marty Hudson, UMWA strike coordinator, concluded the rally. "We've got to work harder. We've got to put in more hours. This is history in the making."

## A visit to Virginia miners' Camp Solidarity

BY RONI McCANN

CARTERTON, Va. — Camp Solidarity was under construction as our carload of Pittston strike supporters pulled in October 18. The striking members of the United Mine Workers of America and friends were busy building bunkhouses for the flow of unionists and others who continue to come to Virginia to back the Pittston miners.

The camp director told us that unionists from Indiana and elsewhere were bringing in materials and crews to help the project. Union electricians also agreed to wire existing campers for heat, along with the new bunkhouses. "Winter is coming, and we're getting ready. They thought all this would end when the cold set in, but they're wrong," said one miner.

The camp is nestled in the Appalachian hills just outside of Lebanon, Virginia. During the six-month strike against Pittston Coal Group by some 1,900 miners, the camp has served as a strike organizing center. Thousands of unionists have visited, driving down in car pools, caravans, and buses to support the fight.

Just last week 150 unionists from Pennsylvania came down, and this week strikers expect members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees from Hawaii and telephone workers from New Jersey. A caravan of 20 supporters arrived Monday from Maine.

Our carload of an Eastern striker, two Trans World Airlines ramp workers, and myself arrived to a warm welcome and a tour of the grounds. Tents and trailers dot the camp. Several miners sat around a campfire, and others gathered in a kitchen loaded with food donations where meals are cooked.

A large delegation of UMWA members from southern Illinois were down for a week's stay. One explained that each of the area UMWA districts send miners on a rotating basis to the camp. "One local has so many volunteers they have to draw names from a hat to see who gets to come," he said. Rocky from a southern Illinois mine said they had a send-off rally before leaving, in West Frankfurt. In attendance were 1,500 miners and supporters, and UMWA Vice-president Cecil Roberts spoke, along with others, including

an Eastern striker. It was the first such event in that town, he reported, and thought it was very successful.

Buck from Logan County, West Virginia, has been at the camp for 20 weeks. We recognized each other from the June 11 rally in Charleston, West Virginia, of 10,000 miners. The rally was the day before 44,000 walked out backing the Pittston strike. He welcomed us to the camp, saying, "We need all the support we can get."

Preparations were being made for the weekly rally, usually held in St. Paul, Virginia. "Tonight we're holding it here to dedicate the new bunkers," said the camp director. He explained that Pittston was very interested in the camp activities and helicopters had passed over a couple of times already.

The Pittston miners have been on strike since April 5. On October 13 U.S. Secretary of Labor Elizabeth Dole announced her attempt to get the union and Pittston back to the bargaining table. She reported the UMWA and Pittston Chairman Paul Douglas have agreed. Previously, the company had consistently refused to negotiate.

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Editor: DOUG JENNESS

Circulation Director: NORTON SANDLER

Nicaragua Bureau Director: LARRY SEIGLE

Business Manager: JIM WHITE

Editorial Staff: Susan Apstein, Seth Galinsky (Nicaragua), Arthur Hughes, Susan LaMont, Sam Manuel, Roni McCann, Greg McCartan, Selva Nebbia, Peter Thierjung, Judy White (Nicaragua).

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# Machinists at United oppose buyout deal

BY PATTI IYAMA

NEW YORK — The proposed \$6.75 billion leveraged buyout of United Airlines has sparked a serious discussion among ground service workers here at Kennedy International Airport. The takeover bid is being made by a group of senior United managers, including Chairman Stephen Wolf, the Air Line Pilots Association at United, and British Airways.

"It stinks," said one ramp worker. "No way I'm going to give them part of my paycheck to buy United. We're not earning enough now — how could I afford it? We'll have to strike

if they try to make us give wage concessions. We deserve a raise, not cuts." Most other workers agree.

Ground service workers at United are in the International Association of Machinists and include mechanics, ramp service workers, cleaners, and kitchen workers. About 22,000 IAM members around the country work at United — more than one-third of the company's employees.

IAM officials are against the buyout proposal and have asked the U.S. Labor Department to block the sale. IAM Vice-president John Peterpaul calls the buyout a "transaction

in which both the government and employees are being abused."

Concern over the union's opposition to the deal was one reason several major banks refused to help finance the buyout — which in turn helped trigger the October 13 stock market plunge.

"This gives us more clout now that we're entering contract negotiations," observed one mechanic. The Machinists' contract with United expires October 31; initial contract discussions began October 17.

Many IAM members are hopeful that if nothing else works, the federal government will intervene to stop the buyout on the grounds that it is based on unrealistic financial projections and would add a large amount of debt to the airline.

"The price they're paying for United Airlines Corp. stock is way too high — \$300 per share — when just a few months ago it was \$120," said one mechanic who follows the financial pages closely. "To service the debt payment, United will have to earn more profits than it did last year — and that was a record!"

"They're in this to make money quick," he said. "Look at Stephen Wolf. He's going to make \$76.7 million off this deal, and that's not even counting his salary for this year!" Wolf is chairman of UAL Corp., United's parent company.

A September 11 letter from Wolf to all United employees said the buyout would result in "wage concessions and, where feasible, productivity improvements."

"I may be many things, but I'm not stupid," said a cleaner who is a single mother. "They want us to take a cut in pay while they make millions? Let Wolf try living on what I make and see if he likes it."

The pilots, who have aggressively pursued the buyout, are the only employees putting money up for the deal. Around 90 percent of the 6,000 pilots at United voted to approve the Air Line Pilots Association leadership's decision to use \$200 million from the pilots' pension fund to buy into an employee stock ownership plan.

To help sell their participation in the buyout to management, the pilots have promised that they won't go on strike for the next seven years. They will settle disputes through binding arbitration and cross the picket lines of any union striking during that time.

They will also give up 10 percent of their wages, work an additional five hours per month (four without pay), and take fewer vacations — concessions totaling \$250 million a year.

In return, UAL guarantees no pilots will be laid off in the next seven years, even if there is a recession.

As of November 1, a 10 percent wage cut is being imposed on nonunion employees who make more than \$20,000 a year. Non-union workers will also have to pay \$40 a month for medical coverage and \$1,500 a year before 100 percent of medical costs are covered.

"What will they want from us next?" everyone is asking.

"No matter what we give them now, they will need more when there's a recession or when fuel prices go up," predicted one cleaner with 20 years at United.

According to the buyout plan, 75 percent of the company would be "owned" by employees. Only three of the 15-member board of directors, however, would be appointed by employees.

"Besides, the banks would really be the ones to own the company," explained one cleaner. "In a way, it's like your home mortgage. Until you've paid off the entire thing, the bank really owns your house."

## Experience at Eastern

A mechanic who used to work at Eastern Airlines pointed out what Eastern's employee stock ownership plan meant for workers there. During the early 1980s, "we were forced to buy stock instead of receiving part of our wages," he said. "We bought at \$67 a share but had to hold the stock for several years and even then couldn't sell it to anyone but the company. They only offered us \$16 a share, and many of us refused to sell. I'd rather paper my walls with it."

"We only did all this because Eastern wasn't doing well," he continued. "Here at United, they're telling us we have to do it when the company is making record profits. What will happen if there's a recession?"

A mechanic emphasized the importance of having a union. "At least the company can't force us to take the cuts, like they can with the noncontract workers," he said. "United has to negotiate with us, and we can say no."

Some workers, however, are concerned that IAM officials may agree to some concessions, despite the membership's opposition.

While some workers are thinking about getting other jobs or going back to school, many have become more interested in the union. Some 15 people out of a midnight cleaning crew of 20 came to the last union meeting.

"After all, we are the union," said one cleaner. After two and a half years at United, this was his first union meeting. "If we don't come to the meetings and get active, how will anyone know what we think? How can we expect the union to represent us? And how can we affect anything?" he said.

There is also renewed interest among United workers in the strike at Eastern, now in its eighth month. They are impressed that the strikers have stayed out for so long, with so few people crossing the picket line. There is greater understanding that the Eastern strikers aren't just making the record and the outcome of the strike will reinforce United workers in the contract fight. If the Eastern strikers lose, what kind of contract can be expected?

*Patti Iiyama is a member of IAM Local 1322 and works as a cleaner for United at Kennedy Airport.*

## Seattle Boeing strikers call march and rally



Jim Levitt

Machinists picket in Seattle. Reduction of overtime is central strike issue.

BY KAREN RAY

SEATTLE — Machinists on strike here against Boeing Co. are organizing a march and rally on October 21.

Thousands of strikers and supporters are expected to turn out for the "Family Day Rally" and march from the headquarters of International Association of Machinists District Lodge 751 to the Boeing corporate offices.

District 751 includes 43,000 of the 58,000 IAM members on strike against the airline giant since October 4.

Another 12,000 are on strike in Wichita, Kansas, and 1,700 in Portland, Oregon.

The rally is being backed by the Washington State Labor Council. Leaflets are posted in IAM union halls and word is getting out through the media. Scheduled speakers include Jesse Jackson, and the labor council is building the march through its member unions.

Machinists Local 63 in Portland is publicizing the rally over their strike hotline.

As the strike enters its third week strikers are preparing for what may be a long fight.

"I think we need to support each other. We have to unite," said Lee, a young striker in Everett. "We're all fighting for the same thing," she said.

At the Everett plant north of Seattle Lee is walking picket duty and leading chants by pickets as supervisory and salaried personnel drive into the plant. "This mandatory overtime stinks, doesn't it?" the strikers yell as the cars drive out.

Lee, a clerk, had worked for Boeing for four months before going out on strike. The average seniority is four and a half years, and for many, like Lee, this is their first strike.

"I wasn't really boisterous until I came out here and was around all these people," said Darrell Capstin, a mechanic at the Everett plant.

Darrell is planning on volunteering for more picket duty. While strikers are only required to picket four hours every 20 days, many workers are taking daily picket duty in front of the gates they drove through before the strike.

Kitchens in the three main union halls are running 24 hours a day. Food and supplies are piling up from donations from unions and

businesses.

Volunteers are staffing phones and the kitchens, and many strikers volunteer every day in the union halls.

In an October 11 letter to strikers Boeing Chairman Frank Shrontz said, "Boeing's offer represents the best overall three-year contract of any major U.S. industrial firm in recent history."

The company had offered a 4 percent wage increase the first year followed by a 3 percent increase in each of the next two years.

A letter from the "Picket Lines in Everett, Seattle, and Renton" has been circulated and signed by hundreds of strikers.

The letter responds to Shrontz by pointing out, "We only ask for a fair share in light of the profits Boeing is making. We cooperated in two previous contracts, asking — and receiving — very little for our efforts."

"But to our regret, we found ourselves suffering injuries (from fatigue and 'burn-out') and heart attacks, and yes, even dying as a result of working too many hours each day for too many days without respite. Mandatory overtime is a bitter issue that you refrained from mentioning. It is a very important issue, and one we will not tolerate being shrugged off or swept aside."

Mandatory overtime has emerged as a central issue in the strike. Thousands of workers have been forced to work 200 hours of overtime each in three months.

Workers refer to the effects of these grueling hours as suffering from "burn out" and feeling like a "zombie." The rejected contract only reduced mandatory overtime to 160 hours every three months.

District 751 President Tom Baker said in a letter to the membership. "The bottom line is this: We deserve a fair share of the wealth we've created (and that means a substantial raise) and we deserve relief from forced overtime."

"This strike is for our families. We will win by standing together, family by family, to gain the things that all of us need," the letter from Baker concluded.

The first talks between the company and the union began on October 18.

*Karen Ray is a member of IAM District 751, Local A, on strike at Boeing in Seattle.*

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# \$10,000 goal in Des Moines sparks fund effort

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

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is leading an international campaign to fight for justice for Curtis. For more information about the case or how you can help, write to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048,

for financial contributions.

Studer said one volunteer, who came to Des Moines to help, has raised \$4,225 on her own through phone calls to defense committee supporters. "We will have to reach out to supporters of Curtis all over the world to contribute funds to the defense effort," Studer said. "Everyone who becomes convinced to support this fight will want to make it possible by contributing," he added.

## DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

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*.

Mark Curtis Defense Committee coordinator John Studer reported in an interview the group's decision to launch a fund-raising drive as part of its perspectives for the next several months. "We have been very successful in winning political support for the fight for justice for Mark Curtis. But we have a gap in translating that political support into financial support," Studer said.

The defense committee is in the process of developing its perspectives, centered on defending Curtis' rights to be political in prison. Right now, Studer explained, this revolves around defending Curtis' right and the rights of other prisoners at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory in Anamosa to receive correspondence and other literature in languages other than English.

"Overall, thousands of dollars in legal fees, for mailings, literature, travel, and other expenses are needed right away," Studer said.

On October 4 defense committee activists voted a goal of raising \$10,000. This will be done through efforts based at the committee's Des Moines office. Activists divided up a list of supporters from Iowa and around the country to call and ask

To contribute, or to volunteer to help raise funds, contact the Mark Curtis Defense Committee at the address or phone number above.

The Housing Now! march in Washington, D.C., on October 7 attracted tens of thousands, many of whom were young people and unionists. Some of them learned about the case of Mark Curtis and his defense campaign at the march.

Supporters of the Curtis defense committee set up a literature table at the march, which was always surrounded by five to 10 people throughout the day. "Who is Mark Curtis?" they asked. They also wanted to know why he was framed, why prison authorities banned non-English literature, and other questions.

Some were shocked by the picture of Curtis taken after he had been beaten by Des Moines police. One man came back to the table with two of his friends to interest them in the case. "Look at that face!" he said pointing to the photograph of Curtis. "I know what's coming next," one member of the Teamsters union said after hearing that Curtis has been defending Spanish-speaking co-workers. He anticipated being told about the frame-up of Curtis by Des Moines police. He signed a petition and gave a donation.

Several people who stopped by the table had been framed them-



Militant/Margrethe Siem  
Curtis activists win new supporters at October 7 housing march in Washington, D.C.

selves. Two men participated in a housing action to prevent the demolition of a building on the Lower East Side of Manhattan in New York. They were picked up the next day by police who tried to have the two institutionalized for mental illness.

This was the first demonstration some had participated in. Six students from upstate New York came on their own initiative after hearing about the march. They stopped by the table and took literature. One student from Ohio planned to write an article about the Curtis case in the student newspaper and wanted a speaker to come to her campus.

Many were outraged that prisoners where Curtis is incarcerated could not receive materials in languages other than English. About 300 people signed a petition addressed to prison authorities protest-

ing this rights violation. Almost \$60 in contributions were collected. Ten copies of the pamphlet, *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis: A Packinghouse Worker's Fight for Justice* by Margaret Jayko, were sold. Many signed up to get more information about the case.

Twenty workers at the General Motors car assembly plant in Wellington, New Zealand, signed a petition against the ban on non-English literature and the right of prisoners to share literature at Curtis' prison in Iowa.

Some workers were already familiar with the frame-up and signed the petition as a gesture of their continued support for Curtis' fight for justice. The majority of those signing, however, had not heard of

the Curtis case before. They responded because they were opposed to the language restrictions and supported prisoners' rights.

For many workers at the GM plant English is a second language. Some come from South Pacific island countries and their first languages are Samoan, Tongan, or Tokelau. Some are recent immigrants from Asia and speak Vietnamese or Khmer. Others are Maoris, New Zealand's indigenous people who have had to fight for recognition of their language and culture.

As a result of the petitioning more workers at the plant have become interested in learning more about Curtis' defense effort.

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

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.

Priscilla Schenk from Des Moines, Iowa; Nancy Blyth from New York; Francisco Picado from Philadelphia; and Christine Harris from Wellington, New Zealand contributed to this week's column.

# Hearing delay keeps Gelfand harassment suit alive

BY PETER THIERJUNG

On October 4 U.S. District Court Judge Mariana Pfalzer granted a request by attorneys for the U.S. Justice Department to postpone a hearing on a motion to reverse or substantially amend the court's findings in favor of the Socialist Workers Party in a 10-year harassment lawsuit.

The lawsuit filed by Alan Gelfand was supported and financed by an outfit called the Workers League. The group has become known for its disruptive activities in the labor movement and is currently on a campaign to lend credence to the frame-up by Des Moines police of political activist Mark Curtis and to smear the activities of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Gelfand, an attorney employed by Los Angeles County, charged in his suit that the SWP is run by FBI agents, and demanded that the court overturn his 1979 expulsion from the party and remove the party's leadership from office. The suit was based on Gelfand's claim that his constitutional rights were violated because "FBI agents" in the party's leadership engineered his expulsion. The U.S. Justice Department was also named as a defendant in Gelfand's 1979 lawsuit.

The case was tried in Los Angeles in 1983.

## Litigation not in good faith

On Aug. 15, 1989, Pfalzer issued written findings stating that Gelfand had no evidence to back up any of his accusations, and that his motivation in bringing the suit was "to disrupt the SWP." The judge also ruled that one of the suit's "main purposes was to generate material for political attacks on the SWP by the Workers League." She concluded that Gelfand's "initiation of this litigation was not in good faith."

Gelfand filed motions last month to amend

the judge's findings. They present no new material, but only repeat his and the Workers League's political attacks against the SWP. The motions are a continuation of the disruption operation against the SWP.

A hearing on Gelfand's motions was to have taken place on October 16, but Justice Department attorneys, with the agreement of Gelfand's attorneys, filed for a continuance because, they said, they were not prepared to respond to the motion. The hearing has now been set for November 13.

Ending this campaign to disrupt the SWP is not a concern of the Justice Department. For decades the SWP has been the target of FBI spying and government disruption efforts. In 1986 the SWP and Young Socialist Alliance won a landmark 14-year lawsuit against the U.S. government.

In that suit, the court ruled that government and FBI efforts, known as Cointelpro, to undermine the SWP and YSA were "patently unconstitutional." The judge issued a broad injunction barring government agencies from using any of the millions of files that they had developed in the course of 40 years of spying on and burglarizing the SWP and YSA.

Leonard Boudin, a prominent constitutional rights attorney, represented the SWP and YSA in the litigation. He termed the victory against the government as one for "all political organizations and activists in this country to be free of government spying and harassment."

## Funds needed

The SWP has appealed for funds to meet the mounting legal and defense costs due to further hearings and the anticipated appeal by Gelfand and the Workers League.

"All defenders of democratic rights, all

opponents of the use of courts by unscrupulous lawyers to bleed and divert the resources of working-class organizations, and all who have come to recognize the importance of pushing back the disruption operations of the Workers League, have a stake in speaking out against this ongoing violation of democratic rights," a September statement by the

party's National Committee said.

Tax deductible contributions to this effort can be sent to the Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc., a nonprofit foundation, at P.O. Box 761, Church Street Station, New York, N.Y. 10007. Copies of Judge Pfalzer's findings can be obtained for \$5 from the Political Rights Defense Fund at the same address.

# Swedish secret police caught spying on political activists

BY LARS ERLANDSSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — The major Swedish daily *Dagens Nyheter* has revealed that the Swedish secret police, SÄPO, has been spying on political activists in violation of the country's laws and constitution.

The reports provided to the daily by informants within the police agency said that peace organizations and ecology groups have been the main targets of the spying and disruption operations since the 1970s.

The pretext used by SÄPO for its domestic spying has been accusations by Soviet defectors that the Soviet Union had infiltrated "agents" in the peace and ecology groups to influence them. No evidence has never been presented to substantiate these charges, nor that these groups had violated any laws.

Bengt Johansson, the government minister for civil service affairs, denied that the Swedish Peace and Arbitration League, the Social Democratic peace group, was the subject of a special investigation. Only individuals who had contact with the group have been investigated, he said. Johansson also denied that the organization's rights had been violated by the covert activities.

SÄPO continues to maintain files it accumulated and uses them to check on people who apply for jobs with the military, nuclear power industry, and agencies where security clearances are required.

The Environmental Alliance, an organization that led major protests against nuclear power, declared the police spying "a threat against the rights of popular movements and individuals to openly work for social change." Marches organized by the group in the 1970s against the nuclear power plant at Barsebäck in southern Sweden were videotaped by SÄPO. The plant is located 12 miles from Copenhagen, Denmark, a city of over a million people.

Leaders of the organizations victimized by the covert operations have demanded that the contents of SÄPO files be opened to the public.

Under the guise of investigating terrorism, SÄPO has wiretapped and arrested Kurdish political activists in Sweden who organize solidarity with the Kurdish struggle for self-determination in the Middle East.

Reports have also revealed that SÄPO had wiretapped Cuba's embassy in Sweden.





# Final push to complete Pathfinder mural

Completed images of Karl Marx (left) by Aldo Soler, and V.I. Lenin by Malcolm McAllister. Lenin appears as part of a portrait of five Soviet leaders of the Communist International in its early years.

BY SELVA NEBBIA

NEW YORK — "We are now on the final push to finish the mural," said Sam Manuel. "With the painting of the portrait of Malcolm X, we will wrap up the production of the mural itself." Manuel is the Pathfinder Mural Project director.

Artist Carol Byard has finished her sketch of the U.S. revolutionary leader Malcolm X, and as soon as the weather lets up, she will add his portrait to the wall.

Malcolm X will be the last of the major portraits on the mural. These are the portraits painted on huge sheets of paper that are being chummed out by the printing press at the center of the mural. The portraits represent those revolutionary leaders from around the world whose writings are published by Pathfinder.

"What mural supporters now have ahead of us," explained Manuel, "is to organize the broadest possible wrap-up celebration of what we have accomplished." The mural is scheduled to be finished by mid-November.

Besides the portrait of Malcolm X, a few touches need to be added to the crowd scene

that surrounds the press and to the major portraits. These figures represent many well-known fighters from around the world as well as countless unknown workers and farmers, soldiers, and activists who have and are fighting for social justice around the globe.

Cuban painter Aldo Soler has just finished the portrait of Karl Marx, one of the founders of the communist movement. The final touches are being added to the portraits of V.I. Lenin and other leaders of the Communist International during its early revolutionary years — 1919 to 1923.

The six-story mural on Manhattan's West Side has been a "real beehive of activity these final days," said Manuel. Artists and supporters have been busy painting and organizing the final stages of production.

Artist Kevin Duncan, who comes from the Australian Aboriginal Kamilaroi people, arrived here October 9 from Sydney. He began his work on the portrait of Pemulwuy, an Aborigine who led a 12-year-long resistance to British colonization before being murdered

at the beginning of the 19th century.

Three artists and mural supporters from Pittsburgh drove to New York October 11 and over the next three days added several figures to the huge art work.

Stevens Carter painted Fannie Sellins, a garment worker and organizer of coal miners and steelworkers murdered in 1919 by company gunmen. Carter also completed a portrait of Trinidadian unionist Uriah Butler.

Carter's exhibitions across the United States have been widely praised. He currently teaches art at Carnegie-Mellon University.

Fred Auger, a student at CMU, painted the portrait of E.D. Nixon, a union organizer and civil rights leader who played a key role in organizing the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott against segregation in 1956.

Moe Seager helped put the trip together and worked with Carter on the Sellins portrait. A poet, writer, and activist, Seager has introduced many hundreds in Pittsburgh to the mural project through his radio show and other activities.

New York artist Cliff Joseph, who had earlier painted the portrait of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., painted the figure of South African freedom fighter Steven Biko.

At the other end of the mural, Jennie Kahn, a painter from Philadelphia, was adding Ben Linder to the wall. A young U.S. engineer, Linder was murdered by contras in Nicaragua in 1987 while doing volunteer work there.

At a fund-raising meeting for the mural project in Pittsburgh, where Elisabeth Linder, Ben Linder's mother, spoke, two supporters flew to New York to join the project and lend a hand.

Eva Hamlin Miller, a prominent painter, came here from Atlanta to paint John Brown, a leader of the antislavery movement.

All these portraits and final touches being added to the mural will soon make it possible for the work crews to step in and begin dismantling the scaffolding along the six-story wall. The scaffolding has been there since work began on the wall two years ago.

As the final push at the mural site is going on, a last effort on another important front is also under way.

Mural supporters in Pittsburgh hosted a fund-raising reception at a local gallery where folksinger Pete Seeger explained the significance of the Pathfinder mural to an enthusiastic group of 50 people. More than \$1,500 has been contributed to the mural project in that city over the last month. Mural Fund Director Mark Severs is touring several West Coast cities, also raising money for the mural.

"We urge those who support this effort to contribute to make its completion possible," stated Manuel.

Contributions, he said, can be sent to: Pathfinder Mural Project, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014; (212) 741-0690.

Steve Marshall from Pittsburgh contributed to this article.

## Cuban painter Soler begins U.S. tour

NEW YORK — Having added the final touches to the huge portrait on the Pathfinder mural of Cuban President Fidel Castro and completing the image of Karl Marx, one of the founders of modern socialism, Cuban painter Aldo Soler began a speaking tour to several cities.

The tour began October 13 here with a reception sponsored by the Pathfinder Mural Project and Ventana, an organization of cultural workers in solidarity with Nicaragua. The reception was held at the gallery of the Westbeth artists' residence on Manhattan's West Side — a few blocks from the mural site.

It drew a number of prominent artists, including Madeleine Yayodele-Nelson, member of the musical group Women of the Calabash; Maxine Townsend, photographer; artists Cliff Joseph, Carol Byard, Willie Birch, and Juan Sánchez; poet Jayne Cortez; author Jean Stubbs; Brazilian jazz musician Gaudencio Thiago de Mello; filmmaker Chris Spotted Eagle; Colombian painter Alirio Vargas; and many others.

More than 200 attended an October 14 meeting with Soler, "Conversation on Contemporary Cuban Art," at Casa de las Américas. Soler presented an overview of postrevolutionary Cuban art and answered questions from the audience. A member of the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists, Soler was selected by that organization to come to the United States and paint on the Pathfinder mural.

Both New York events raised funds for the Pathfinder Mural Project and to help cover the costs of Soler's tour.

After several engagements in New Jersey, Soler will travel to the West Coast on October 19, where he will visit Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area, Seattle, and the Yakima Valley in Washington State.

The Los Angeles African National Con-

gress of South Africa, Venceremos Brigade, Union of Salvadoran Women, and the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador will host a citywide meeting for Soler October 21 in Los Angeles.

On October 22 a reception sponsored by Hollywood film director Nick Castle, Jr., and other artists will be held for Soler at the Heritage Gallery.

Following his tour of West Coast cities, Soler will move on to Chicago; Des Moines, Iowa; Minneapolis; Washington, D.C.; and work his way down to Atlanta. He will also visit Boston and St. Louis.

"The visit of Cuban artist Aldo Soler," said

Sam Manuel, Pathfinder mural director, "is an important event for all those fighting to end the U.S. blockade on free travel and cultural exchange between Cuba and the United States.

"It provides those interested in art as well as those interested in finding out more about Cuba in general," Manuel added, "a wonderful opportunity to talk to and exchange ideas with a member of the generation of artists who grew up and received their art training in revolutionary Cuba."

Contact the Pathfinder bookstore in your area to find out more information on Soler's tour. —S.N.

## U.S. government deports Irish muralist

BY SELVA NEBBIA

NEW YORK — Irish mural artist Gerard Kelly was deported from the United States October 12.

A resident of Belfast, Northern Ireland, Kelly was arrested by the FBI September 27 at Kennedy Airport as he was entering the United States with his fiancée. He was charged with a felony for not listing on an immigration form his 1981 conviction and imprisonment in Northern Ireland. If found guilty he would have faced up to five years in prison in the United States.

Kelly pleaded guilty to lesser charges and was ordered deported.

The Irish muralist had come to the United States at the invitation of the Pathfinder Mural Project to paint the portraits of Irish freedom fighters on the mural. The Irish republican party Sinn Féin asked Kelly to participate in the project.

From the time of Kelly's arrest Irish move-

ment activists, Pathfinder mural supporters, and others organized an emergency campaign to win his release and right to paint on the mural. Prominent individuals, including four members of Britain's Parliament, sent protest messages to the U.S. authorities demanding he be set free.

Newspaper accounts of the arrest were published in New York, Britain, and Ireland.

Gerry McLaughlin, British representative of Sinn Féin, protested Kelly's detention at a meeting organized in London October 6.

McLaughlin said that Kelly's arrest "shows how much the authorities hate internationalism and things that show that the struggles of the oppressed can be expressed in a way that demonstrates the beauty and creativity of humanity."

The Sinn Féin leader explained that millions of British pounds have poured into the United States to prevent the Sinn Féin message getting across to the people of the United States. The aim of these measures is to isolate the Irish struggle from "other struggles for

freedom and democracy. That's why the mural is something that angers and embarrasses them. It was going to put the republican movement alongside Che, Patrice Lumumba, Fidel Castro, and Nelson Mandela. That's why it was so important to them that Kelly was stopped."

Sam Manuel, director of the Pathfinder Mural Project, said the deportation, "which prevented Kelly from working on the mural, stands as a challenge to supporters of civil liberties and artistic freedom."

A meeting to protest Kelly's deportation will be held at the Irish Arts Center October 22. The speakers include Cait Mullen from the National Committee for Joseph Doherty, Wilhelm Joseph of the National Conference of Black Lawyers, attorney Frank Durkan, Sandy Boyer from the Irish Arts Center, Gerry Coleman from the Irish American Unity Conference, and Manuel.

Bob Buchan from Britain contributed to this article.



# Pittsburgh strikers call Oct. 29 'walk-through'

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 early October it was scheduling 700 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.

In Pittsburgh striking Eastern Machinists have called a "Strike Solidarity Walk-Through" at the Greater Pittsburgh International Airport for October 29, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00

p.m. The 46 IAM strikers in Pittsburgh are members of Machinists Local 1044, which also represents workers at United and several other airlines, as well as at Marriott Food Service, an airline catering company.

The walk-through is the first activity of Local 1044's newly formed Outreach Committee, set up to build support for the strike. Several Local 1044 members from Marriott are also part of the committee.

Two Eastern Machinists, a flight attendant, and a pilot recently spoke at the regular monthly meeting of United Steelworkers of America Local 2227 at USX Irvin Works.

"Our strike is stronger today than it has ever been," Local 1044 member Rich Pfeuffer told the Steelworkers. Hank Powell, one of the local strike coordinators, urged the USWA members to participate in both the daily airport picket lines and the walk-through. Flight attendant Sandra Pate, wearing her camouflage jacket to show support for the Pittston miners, spoke about an upcoming trip to Camp Solidarity, sponsored by the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO.

The Outreach Committee plans to build the walk-through widely in the greater Pittsburgh area.

Resolutions in support of the

strikes at Eastern and Pittston Coal Group were passed at the October 6-7 convention of the New Jersey Industrial Union Council, AFL-CIO, held in Cherry Hill. The IUC is the state's main umbrella labor coalition.

United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) President Richard Trumka was one of the keynote speakers at the convention.

In introducing Trumka, IUC President Archer Cole noted how by sticking together, the Eastern strikers had served to unite the entire labor movement behind them.

"In the middle of the Eastern strike," Cole said, "the UMWA hit the bricks, and we found in rallies and marches flight attendants, Machinists, pilots, UMWA strikers, Bell Telephone workers, and farm workers all together. This is the new note in 1989."

Strikers at Eastern, Pittston, Boeing, and the NYNEX phone company are walking together, Trumka said, which makes it more possible "to win together."

Students from Rutgers University's New Brunswick campus also addressed the conference. They described the support work they are doing for both the Eastern and Pittston strikers. The students have organized fund-raising events, held rallies, and recently sent a caravan

to Camp Solidarity, a strike solidarity center set up by the miners in the Virginia coalfields.

October 18-22 is Milwaukee's "Week of Solidarity with the Eastern Strikers," hosted by the Fairness for Eastern Committee and Milwaukee County Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

"It's time for us to wake up Wisconsin and let them know the Eastern strike is alive and well," explains a leaflet outlining the week's activities.

Eastern strikers from Minneapolis, Kansas City, and St. Louis will be visiting Milwaukee during the week. Among the activities scheduled are an October 18 rally at an AFL-CIO council meeting, an October 19 meeting at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and an October 22 rally at noon at the airport. Meetings with other unions are also planned.

Packinghouse workers at Geo. A. Hormel & Co.'s plant in Atlanta stepped up support for the Eastern strike in recent weeks. At the same time their own contract was up for a vote. The Hormel workers are in United Food and Commercial Workers Local 442.

Since the Eastern strike started last March, UFCW members have

been out at the airport picket line several times.

In late August, Machinists' union representative Michael Drake and flight attendant leader Patty O'Donnell spoke to Hormel workers at the UFCW's union picnic. "Stop Lorenzo" buttons and T-shirts were sold, and arrangements were made for a plant-gate collection to aid the Eastern strikers.

The collection took place in front of the Hormel plant at shift change on September 22. Despite maneuvers and objections by the company, it was a big success. Almost \$200 was dropped in collection buckets in less than three hours.

UFCW shop steward Chuck Roan welcomed four Machinists who came from striking IAM Local 1690 to the plant. Many meat-packers parked their cars in the company lot and walked out to greet the strikers. They discussed ways to strengthen the union at Hormel, where some 300 workers are employed.

The UFCW members voted in early October to accept a contract they had rejected earlier.

Janice Lynn in Newark, New Jersey, Michael Pennock in Pittsburgh, Jeff Rogers in Atlanta, and Bill Scheer in Milwaukee contributed to this column.

# Strikers will 'light up' Miami causeway Oct. 23

BY SUSAN LaMONT

MIAMI — In the early evening of October 23, the Rickenbacker Causeway — a highway that runs from Miami out to the beautiful island of Key Biscayne — will be the site of a dramatic display by striking Eastern Airlines workers.

Strikers, family members, friends, and supporters from other unions — all carrying flashlights — will line the causeway in a "1,000 Points of Light Human Billboard."

The occasion for the action is the American Society of Travel Agents national convention, set for Miami October 22-28. The gathering is expected to draw 6,000 people.

Part of the "new" Eastern's plans to wine and dine the travel agents is a special dinner at the Miami Marine Stadium October 23. The strikers' "human billboard" will line the causeway as the agents are being bused from Miami over to the stadium in Key Biscayne.

The billboard is sponsored by the International Association of Machinists (IAM), Air Line Pilots Association, and Transport Workers Union, which represents flight attendants.

The strikers are also planning other activities during the seven-day convention to publicize their fight.

Strike activists have already spoken to six union meetings in the Miami area to urge participation in the event. One of the unions reached was the IAM local that represents workers at USAir, Northwest, United, and several other airlines at Miami International Airport.

## More visibility

The October 23 event is part of stepped-up activities organized by strikers here to give



September 10 rally at Miami airport drew 500 strikers and supporters

their fight more visibility and to counter Eastern's strikebreaking "reorganization" plans. Also planned is a statewide strike support demonstration for later this fall.

Machinists Local 702, which represents nearly 3,000 of the 8,500 Machinists union members on strike at Eastern, has recently set up an outreach committee to help mobilize the membership, organize activities, and broaden solidarity. In addition to Local 702 members, the committee has invited participation from strike supporters in other IAM locals at the airport.

"The outreach committee started because a group of us in Local 702 saw more things needed to be done, so we decided to get busy and organize," explained Ruben Proctor over a cup of coffee in the union hall early in the morning October 7. Proctor, who worked in Eastern's automotive shop for 22 years, is an activist in the outreach committee.

The committee helped organize the 500-strong September 10 march at the airport, he said. Strikers waged a fight to force the Airport Authority to grant permission for the action — the first time in the airport's history such a demonstration had been allowed.

Earlier this fall, Proctor participated in one of several caravans organized by Eastern strikers that traveled up and down the eastern United States building support for the strike. Many Miami strikers from all three unions participated in the caravans.

One of the places the caravans stopped was Camp Solidarity in Virginia, set up as a support center for the United Mine Workers of America's fight against Pittston coal com-

pany. Eastern strikers from many cities have visited the camp.

"That's a place I'll never forget," said Proctor, as he recalled the warm welcome the

Eastern strikers received from the miners and their families.

In the past few weeks, hundreds of Eastern strikers have participated in weekly expanded picket lines at one of the main gates where scabs enter the Miami airport. They have picketed scab-hiring sessions set up by the airline to recruit mechanics — the first such sessions held here since the strike started March 4. The local also dispatched pickets to reach would-be applicants at an Aircraft Service International recruiting session. ASI is an IAM-organized airport contracting company hired by Eastern to do ramp work.

## 'This will help us'

The smiles that appear on Eastern strikers' faces when the word "Boeing" is mentioned is one sign of the encouragement the aerospace workers' strike has brought to the fighters at Eastern.

Many Eastern strikers think the Boeing workers' decision to strike rather than continue to accept unbearable overtime and inadequate wages will strengthen the fight at Eastern. "This will help us," one Local 702 member said emphatically as he guarded the union

Continued on Page 13

# Boston: 'We need labor unity'

BY KIP HEDGES

BOSTON — Some 250 Eastern Airlines strikers and supporters rallied in front of the Eastern terminal at Logan International Airport here October 12. The afternoon rally, the largest Eastern strike support action in many months, was held to protest the airline's increase in flights out of Boston.

Members of more than a dozen unions attended, from fire fighters to striking NYNEX telephone workers. Airline workers from USAir, United, and Northwest airlines were also there, along with a delegation of Eastern strikers from Machinists Local 1018 at New York's La Guardia Airport.

Kevin Mahar, president of International Union of Electronic Workers Local 201 at the big General Electric plant in nearby Lynn, told the rally that GE, which is owed \$75 million by Eastern, is the airline's largest unsecured creditor. "GE, Eastern, and all of big business understand the need for unity. We need labor unity to beat them," he said.

Molly Yard, president of the National Organization for Women, also spoke. "The same forces who would drive down labor would destroy a woman's right to control her own body," Yard said. "Just as we have stood

shoulder to shoulder on the picket line, we ask you to join us in Washington, D.C., November 12 to defend a woman's right to choose." November 12 is the date for the national abortion rights march initiated by NOW.

Other speakers included Communications Workers of America International President Morton Bahr, Boston Eastern pilots leader Skip Orr, and Miles Calvey, president of Local 2222 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, on strike against NYNEX.

IAM Local 1018 striker Ernie Mailhot also spoke. "When Boeing went out, we got stronger," Mailhot said. "One strike fuels the other."

The rally was sponsored by the North Shore Labor Council and the Massachusetts AFL-CIO.

The Eastern strikers, who are in IAM Local 1726, received a boost the week before when the Massachusetts AFL-CIO convention donated \$6,000 worth of food. Many convention delegates also invited strikers to their next union meeting and pledged additional support to the food bank and on the picket line.



Militant/Susan LaMont

IAM strike activist Ruben Proctor



# Stock market plunge raises interest in 'Action Program'

BY SUSAN LaMONT

The October 21-27 target week for the international circulation drive begins just eight days after the stock market plunge sent a tremor through the world capitalist economy.

Working people from Stockholm to Sydney are wondering, Does this mean an economic downturn is coming soon? What will happen to us if one occurs? Is there anything we can do to protect ourselves?

Militant sales teams can expect to find heightened interest in the socialist press from workers, farmers, and young people who are looking for answers to these questions.

This means sales of the Pathfinder pamphlet *An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis* will be of special importance during the target week and for the rest of the drive, which runs through November 12.

The Action Program was first issued by socialists in response to the October 1987 stock market crash.

The most recent nosedive in stock prices is a sharp reminder that the Action Program's explanation of why the world capitalist economy is headed for a major breakdown is more timely than ever.

The Action Program also presents a framework for struggle. It outlines a perspective around which working people can strengthen their position in face of the coming economic and social crisis by fighting to overcome divisions and forging unity on an international scale.

Central to achieving this unity is championing the demands that will help advance equality for working people who are most oppressed. That's why the demands to cancel the Third World debt, shorten the workweek, and enforce affirmative action are important for the labor movement as a whole, the Action Program explains.

The new rise in labor struggles that has begun to unfold since the 1987 stock market crash — especially the fights at Eastern Airlines, Pittston coal company, and Boeing — means that workers are looking at the possi-

bility of an economic downturn with more confidence in themselves and their capacities to struggle. They will be more open to considering the proposals in the Action Program.

During the target week, supporters can present the Action Program as an integral part of the subscription offer. For \$5, for example, a new reader in the United States can get a copy of the Action Program, as well as 12 weeks of the *Militant*.

One supporter who works at a battery plant near New Brunswick, New Jersey, organized by the International Union of Electronic Workers, recently sold 10 subscriptions to the *Militant*, along with 10 Action Programs, to her coworkers with this offer.

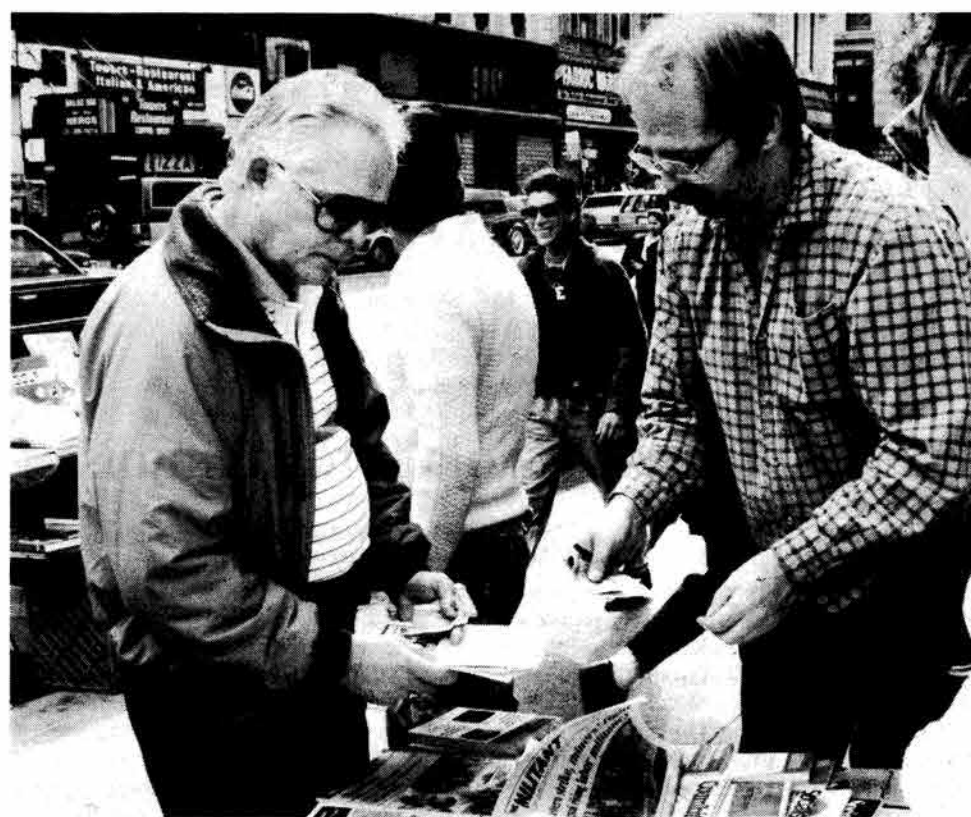
In New Zealand, where an economic recession already has hit, supporters have sold 102 copies of the Action Program, along with 151 subscriptions to the *Militant*, during the current circulation drive.

The target week presents a big challenge. Overall, the drive is one percentage point ahead of schedule — and many areas are even farther ahead. This is because subscriptions to the *Militant* are at 65 percent of the final goal — 9 percent ahead of schedule.

But sales of the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, French-language quarterly *Lutte ouvrière*, and Marxist magazines *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale* are substantially behind where they need to be to be on time.

In addition to presenting the Action Program, areas are organizing teams that can emphasize sales of *PM*, *LO*, *New International*, and *Nouvelle Internationale* during the target week so that goals for all the publications can be reached.

On October 15 a sales team from Newark, New Jersey, got a warm welcome when it set up a socialist literature table outside a soccer stadium in East Orange. The soccer matches there feature teams from the Caribbean, and most of the players — and fans — are from Haiti. Workers going into the match bought four subscriptions to *Lutte ouvrière*, and six copies of *Nouvelle Internationale*. Nearly \$60 worth of French-language titles by Marx, Engels, and Lenin was also sold.



Socialist literature tables in New York do a brisk business

Militant/Margrethe Siem

## Subscription drive scoreboard

Areas	DRIVE GOALS			Militant subscriptions		New Int'l single copies		Perspectiva Mundial subscriptions		Lutte ouvrière subscriptions	
	Goal	Total Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
<b>UNITED STATES</b>											
Greensboro, NC	110	92	84%	85	80	15	8	8	3	2	1
Detroit*	260	214	82%	207	185	30	10	18	16	5	3
St. Louis	185	145	78%	150	124	25	13	7	7	3	1
Austin, Minn.*	87	67	77%	65	52	10	1	10	14	2	0
Phoenix	77	57	74%	45	39	15	6	15	12	2	0
Baltimore	175	123	70%	135	110	25	9	10	4	5	0
Des Moines, Iowa	225	156	69%	170	131	25	4	25	20	5	1
San Francisco	240	165	69%	165	113	35	24	35	28	5	0
Cleveland	105	71	68%	75	62	18	6	10	2	2	1
Pittsburgh	165	101	61%	120	91	30	8	10	2	5	0
Kansas City	117	71	61%	80	59	20	3	15	9	2	0
Morgantown, WV	137	82	60%	100	66	25	14	10	2	2	0
Washington, DC*	205	122	60%	140	95	25	9	35	17	5	1
Brooklyn	410	235	57%	260	118	60	49	65	50	25	18
Philadelphia	225	127	56%	155	106	30	1	35	20	5	0
Seattle	138	77	56%	95	65	20	2	20	10	3	0
Omaha, Neb.*	137	76	55%	100	66	20	4	15	6	2	0
Birmingham, Ala.	177	97	55%	140	94	25	3	10	0	2	0
Newark, NJ	490	262	53%	250	171	95	42	95	40	50	9
Portland, Ore.	195	96	49%	150	79	20	4	20	10	5	3
Atlanta	210	103	49%	155	85	30	9	20	9	5	0
Salt Lake City	137	67	49%	100	45	20	16	15	6	2	0
Miami	300	146	49%	180	101	40	11	50	20	30	14
Price, Utah	52	25	48%	35	23	8	1	8	1	1	0
Boston	250	120	48%	160	75	35	15	40	18	15	12
New York	665	313	47%	330	196	150	44	150	64	35	9
Oakland, Calif.	200	94	47%	125	74	30	2	40	18	5	0
Houston	227	104	46%	150	88	30	5	45	8	2	3
Los Angeles	510	230	45%	285	142	90	9	130	79	5	0
Chicago	360	156	43%	225	102	50	22	75	31	10	1
Milwaukee	123	51	41%	85	46	15	0	20	4	3	1
Charleston, WV	112	45	40%	90	38	15	3	5	4	2	0
Twin Cities, Minn.	320	123	38%	250	116	35	0	30	6	5	1
National teams	-	44	-	-	44	-	-	-	-	-	-
Binghamton, NY*	45	29	64%	36	25	3	2	4	1	2	1
Cincinnati	10	4	40%	10	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Denver	20	4	20%	10	1	-	-	10	3	-	-
Louisville, Ky.	8	2	25%	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other U.S.	50	36	72%	40	31	5	2	5	3	-	-
<b>U.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>7,459</b>	<b>4,132</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>4,961</b>	<b>3,144</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>1,115</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>											
<b>BRITAIN</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
South Yorks	107	56	52%	70	27	25	23	10	6	2	0
Manchester	74	38	51%	50	31	18	6	5	1	1	0
London	165	74	45%	105	44	30	12	25	18	5	0
South Wales	62	20	32%	40	17	10	1	10	1	2	1
Other Britain	-	22	-	-	20	-	-	-	2	-	-
<b>BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CANADA</b>											
Toronto*	250	170	68%	140	109	40	21	55	34	15	6
Vancouver	145	95	66%	100	65	20	12	20	14	5	4
Montreal	230	119	52%	90	45	40	10	40	35	60	29
Other Canada	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
<b>CANADA TOTAL</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>FRANCE</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>ICELAND*</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>											
Wellington	86	74	86%	70	67	12	6	3	0	1	1
Christchurch	77	48	62%	60	35	10	10	5	3	2	0
Auckland	162	64	40%	120	49	30	7	10	8	2	0
<b>N. Z. TOTAL</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>SWEDEN</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>PUERTO RICO</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
Int'l teams	205	90	44%	100	72	25	4	75	12	5	2
Other int'l	-	8	-	-	6	-	-	-	2	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,250</b>	<b>5,145</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>6,008</b>	<b>3,789</b>	<b>1,405</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>1,453</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>DRIVE GOALS</b>	<b>9,000</b>			<b>5,800</b>		<b>1,400</b>		<b>1,400</b>		<b>400</b>	
<b>TO BE ON SCHEDULE</b>		<b>5,000</b>	<b>56%</b>		<b>3,222</b>		<b>778</b>		<b>778</b>		<b>222</b>

\*Raised goal during drive

## Pathfinder to distribute 'Granma Weekly Review'

BY GREG McCARTAN

Pathfinder Press announced this week that it has begun to promote and sell subscriptions on a worldwide basis to the Cuban newspaper *Granma Weekly Review*.

"We are proud to be able to, in this way, be part of getting out the truth about the Cuban revolution," said Pathfinder representative Norton Sandler. "Making it possible to purchase and renew *Granma Weekly Review* subscriptions will facilitate the paper's worldwide distribution," he said.

*Granma Weekly Review* offers a selection of news and features carried in the daily *Granma*, which is published by the Cuban Communist Party. The review is published in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese.

The newspaper is an essential source of information about Cuba and political developments in the world today. The wider availability of the paper through the Pathfinder subscription arrangement is a contribution to breaking the U.S. blockade of Cuba.

*Granma Weekly Review* regularly features speeches by Cuban President Fidel Castro and other leaders of the revolution. Editorials explaining the Cuban Communist Party's views on major events in Cuba and internationally are also run in the paper.

The speeches by Fidel Castro are an important tool for those who want to learn — and get out the truth — about the Cuban revolution. These speeches include information on the Cuban rectification process; Cuba's internationalist volunteers in Africa, Latin America, and other parts of the world; the achievements of the revolution; and how Cuba is advancing a communist road for the world's workers and peasants.

For example, in recent months the paper has carried the key documents surrounding the arrests, trials, and convictions of Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa, Gen. José Abrantes, and other officials of the Cuban government for corruption, drug smuggling, and treason.

Coverage of anti-imperialist and national liberation struggles, particularly in Latin America and southern Africa, is also extensive. Many articles over the past year have been devoted to the struggle of the Namibian people for independence from the South African apartheid regime. Cuba has campaigned internationally for the full implementation of the UN-supervised independence process there.

*Granma Weekly Review* also carries articles on the Cuban government's initiatives in the Movement of Nonaligned Countries and Cuba's growing diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties with countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The paper is an important source of information on the country's achievements in education, medicine, agriculture, and sports and culture.

A recent change in U.S. law exempts the buying and selling of books, newspapers, films, and other informational material from the blockade. This makes it possible for Pathfinder to sell the subscriptions.

Money for the subscriptions can be sent to Pathfinder from anywhere in the world. The weekly paper will be mailed directly from Cuba.

Pathfinder has produced an attractive trilingual subscription form. One year subscriptions are available for US\$16. (See ad on page 13.)



# 'No Angola without Cuito Cuanavale victory'

## Interview with Angola foreign minister

BY RONI McCANN

NEW YORK — Leaders of struggles unfolding in southern Africa today were among the hundreds of governmental officials present for the opening of the 44th Session of the United Nations General Assembly September 19.

Pedro de Castro Van Dunem, Angola's minister of foreign affairs, addressed the assembly on October 5 as part of a 12-day stay in the United States.

In an interview at the UN Plaza Hotel prior to the Angolan delegation's departure for Luanda, Van Dunem discussed the situation in Angola and the region, which is the scene of some important political struggles.

South Africa is rocking with anti-apartheid protests as the forces of liberation refuse to be silenced.

The oppressed majority in Namibia, after 100 years of having no say about what takes place in their own country, are fighting for the right to assert their will on election day in early November.

And in Angola the people continue to fight to defend the independence they won from Portugal 14 years ago — a fight to implement a cease-fire with the U.S.- and South African-backed UNITA mercenaries.

These struggles advanced qualitatively after March 1988 when South African troops were defeated at Cuito Cuanavale in southern Angola. The Angolan army, combatants of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), and thousands of Cuban internationalist volunteers defeated an invading force in that battle.

"One must be clear that if it were not for the victory at Cuito Cuanavale, we would have seen the strengthening of the racist South African regime in the southern part of our continent," Van Dunem stated. Not only would Angola have been totally occupied by Pretoria, he explained, but a South African military victory would have had direct implications for Mozambique.

Pretoria would have increased efforts to destabilize southern African nations. Van Dunem stressed, "We could have even seen the beginning of South African expansion into the north, changing the entire African continent. . . .

"Not everyone understands the situation clearly and the importance of Cuito Cuanavale," noted the foreign minister. "We would have no People's Republic of Angola, no Mozambique, probably no Zimbabwe, Zambia, or even Zaire.

"The African continent would have faced disaster, complete disaster — so the importance of Cuito Cuanavale is much bigger than some might think."

### Attempt at a cease-fire

Following this victory, South African troops withdrew from Angola and a cease-fire was signed by the governments of Angola, Cuba, and South Africa at a UN ceremony Dec. 22, 1988. The agreement mandated the implementation of the Namibian independence plan outlined in UN Resolution 435.

Cuba, in agreement with the Angolan government, announced that it would withdraw its troops from Angola by 1991.

In June 1989 the Angolan government agreed to a cease-fire with UNITA at a conference hosted by more than a dozen African heads of government in Gbadolite, Zaire.

Since this agreement, UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola), headed by Jonas Savimbi, has consistently violated the pact. Savimbi's band of rightist mercenaries continue their campaign of terror against the population of Angola and their efforts to destabilize the government. More than 200,000 Angolans have lost their lives since UNITA and South Africa began their war in 1975.

Van Dunem explained that the U.S. government's efforts to disrupt the independence process and bring down the government has been its policy all along.

He referred to the Alvor accords signed in Portugal in 1975, which called for a coalition government of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) — now the ruling party — UNITA, and the Angolan National Liberation Front. The three groups had participated in the independence movement. Elections were to be held before October of that year.

"When the U.S. administration realized that the MPLA would win the elections they organized a confrontation instead in an attempt to put down the MPLA by force. Under CIA instructions, mercenaries and rebel forces from Zaire were organized in the north, and South African government troops came to back Savimbi."

### Savimbi: longtime ally of Pretoria

Although UNITA was active for a time in the independence struggle, by the early 1970s it was collaborating with the Portuguese authorities to disrupt the anticolonial fight.

In 1975 UNITA allied with invading troops from South Africa who moved toward Luanda, Angola's capital, hoping to prevent the MPLA from coming to power.

The invasion was defeated thanks to the help of tens of thousands of Cuban internationalist volunteers who came to Angola responding to the MPLA's request. They have remained for 14 years, fighting alongside Angolan forces to repel numerous South African invasions.

"Racist South Africa, in the role of gendarme of our region, has economically destabilized the Frontline countries," explained Van Dunem in his UN address. "The actions of the South African-paid bandits aim at ensuring the realization of those objectives, and have nothing to do with the interests of the Angolan people." He noted that because of this the preferred targets of UNITA are the social and economic infrastructure and villages.

### Washington increases aid

In 1985 a U.S. law that had previously barred Washington from funding UNITA was repealed by Congress and U.S. aid to Savimbi's terrorists was stepped up. In 1986 Savimbi was toured in the United States on the invitation of the administration. The U.S.



Pedro de Castro Van Dunem (left), Angola's foreign affairs minister, with Manuel Pacavira, Angola's ambassador to United Nations.

imperialists tried to paint the UNITA mercenaries as a liberation force battling "Soviet aggression."

Washington's funding of Savimbi's bandits is now in the \$40-million-a-year range. Once again invited by his friends in the White House, Savimbi recently visited the United States seeking increased support.

"Savimbi was coming first of all to ask the U.S. government to take a more active role in the peace process in Angola," said Van Dunem, "and second, to ask for more financial and military aid."

Since the Cuito Cuanavale victory and subsequent cease-fire between Angola and UNITA, Savimbi has complained that Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko, in mediating the agreements, has sided with the Angolan government. Savimbi has renounced the pact, saying he never agreed to parts of it and he boycotted the last meeting to discuss the peace plan that took place in Kinshasa, Zaire, on September 18. Now Savimbi, with full U.S. backing, has raised a new set of demands.

Van Dunem explained that Washington wants a situation whereby UNITA is part of a coalition government, culminating in elections.

"The objective is to overthrow the legitimate government of Angola and replace it with another more suitable regime that will do what they want."

One of the most encouraging results of the victory at Cuito Cuanavale has been the recent upsurge inside South Africa, said the foreign minister.

"We are very proud that we have contributed to stopping the racist regime in our country. This not only made it possible for us to begin a peace process in Angola but also has resulted in changes on the part of apartheid."

"This is a direct result of Cuito Cuanavale — a sign to the South African government that it is not invincible. Without that victory [South African President] F.W. de Klerk, or whoever might have secured the election, would not be talking about changes in South Africa — impossible," he stressed.

"They lost at war and it had a political, a very important political impact inside the country and among the population, including the white population of South Africa."

The foreign minister concluded by underlining the importance of educating on Angola. "I think that if workers in the United States knew the situation, the nature of Savimbi's forces, we could create the basis for developments we want to take place." This would include an end to U.S. aid for Savimbi and the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Presently Washington does not recognize Angola.

"We will have to work very hard to bring this about," Van Dunem said.

## New York meeting welcomes ANC envoy

BY RONI McCANN

NEW YORK — Lindiwe Mabuza, chief representative of the African National Congress to the United States, was formally introduced to New Yorkers at a reception here October 11. The meeting was organized by Friends of the ANC, SWAPO, and the Frontline States. It was held at the hall of Local 1199 of the Drug, Hospital, and Health Care Employees Union.

Mabuza was welcomed by 75 persons, including a delegation of the ANC, Hinyangerwa Asheke of SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organisation), and leaders and activists from anti-apartheid forces in the city. The meeting commemorated the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners and celebrated the announcement by the South African government on the same day to release eight imprisoned anti-apartheid leaders.

Mabuza gave an update and analysis on the struggle inside South Africa and outlined challenges for the international solidarity movement.

She began with the defeat of South African troops by the Angolan army, SWAPO combatants, and Cuban internationalist volunteers at Cuito Cuanavale in southern Angola in 1988. The cease-fire treaty that followed was forced on South Africa, she explained, due to the fact that "the military balance had changed in favor of our forces."

Pretoria often bragged of their air superiority, saying they could "have breakfast in

Lusaka, lunch in Nairobi, and dinner in Cairo." That air superiority was tested at Cuito Cuanavale, said the chief representative.

Mabuza noted that economic sanctions imposed on South Africa, the arms embargo, economic decline, and rising death toll of white soldiers contributed to the defeat. Now, she explained, is the time to increase sanctions.

Mabuza discussed a statement released by the George Bush administration assessing the situation in South Africa since the 1986 sanctions were imposed. The White House admitted that Pretoria had made no changes in apartheid rule, but concluded no action should be taken, claiming sanctions would only hurt the South African economy.

"But that is the whole idea of sanctions," said Mabuza.

The ANC leader discussed the recent elections and the situation inside the country today as the apartheid government, now headed by F.W. de Klerk, is forced to bow to internal and international pressure, resulting in some concessions. These moves, she explained, are a consequence of struggle by the people, and increased pressure is needed. She concluded by urging all those present to demand additional sanctions and the release of Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners.

Chief Representative Mabuza is based in Washington, D.C. Before her arrival in the United States she spent nine years in the Nordic countries representing the ANC.

Mabuza has recently spoken at numerous events. In Washington, D.C., she was the keynote speaker at a September 30 meeting to discuss the anti-apartheid defiance campaign in South Africa. In San Francisco, she received a standing ovation at a benefit premiere of the newly released film *A Dry White Season*, directed by Euzhan Palcy.



Militant/Margrethe Siem  
ANC leader Lindiwe Mabuza



# Nicaraguans struggle to rebuild Atlantic Coast towns wrecked by 1988 hurricane

BY SETH GALINSKY

BLUEFIELDS, Nicaragua — Oct. 22, 1988, the day Hurricane Joan struck Nicaragua, is still remembered here as if it were yesterday. "So many things were flying through the air you could see the wind," one resident said. Not more than four or five buildings in this port town of 40,000 were left with their roofs intact. Six thousand homes were destroyed in the town, as well as many in the surrounding communities.

Bluefields is the center of the South Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAS), the area hardest hit by the hurricane. The region is home to large numbers of Creoles, Garifunos, and Miskito, Sumo, and Rama Indians. Many speak Creole English or an Indian language.

By sunup some construction workers are already on the job, repairing weakened structures or building new ones. Long after sunset, they are still pouring concrete and hammering boards.

The José Martí Contingent, made up of internationalist volunteers from Cuba, is heading up a two-year project to build 500 houses a year. The Cubans are veterans of their country's minibrigade movement, a mass mobilization of hundreds of voluntary work brigades that have organized in the last several years to help solve pressing social needs in Cuba by building housing, child-care centers, health clinics, and other projects.

## 'Aid has not poured in'

"In general, I would say that the reconstruction has progressed better than I would have anticipated," Ray Hooker, RAAS representative to the National Assembly for the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), said in an interview. "And it's not because aid has poured into the region. Basically it's because we've been able to use our own efforts, our own resources, and what aid we have received much more effectively than in past situations."

The government is centering its reconstruction efforts on rebuilding the area's economic base.

State-owned shrimp, lobster, and fish-processing plants and shipyards were either destroyed or severely damaged by the hurricane. A multimillion-dollar, five-year-old project financed by Bulgaria to deepen the port at El Bluff was totally ruined and has been abandoned.

The shrimp plant and shipyard in Bluefields will not be rebuilt. Instead the workers, boats, and whatever equipment could be salvaged have been transferred to El Bluff's Pescasa, a state-owned seafood-processing plant across the bay.

## Lobster and shrimp production down

Production of lobster and shrimp is considerably less than before the hurricane. Catches have declined, and many boats that were salvaged are still not in tip-top shape and often need to return to port for repairs.

Moreover, the unprocessed shrimp and lobster is exported for one-fourth the price the processed product would sell for on the world market.

But Pescasa Director Edwin Castro is confident that shrimp-processing facilities will be back in operation by the end of the year with a capacity larger than the combined plants before the storm. The lobster-processing plant on Corn Island is expected to function by early next year.

Industrial fishing is important not just for recovering from the hurricane, Castro said, but for "autonomy. It needs a material base." The 1987 Autonomy Law guarantees the "participation" of the residents in the use and development of the area's natural resources.

With many small businesses destroyed and crops wiped out in large areas of the region, the government decided to also prioritize artisan fishing, that is, fishing by independent family boat owners.

"The people of the region, especially among the non-Spanish-speaking population, always dreamed of owning their own small-scale fishing boat," assembly member

Hooker said. "Artisan fishing is being transformed into the backbone of the economy." There are now more than 1,000 artisan fishing families in the region.

Special low-interest loans for these "water farmers," as Dumark Abella, head of the government artisan fishing office, calls them, similar to those offered small peasants in the rest of Nicaragua, are being given out. Some foreign financing for outboard motors has been obtained.

Most of the fish caught is sold on the local market. Some is consumed by the families themselves. But once storage and processing facilities are completed, Abella said, exporting will be key.

## 'Still not self-sufficient'

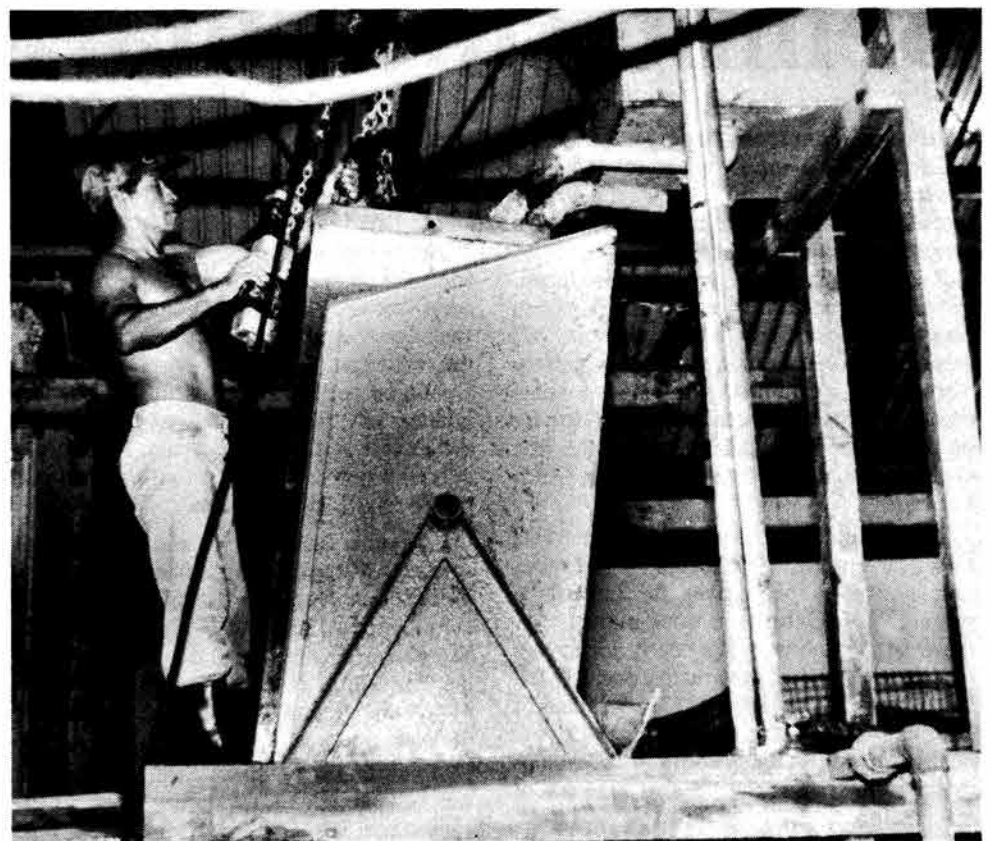
The thousands of small peasants who lost their crops hope to regain previous levels of production during the next cycle, Ernesto González Hodgson, National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG) vice-president for the RAAS, explained. Most of the 220,000 acres of rice, corn, beans, and yucca (cassava) planted in 1988 were lost in the hurricane.

Because of regulations imposed earlier this year against burning the fields, to lessen the danger of forest fires, only 65,000 acres were planted. Burning is the main method used here to prepare the fields for planting.

Thousands of acres of orange and lime trees and thousands of chickens, pigs, and goats killed in the storm "won't be replaced in 20 years," according to Elba Chow Quiroz, UNAG women's commission director.

In Bluefields itself residents no longer receive food donations, except for the "infant dining commons" of the Evangelical Committee for Aid to Development (CEPAD). In the surrounding peasant communities the World Food Program continues to provide a basic market basket for families to avoid starvation until the crop comes in.

In Bluefields basic foods, which used to be available locally, must be brought in by boat or plane from the Pacific Coast. Almost everyone complains about the exorbitantly high food prices in the market. Many residents charge that middlemen from the Pacific



Pescasa, a state-owned seafood-processing plant, being rebuilt in El Bluff, near Bluefields. Militant/Seth Galinsky

Coast and Bluefields have gotten rich off the hurricane.

Some residents earn or have easy access to dollars — lobster and shrimp fishermen, merchant marines, businessmen, and families with relatives abroad, especially in the United States. Many of these have been able to rebuild their homes almost to what they were before the storm, although building supplies are often unavailable at any price. But thousands are living in homes half the size they had before the storm, pieced together with salvaged boards and the 10 sheets of zinc roofing distributed by the government to each family.

The Catholic Church; CEPAD; IDSIM, a project of the Moravian Church; Habitat for Humanity; and other nongovernmental agencies have promised to help build, repair, or provide materials for 2,000 houses. But none of these projects have actually gotten off the ground.

"They're still studying the situation," Commander Lumberto Campbell, appointed head of the regional government, said. "But they have given firm promises. We hope that they will begin as soon as possible."

The Cuban government project to erect 1,000 homes, however, is a beehive of activity. The project, begun in January, is a little behind schedule but progressing rapidly.

Two hundred Nicaraguan youth who have finished their military service are now work-

ing for a wage side by side with the Cubans. There are also 23 Bluefields women on the site.

## Cubans train 'costeños'

The Cuban project is also training *costeños* (coast residents) so that once the project is over, construction workers capable of operating heavy machinery and of highly skilled operations will remain.

The first 150 houses — complete with indoor plumbing — will be given free to poor families who live in low-lying areas called the swamp. The only requirement is that these families help out in the construction during their free time.

The remaining 850 homes will be assigned by a housing commission made up of representatives of the local government, the nongovernmental aid organizations that are involved in housing construction, and local residents, according to Bluefields Mayor Henningston Omeir. Those getting houses will have to pay 17 percent of their total family income per year for 20 years. This money will then be used by the government for further projects.

"You have people from the European Economic Community coming and asking, 'Are these homes being built for the top people in government?' No, we say, these are for the most poverty-stricken people. The Cuban-built homes are so nice, they don't want to believe it," Ray Hooker said.

# 700 detainees held in Philippines

BY RUSSELL JOHNSON

MANILA, Philippines — The growing number of political prisoners in the Philippines and the violation of their basic rights by the authorities is of growing concern to the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines and other human rights organizations.

TFD estimates more than 700 such detainees are being held in military stockades and civilian jails across the country. Detainees range from teenagers to elderly people, some of them more than over 70 years old. At least 30 percent have been tortured by the military, TFD reports.

Most of the detainees are workers and peasants victimized by the military for union activities, refusing to join right-wing vigilante groups linked to the military and landowners, or for living in communities the authorities believe are sympathetic to the outlawed National Democratic Front and New People's Army (NPA), led by the Communist Party of the Philippines. Often they have been arrested on murder and other charges during retaliatory raids on their barrios after soldiers have been attacked nearby by the NPA.

The New Democratic Front (NDF) waged an armed struggle against the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos. After Marcos was overthrown in February 1986, the Communist Party-led forces reduced their armed actions and entered into peace talks with the Aquino government. This culminated in a 60-day cease-fire beginning in December of that year. However, the military blew up the cease-fire and the NDF resumed its guerrilla struggle with renewed vigor.

Rolando Dural and Bernardo Itucal, two youths from the vast Todo slums in Metro Manila, in September 1988 became the first political detainees convicted under the Aquino government. They were arrested and accused of being NPA partisans on the word of a police informer.

Held incommunicado for two weeks of "interrogation," the two were forced to confess to murdering two policemen who had been running a gambling racket in their neighborhood. A court sentenced them each to double life imprisonments despite doctors' testimony that they had been tortured and evidence that at least one of the defendants was having lunch with his family at the time of the killing.

## Cease-fire figures detained

During the 1986 cease-fire many leaders of the NDF publicly identified themselves in order to participate in regional cease-fire panels with government representatives. Since that time a number of these leaders and others who had been identified as leaders of the armed struggle against the Marcos tyranny have been caught up in military dragnets and detained.

The authorities are using laws and court rulings dating from the martial law regime of Marcos to deny these activists their legal and constitutional rights and hold them indefinitely in detention. Under Marcos the courts ruled that evidence obtained through illegal searches, denial of legal counsel, and even torture became "legal" if they led to charges being laid in court.

Using this precedent, the military continues to routinely frame up and detain activists on "armed rebellion" charges by claiming to have found weapons in their home or by extracting confessions from prisoners during interrogation without legal counsel.

Noli Narca, a regional NDF spokesman in the 1986 peace talks, was arrested in Quezon City on Feb. 2, 1988, along with 14 others, all of whom were subsequently released. When a court granted Narca bail, however, the army responded by slapping murder and other additional charges on him to prevent his release.

## Indefinite trial

Communist Party leader Rodolfo Salas remains in jail two years after a court set bail for him at 50,000 pesos. In an interview in his Camp Crame cell, Salas explained how the authorities were dragging out his trial indefinitely. The military had said that it plans to present 83 prosecution witnesses, yet in two and a half years only five witnesses have testified. "This could take 10 years. They are even charging me with ambushes that took place after my arrest," he said.

Human rights groups have launched an international petition campaign to appeal to the Aquino government to set aside the repressive laws and rulings of the Marcos era, and to respect the legal and human rights of political prisoners. Copies of the petitions and further information can be obtained from KAPATID, c/o Betty de Vera, 44 Banahaw St., Cubao, Quezon City, Philippines.



# Behind stock market plunge

Continued from front page

an attempt to avert a repeat of the 1987 "meltdown," which also began on a Friday and sent international markets into downward spirals the following Monday.

Rounds of phone calls were made to Japan, West Germany, and Britain in an attempt to reassure officials and traders that a 1987 sequel was not in the making. Rumors in New York trading rooms had the Japanese government propping up prices by buying heavily on the Singapore exchange, one of the first exchanges to open Monday morning, October 16.

Despite the effort, international markets took a beating, which reflected the tight economic interlinkages among the imperialist powers. West Germany's stock market took the worst pounding with a nearly 13 percent drop in stock value, the greatest one-day fall since World War II. West German dealers complained that the Frankfurt stock exchange proved too vulnerable to "developments abroad" and the "global network of speculation."

In France prices plummeted nearly 7 percent. Markets in Switzerland, Greece, and Singapore dropped more than 10 percent. Japan's exchange dropped 2 percent, but the Tokyo exchange's Second Section, where smaller companies' shares are traded, took its second largest loss ever. The 8 percent slide on the Australian stock market accounted for losses of more than \$15 billion.

Britain, already poised on the edge of a recession, fared better than expected and saw a decline of just over 3 percent.

Since October 16, stock prices on the New York exchange have fluctuated rapidly, showing the market's instability. Losses had not been recovered by the end of the day October 18.

## Labor resistance triggers drop

The Wall Street tailspin was triggered by the failure of United Airlines pilots; executives of UAL Corp., parent company of United Airlines; and British Airways to secure financing for their \$6.7 billion plan to buy out UAL. With the Eastern Airlines strike in the background and the Machinists union opposed to the deal, bankers hesitated to come up with the loans needed to purchase the airline.

Machinists union officials oppose the buyout because they fear the debt taken on by the company in the transaction would jeopardize it in the event of a recession. John Peterpaul, a leader of the International Association of Machinists, told bankers that the union would seek significant wage increases in the next round of contract talks, set to begin soon.

## Burgeoning corporate debt

While the collapse of the UAL deal triggered the panic on October 13, it only reflected the explosiveness of the \$2 trillion in U.S. corporate debt that has mushroomed since 1980 and amounts to 54 percent of U.S. gross national product. The growing problems of companies and investors in meeting

high interest payments on this debt has caused tremors in Wall Street's high-risk junk bond market and in the banking industry over the last few months.

According to Wall Street investment firm Merrill Lynch & Co., interest payments on corporate debts absorb 30 percent of today's cash flow, surpassing records reached during the two worst post-World War II recessions. Declining corporate profits in the first two quarters of 1989 have brought cash flow to the lowest level in three years. Initial third quarter reports, showing a continued drop in profits, signal trouble ahead.

Corporate bankruptcies and default rates are already high. The number of business failures has averaged 105 per 10,000 concerns since 1983 — well above the post-World War II average of 55 per 10,000. In the first half of 1989 there were \$3.2 billion in defaults on junk bonds, more than double the pace of a year ago.

According to William Seidman, head of the U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., loans for leveraged corporate buyouts amount to more than 50 percent of the loan activity of the 10 largest multinational banks. Given the recent economic news, banks have become reluctant to extend loans.

## The debt crunch

Harbingers of the crunch were evident in the last few months.

The retail store empire of Robert Campeau ran into serious trouble in September when it became apparent that Campeau had borrowed too much in his bid to take over Bloomingdale's department stores. He could not make his interest payments. A possible financial crisis and tumble in junk bond prices on the stock market were averted when Canada's powerful Reichmann family, owners of Olympia & York Development, pumped \$250 million into the Campeau corporation.

Only two days before the stock market dive, Ramada Inns, a motel chain, announced that it was unable to obtain \$400 million — a relatively small amount — for corporate reorganization. Ramada had tried to sell junk bonds at 16 percent interest to finance its operation.

Several other similar deals also ran into trouble. By October 13 conditions for a crash were brewing. With prices of junk bonds way above real value and the collapse of the United Airlines deal, institutional investors — dominated by insurance companies, mutual funds and money managers, pension funds, and the banks, known as the "big boys" — moved out of the junk bond market and the panic began.

"They went out and shot everybody," one financial consultant said. "I think this could be the end of the game," another broker commented. The junk bond market has yet to recover from the drop.

## Third World debt crisis

Other signs of the volatility of the imperialist economies have also surfaced recently. With the Third World debt surpassing \$1.3

trillion, the major U.S. imperialist banks have begun beefing up reserve funds to defend against defaults and resulting losses.

Brazil is an example of the problems the imperialist bankers anticipate will worsen. Gripped by galloping inflation and a strike wave involving more than 2 million workers, the country failed to make an \$812 million interest payment on July 3. In June Brazil's stock market collapsed, and in the first half of 1989, it faced the flight of more than \$2 billion in capital, compared with \$1.5 billion in 1988.

J.P. Morgan and Co., Chase Manhattan Corp., Manufacturers Hanover Corp., Citicorp, and Chemical Banking Corp. — some of the biggest of the "big boys" — have taken money out of earnings and added them to existing reserves. In some cases this meant registering losses in quarterly profits and refusing further loans to Third World countries.

In September J.P. Morgan added \$2 billion to its reserve, bringing it to \$3 billion. This equals 100 percent of the bank's medium and long-term debt to underdeveloped countries and 68 percent of its total lending to the Third World. The bank also sold off \$500 million of the debt in the form of steeply discounted bonds.

Despite the economic and social disaster imposed on Third World countries by the debt, the banks don't want to write off even portions of the debt unless they are provided funds by Washington. They insist on U.S. government guarantees for any new loans they make.

## Savings and loans disaster

The crisis of the savings and loans banks in the United States continues to snowball, despite the U.S. government's \$164 billion bailout plan, the largest such bailout ever. The "thrifts," as they are called, are still losing money at an unexpectedly fast rate, adding an extra \$2 billion to deficits already reported by the industry for the first half of 1989.

The Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corp. has closed or merged more than 264 failed S&Ls so far this year. For all of 1988 the number was 205. Some bank officials now say that the rescue plan will be inadequate to save the hemorrhaging industry.

Banking analysts who warned of the S&L crisis several years ago now warn that the crisis extends to commercial banks as well. They calculate that 30 large banks with \$23 billion in assets are secretly insolvent. Studying banks with more than \$50 million in assets, they found that roughly 10 percent of the big banks — holding almost one-third of the deposits — do not have the capital they are supposed to have to protect against losses.

## Signs of a downturn

Economic "growth has clearly slowed from last year, curbing demand for goods and services," an October 10 *Wall Street Journal* article said. It cited narrowing profit margins as the reason and warned of a recession coming in the first half of next year.

At the beginning of October the "Big Three" auto makers, General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler, announced that during the remainder of 1989 they plan to build 10 percent fewer cars and trucks. General Motors has already announced some layoffs. Increased competition from Japanese-owned and -managed plants in the United States and declining



Jim Levitt

Boeing strikers picket in Everett, Washington.

sales have spurred the cutbacks.

Hurt by the lowered demand from the auto companies for steel, the major U.S. steel companies have experienced the lowest quarterly profits in two years.

Housing starts, an important indicator of economic activity, declined to 1982 levels in September, the U.S. Department of Commerce reported on October 18. The construction of new homes and apartments dropped 5.2 percent after a 6.2 percent drop in August.

The U.S. Labor Department recently released figures showing unemployment up, particularly among factory workers. In September 105,000 jobs were lost in 16 of the 20 principal manufacturing industries. In the previous five-month period only 30,000 industrial jobs were lost. About a third of the September drop came in the auto industry.

The unemployment rate for teenage workers who are Black rose to 37.3 percent after a drop to 27 percent in July.

## Coming economic crisis

Most government officials and businessmen agree that an economic downturn is on its way.

It is impossible to predict when the next downturn will come and when a full-fledged depression will develop. All the ingredients that produced 1987's crash exist today — only the proportions and explosiveness are qualitatively greater.

The October 13 stock market crash signals, as did the one in 1987, that capitalism in the United States and internationally is on the skids and that an economic and social catastrophe awaits the working people of the world. This is now easier for all to see.

## What are LBOs, junk bonds?

**Leveraged buyouts** — LBOs — have played a big role in sharply increasing corporate debt during this decade. In 1981 the volume of LBOs was \$3 billion; last year, it was \$67 billion.

"Leverage" means debt. In a typical leveraged buyout, speculators — who often include senior managers of the company being bought — buy a company by putting up a relatively small amount of money and borrowing the rest.

Often the borrowed money is raised by issuing high-interest, high-risk corporate bonds, called "junk bonds."

The value of shares in companies that become takeover targets frequently shoots up, driving up the amount of debt needed for a buyout. When Donald Trump recently announced he was going to attempt a buyout of American Airlines, for example, American's shares rose from \$83 to nearly \$100 a share in one day. This magnifies the indebtedness the company incurs.

**Junk bonds** are simply bonds issued

by companies whose credit ratings are below investment grade. (A bond is a paper security issued by a company or financial institution that carries a fixed interest rate and is to be repaid in a fixed period of time.)

According to the capitalists' rating agencies, investment-grade bonds are those issued by companies that can supposedly pay their debts regardless of ups and downs in the economy. Less than 4 percent of U.S. corporations have such ratings.

To offset the greater risk, junk bonds pay higher than normal interest rates to attract investors.

A relatively small number of institutions hold most of the junk bonds: insurance companies own 30 percent, pension funds hold 15 percent, mutual fund and money management investment companies hold 27 percent, and savings and loans and banks hold 10 percent.

The \$200 billion junk bond market involves 800 companies in 100 industries.

## Britain: higher interest rates mean lower living standards

BY BRIAN GROGAN

LONDON — The British government raised bank interest rates to a base of 15 percent on October 5. The official rate of inflation stands at 7.6 percent. This is the highest level since the depth of the last major economic recession in late 1981 and is the highest in the advanced capitalist countries.

Finance minister Nigel Lawson took this deeply unpopular step to prevent a run on the pound. Large amounts of overseas capital are invested in British banks on short-term credit to finance Britain's massive balance-of-payments deficit, which this year is projected to reach £20 billion (£1=US\$1.58) — some 4 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The rise in interest rates immediately

erodes the living standards of working people through its effect on housing costs. More than 65 percent of homes in Britain are owned by their occupants, compared to 33 percent in West Germany and 31 percent in France. The government claims this as one of its biggest achievements.

Yet, the truth is that very few working people actually own their home. Rather, the houses are owned by building societies (real estate companies) and their occupants spend decades paying off the mortgages. Some 40 percent of net household income is on average needed to meet mortgage repayments. The 1 percent interest rate increase announced by the government will accordingly

Continued on Page 13



# U.S. officials debate Panama coup failure

BY DON ROJAS

In the days following the failed coup against Panamanian military leader Gen. Manuel Noriega, a debate has been raging within the U.S. ruling class. The issue is not whether Washington was involved; evidence mounted that the U.S. government had blocked road access to pro-Noriega forces and provided military and moral support to the anti-Noriega rebels within the Panamanian Defense Forces.

The issue is Washington's failure to take advantage of what many saw as a golden opportunity to remove Noriega and replace him with a reliable client. The axis of the debate between critics and defenders of the George Bush administration is whether it was militarily and politically prudent to commit U.S. troops in a combat role during the attempted coup. White House officials admitted that Washington invited the rebels to ask for U.S. intervention, and that they were told to "declare their support for democracy."

## 'Bungling'

Critics harped on the administration's "bungling" of the incident, on confusion among officials, and on President Bush's "indecisiveness" and "timidity" in the midst of crisis.

Some asked what message the U.S. government's "unwillingness" to apprehend Noriega, labeled by Bush as this hemisphere's "public enemy No. 1," would send to the drug lords in Colombia. Others questioned how the Sandinista National Liberation Front government in Nicaragua, which has scheduled elections for February, will view "the unwillingness of the U.S. to inflict penalties on General Noriega for stealing an election last May."

This debate has little or nothing to do with the sentiments and opinions of the U.S. public. In fact, the results of a recent Gallup poll published in *Newsweek* magazine indicate that a majority of U.S. citizens are opposed to the use of U.S. military forces to overthrow Noriega. Instead, 76 percent favored persuading other countries in the Americas into pressuring Noriega to surrender his office.

## Points not addressed in debate

Most instructive about the arguments as they flew back and forth were the critical points the debate did not address, points on which there is bipartisan consensus among Republicans and Democrats in the U.S. Congress and unanimous agreement within the ruling class as a whole.

There was no difference of opinion, for example, on Washington's self-given right to interfere in Panama's domestic affairs. All sides in this war of words accepted that the U.S. government had the right to demand Noriega's extradition to the United States to stand trial in U.S. courts for alleged drug trafficking.

Points of principle, such as respect for the sovereign rights of countries, were considered irrelevant within the framework of this debate.

No one in Congress took issue with Secretary of State James Baker when he stated that Washington reserves the option of using military action in the future to replace Noriega and that the White House, not a group of junior Panamanian officers, would choose the time for such action.

"I think the record will show that there was never a chance to have him handed over to us," Bush said of the Panamanian leader. "Obviously I would like to see him out," he added, "but I think any commander in chief must have the lives of American citizens and of American soldiers foremost in mind when he makes a decision." Asked about future military attempts, Bush replied: "I would not rule out any option."

Leading criticism of the Bush administration were Sen. Jesse Helms, Republican of North Carolina; Sen. Dennis DeConcini, Democrat of Arizona; and the *Wall Street Journal*. Both senators are among the most ardent opponents of the 1977 Torrijos-Carter treaties, which call for Panamanian control of the canal by the year 2000.

"We have the absolute unilateral right to use force," said DeConcini.

"Once again we've snatched defeat from the jaws of victory, and I think it's an outrage," lamented Helms.

## Criticism of the 1977 treaties

The *Wall Street Journal* editors argued that "Bush's greatest fear apparently was new condemnation of Yankee imperialism." Basing policy on such concerns, they opined, is a good way to end up with no policy at all. They said U.S. forces were "in a perfect position" to decide the outcome of the coup.

Calling the 1977 treaties "wishy-washy" the newspaper contended the "new partnership" with Panama that ex-president Carter extolled "has been worse than the old one."

"Noriega has proved to be a bigger thug than Torrijos. Indeed, with the treaty in hand Noriega has thumbed his nose repeatedly at U.S. and world opinion... and has made common cause with Castro and [Libyan leader Muammar] Qaddafi."

The *New York Times* declared that given "the amateurish quality of the planning" and the fact that Bush and his team "were in disarray," ordering direct U.S. intervention would have given Washington more responsibility "without increasing the chances of success."

The paper stated that as a rule the U.S. government stands to lose more than gain by direct military intervention, secret coups, and the like. But it maintained that "in special circumstances, and consistent with American values and laws, such action is justified."

Sen. Richard Lugar, Republican member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, scored administration critics for being "arm-chair generals" and defended Bush because "the president finally has to think about our treaty obligations, our personnel, our relations with other countries in the Latin American hemisphere, and the future of democracy in Panama." He urged continued economic and diplomatic pressure on Panama.

But Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman David Boren, a Democrat from Oklahoma, was bitter in his condemnation of the White House.

"Here you have brave people in Panama... trying to rid themselves of a drug dealer and a thug who's taken over their country... and for the United States, with all of our strength and force and all of our belief in democracy, to stand by and do nothing and allow these people to fail, personally I think is wrong," he said.

## Keeping up the pressure

Stung by this criticism, top administration officials bent over backward to reassure critics that they would keep the pressure on Noriega and insisted that he would eventually be ousted. John Sununu, White House chief of staff, said in an interview on the Cable News Network that the odds were 8 to 5 that the Panamanian military chief would be gone within six months.

Writing in the *Washington Post*, Charles Krauthammer described the failed coup as a "significant defeat" for U.S. policy and for the Bush administration. "There was no need

to invade Panama. The United States already has 12,000 troops stationed there, some less than a mile from where the fighting took place... It is inconceivable that U.S. power, properly deployed, could not have tipped the balance."

Columnists in both the *Times* and *Post* likened the failed coup to the defeat of U.S.-backed mercenaries who tried to invade Cuba at the Bay of Pigs in 1961, two years after

working people, led by the July 26 Movement, had overthrown Fulgencio Batista's dictatorship.

"Coups and rebellions seldom unfold in a tidy or predictable manner," wrote R.W. Apple of the *New York Times*. "Two or three generations of American officials have had trouble learning that lesson, which was manifest as long ago as the 1960s in the Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba."



## 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 43 cities in seven countries. The addresses of the bookstores are listed on page 12.

Protests against the banning of 86 books published or distributed by Pathfinder continue to be registered with the government of Grenada.

The Grenadian government's decree that books by Fidel Castro, Thomas Sankara, Malcolm X, Nelson Mandela, Maurice Bishop, Karl Marx, and other revolutionary figures "are subversive to the peace and security of the country are ridiculous and are not based on any justification whatsoever," said the newsletter of the International Organization of Journalists.

The IOJ, based in Prague, Czechoslovakia, sends out the newsletter to member groups in more than 120 countries.

The August issue of the newsletter explains, "Human rights violations in Grenada continue. One of the recent examples of this is a law passed by the U.S.-imposed Grenadian government" banning the books.

Another protest message was sent by the American Library Association. The ALA services some 50,000 librarians across the United States.

During the June 1989 convention of the organization, its governing body, the ALA Council, passed a resolution stating, "The American Library Association protests and condemns the seizure and banning of books by the government of Grenada."

Don Rojas, editor of the Pathfinder book *One People, One Destiny*, was a recent talk show guest on WBAI radio, New York's listener-financed radio station.

Rojas was invited to discuss the book, published last year, which contains a selection of the main documents of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America. The Anti-Imperialist Organizations — embracing political groups from more than 20 English-, Dutch-, French-, and Creole-speaking countries — was formed in 1984. Rojas was secretary for propaganda and information of the Anti-Imperialist Organizations at the time he edited the book.

The WBAI interview was part of a fund-raising marathon by the station. *One People, One Destiny* and *Maurice Bishop Speaks*, also published by Pathfinder, were offered as a gift to listeners calling in to make a financial contribution of \$50 or more.

Rojas was press secretary to Grenadian prime minister and revolutionary leader Maurice Bishop prior to the overthrow of the revolutionary government and assassination of Bishop in 1983.

Pathfinder bookstores around the world are scheduling meetings this fall to discuss new books published by Pathfinder.

The Birmingham Young Socialist Alliance chapter and the Black Student

Awareness Committee at the University of Alabama at Birmingham got a head start on these political events with a September meeting to promote *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches*.

More than 150 people, mostly college students, turned out for the event at UAB. The meeting featured a film showing on Malcolm X, followed by a discussion.

Information about events scheduled to discuss new Pathfinder titles is listed in the calendar on page 12.

"His death touched millions of people in Burkina Faso, Africa, Cuba, Nicaragua, and other parts of the world," wrote *The South African Communist*, quarterly journal of the South African Communist Party.

This assessment opened the journal's review of Pathfinder's *Thomas Sankara Speaks: The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87*.

Sankara was the central leader of the revolutionary government in the West African country of Burkina Faso during those years. The government was overthrown, and Sankara assassinated, by a counterrevolutionary coup led by top army officers in 1987.

The speeches in the book "cover a wide spectrum of questions relating to fundamental ideas on revolution, Marxism-Leninism, culture, and internationalism," the journal said.

"Sankara, as this book brings out, was a genuine revolutionary, sincere in his endeavours to improve the lot of his people and to involve the masses in all levels of political activity."

The journal notes, "The struggle against apartheid South Africa was very dear to him, and he offered political, diplomatic, and material support to the ANC."

The book is a must "for anyone wishing to understand the ideas that motivated Sankara and which gave flesh and blood to the revolution in Burkina Faso."

Sankara's "revolutionary legacy will continue to inspire people in Burkina Faso, Africa, and other parts of the world," the journal concluded.

Dorotea Wilson, a member of the Nicaraguan National Assembly from the North Atlantic Autonomous Region on the Atlantic Coast, calls *Thomas Sankara Speaks* "a well-deserved tribute to Sankara which helps us understand the life of a man who knew how to bring together theory and action in the daily struggle for the liberation of his people and for a militant solidarity that knew no borders among the nations that make up what is called the Third World."

In the speech on the emancipation of women, Wilson says, "Sankara not only explained the historical origins of women's oppression, but also gave, throughout the speech, specific examples of the daily and intimate character of machismo in society."

The speech, notes Wilson, "shows a profound understanding of, and active solidarity with, the struggle of women, which in fact belongs to and involves all of humanity."

Sankara represents what "we in the Nicaragua of Sandino need to study, one more lesson that makes it possible for us to move with confident steps toward the construction of our future."

from Pathfinder

## ONE PEOPLE ONE DESTINY

\$6.95



The Caribbean and Central America Today

Edited by Don Rojas, press secretary to Grenada's late Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. The struggle in Nicaragua and El Salvador, impact of the Grenada revolution, U.S. militarization of Puerto Rico, Panama's struggle for sovereignty, and the region's crushing foreign debt. These topics are discussed in speeches and resolutions drawn from the Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America. 115 pp. \$6.95. Sold at bookstores listed on page 12 or by mail from Pathfinder, 410 West St., NY, NY 10014. Please add \$1 for postage.



## ARIZONA

### Phoenix

**Report from Mexico: Workers Confront Foreign Debt and Economic Crisis.** Speakers: Harvey McArthur, Socialist Workers Party, member United Food and Commercial Workers Union 99R; Pedro Álvarez, immigrant Mexican worker. Sat., Oct. 28, 7 p.m. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 279-5850.

## 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.

## FLORIDA

### Miami

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

## GEORGIA

### Atlanta

**House the Homeless!** Speakers: Adjua Adams, Socialist Workers Party; William H. Bowden, president, Political Science Club, Morris Brown College. Sat., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

## IOWA

### Des Moines

**Tremors on Wall Street: What Lies Ahead for Working People.** Speaker: Joe Swanson, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

## MARYLAND

### Baltimore

**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

**South Africa in Revolt.** Speaker: representative of Young Socialist Alliance. Tues., Oct. 24, 7 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Sponsor: YSA. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

## MINNESOTA

### Austin

**Homelessness: The Deepening Crisis.** Panel discussion with Monica Nigan, Socialist Workers Party; Chris Everett, student at Mankato State University; others. Sun., Oct. 29, 7 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

### St. Paul

**Report-back on the Pathfinder Mural.** Sat.,

Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

## MISSOURI

### St. Louis

**The Stakes for Working People in the Fight for Abortion Rights.** Speakers: Cecil Sharpe, life science teacher, member of National Education Association; Jodi Schiller, Students for Personal Freedom, Washington University; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 21, 7 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

## 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

**Northern Ireland: 20 Years of British Occupation.** Speaker: Bob Quigley, Socialist Workers Party, recently returned from Northern Ireland. Sat., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

**Defend Abortion Rights.** A panel discussion. Sat., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

## NEW YORK

### Brooklyn

**Abortion Rights Today.** Speakers: Christine Rice, November 12 Mobilization coordinator, Brooklyn; Vivian Sahner, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New York City comptroller; Eva Braiman, State University of New York at Binghamton student. Translation to Spanish and French. Sat., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. 464 Bergen. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (718) 398-6983.

### Manhattan

**Protest Deportation of Gerard Kelly; U.S. Government Attacks Irish Artist's Rights.** Speakers: Gerry Coleman, publicity director, Irish American Unity Conference; Sam Manuel, director, Pathfinder Mural Project; Cait Mullen, co-chair, National Committee for Joseph Doherty; Frank Durkan, Irish civil rights attorney; Wilhelm Joseph, director, National Conference of Black Lawyers; Arlene Wege, artist, recently returned from Northern Ireland; Sandy Boyer, Irish Arts Center. Sun., Oct. 22. Reception 6:30 p.m.; program 7 p.m. Irish Arts Center, 553 W 51st St. (near 11th Ave.) Donation: \$5. Sponsors: Pathfinder Mural Project, Irish American Unity Conference, American Irish Congress, Committee for Legal Justice in Northern Ireland. For more information call (212) 727-8421.

**The Crisis in Eastern Europe: A Socialist Perspective.** Greg McCartan, staff writer for the *Militant*. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 675-6740.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Greensboro

**The Fight for a United Ireland.** Sun., Oct. 22,

7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

**An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis.** Speaker: Yvonne Hayes, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor. Sun., Oct. 29, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

## OHIO

### Cleveland

**Celebrate the Publication of Malcolm X: The Last Speeches.** Speakers: Muhammad Ahmad, coworker of Malcolm X and author of *Malcolm X and the Black Liberation Movement*; Ione Biggs, president, Women Speak Out for Peace and Justice/WILPF; Jerry Gordon, international representative United Food and Commercial Workers Union; Harold Mitchell, president Local 100, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, chair, Cleveland Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Mwatabu Okantah, author of *Collage* and *Afreka Brass*; Pathfinder representative. Sat., Oct. 21. Reception 6:30 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. Cleveland State University, University Center, Room 103, Euclid Ave. between E 21 and E 22 streets. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore and CSU Organization of African-American Unity. For more information call (216) 861-6150.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Pittsburgh

**The Struggle for Decent Housing.** Report back from the National March for Housing Now! Speakers: Bob Anderson, director, Rainbow Kitchen; Clare Fraenzl, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America Local 1196. Sat., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

## 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

### Salt Lake City

**South Africa and Namibia: Advances in the Fight Against Apartheid.** Panel discussion. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

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**Conversation on Contemporary Cuban Art with Aldo Soler.** Sat., Oct. 28. Reception 7 p.m.; program 8 p.m. 911 Contemporary Arts Center, 117 Yale Ave. Sponsors: Pathfinder Mural Project and 911 Contemporary Arts Center. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

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**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.

**Abortion Rights.** A panel discussion. Sat., Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

## Celebrate publication of Pathfinder book In Defense of Socialism by Fidel Castro

Speakers: **Roberto de Armas**, first secretary Cuban embassy; **George Galloway, MP**; **Ken Cameron**, general secretary Fire Brigades Union; **Celia Pugh**, Pathfinder Bookshop; representatives from **African National Congress** of South Africa and the **Britain-Cuba Resource Centre**. Sat., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. Caxton House, 129 St. John's Way, London N19 (nearest tube: Archway). Donation £1. Organized by Pathfinder Bookshop. For more information call (01) 401 2409.

## WEST VIRGINIA

### Charleston

**Malcolm X: The Last Speeches.** Celebrate the publication of the new Malcolm X book. Panel discussion on importance of Malcolm's ideas for today. Sat., Oct. 21. Reception 6:30 p.m.; program 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

**U.S. Hands Off Panama.** Sat., Oct. 28, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

## BRITAIN

### London

**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, and London Committee of the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

## CANADA

### Montréal

**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

**Capitalist Crisis Deepens.** Speaker: Robert Simms, Revolutionary Workers League. Sat., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

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**Report-Back on Pathfinder Mural from Artists Participating in New York Mural Project.** Fund-raiser to send Filipino artist to work on mural. Sat., Oct. 28, 7 p.m. 157 Symonds St. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Pathfinder Books and Pamphlets. For more information call 793-075.

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**Report-Back on Pathfinder Mural from Artists Participating in New York Mural Project.** Fund-raiser to send Filipino artist to work on mural. Sun., Oct. 29, 4:30 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St. Sponsor: Pathfinder Books and Pamphlets. For more information call 844-205.

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## SWEDEN

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



**New breed** — A South African firm uses wolf-and-dog cross-breeding to market a sturdier, meaner patrol dog. The man in charge says, "Our dogs don't dis-



Harry Ring

criminate — they're trained to attack Blacks, whites, and women."

**Costly strike** — Last year 83 elderly tourists died while visiting Australia and others met accidental death, boosting the embalming and

body-transportation business. Now, with the Australian airline pilots' strike, tourism — and tourist deaths — have dropped off. A member of parliament warned the strike "is running out of control."

**The bottom line** — "They said we cannot afford to clean it." — Engineer James Stone, who warned the operators of the Rocky Flats nuclear arms plant that dangerous amounts of plutonium were accumulating in air ducts.

**But not to worry** — The *New York Times* reports an "explosion" in the demand for "failure specialists" who aid crisis-ridden companies. It notes that of the 10 biggest bankruptcies in U.S. history, five

occurred in the past two years, adding, "And there is the haunting sense that the latest casualties . . . are just the beginning of a landslide."

**And now the good news** — "Buoyed by an unexpected increase in unemployment for September and a sharp decline in factory jobs, blue-chip stocks rose to another record yesterday." — *New York Times* Oct. 7 business page.

**He'll probably tear up the check** — Regarding that Reagan trip to Japan where the ex-prez will pocket \$2 million for two 20-minute raps. A spokesperson assures that the money is "no motivation." It's simply that the Reagans relate to the Japanese people.

**Progress report** — A Massachusetts judge lifted a 22-year ban on *Titicut Follies*, Frederick Wiseman's documentary on the inhuman conditions at Bridgewater State Hospital for the "criminally insane." In imposing the ban, an earlier judge branded the film "a nightmare of ghoulies and ghouls" that, he piously said, violated inmates' privacy.

**A fate worse than death** — "Along with an aging population goes increased demand for medical and other health-care services. But not all health-care stocks are a lay-up. What if soaring medical costs lead to some form of socialized medicine?" — *Newsweek*.

**A good neighbor** — The Ciba-Geigy plant in New Jersey dumps its poisonous waste in pits and lagoons near the Toms River. The seepage has created an underground lake of pollution about a mile square and up to 100 feet deep. To clean it up will take pumping out some 3 million gallons a day for 30 years.

**Antimedieval** — The American Cancer Society scrapped a fundraising medieval festival in Saratoga Springs, New York, after protests from Christian fundamentalists. "Tarot card readings or fortune-telling . . . would bring in spiritual forces that are very dangerous," warned a reverend. Keen-eared protesters also noted that the end of "medieval" sounds like "evil."

## Britain: interest rates erode living standards

Continued from Page 10

add £48 per month on a 25-year, £75,000 loan and £55 to an endowment mortgage of the same level.

### Repossessions up

Base interest rates have risen 3 percent in the last year and by 7.5 percent over the last 17 months. Some people are able to negotiate an extension on their mortgage. Others lose their homes altogether. Between 1979 and 1987, the rate of repossessions rose by 800 percent. According to the Building Societies Association, 16,150 properties were repossessed by building societies and banks last year, and the number of loans from 6 to 12

months in arrears rose from 37,440 at the end of 1988 to 45,100 in June of this year.

In a report, "Raising the Roofs on Housing Myths," the Shelter organization points out that these figures underrepresent the real picture as families forced into "voluntary sales" are not included.

People in rented accommodations will suffer too as landlords pass on the increased cost of their borrowing in the form of higher rents. All this will add to the housing crisis here. Shelter estimates that annual homelessness in Britain stands at over 1 million.

Working farmers have also been hit by the rise in interest rates. Coming on top of a 25

percent drop in farm incomes over the last year, the interest rate rises are forcing thousands of working farmers out of farming.

This level of interest rates is a reflection of the deterioration in the British economy. The second quarter of this year saw overall output dip (by some 0.4 percent of GDP) for the first time in four years. Despite the government and employer offensive against the working class over the past decade, profit rates in manufacturing are only marginally above those of the mid 1970s — and are below what they were 20 years ago. While there has been a substantial increase in profits in manufacturing, this has not been achieved through the expansion of capacity-producing

plant and machinery, but principally through speed-up, greater work flexibility, and introduction of machinery that requires fewer workers. Accordingly, output only reached 1979 levels in July 1988.

### Take-overs

The bulk of capital has either sought more profitable investment overseas or been dedicated to fueling the rapid rise in takeovers. In 1988 takeovers tripled in value to £20 billion. Before the current stock market instability, this looked like it was going to be easily outstripped in 1989. One current leveraged bid alone — for the BAT company — is valued at £13 billion.

Nonetheless, in the last couple of years many manufacturing companies have sought to increase their investment in order to profit from increased demand.

At the same time, in self-defense against fellow capitalist takeover predators, industrial and commercial companies have been dramatically increasing their dividend payments. The upshot of this is that, for the first time since 1979, these companies' capital expenditure exceeds their retained profits. The gap has been bridged by massive bank borrowing. So much so that interest payments are now some 30 percent of gross profits — up from 18 percent last year. Borrowings of some £9 billion in the first half of this year are a greater percentage of GDP than was the case on the eve of the recession years of 1974 and 1979.

The corporate debt is 40 percent of total corporate income, up from 25 percent two years ago.

## Strikers will 'light up' Miami causeway Oct. 22

Continued from Page 6

parking lot Sunday morning October 8.

Another striker thought it would be important to invite Boeing strikers, who are also in the IAM, to participate in upcoming strike activities, along with Pittston miners.

After nearly eight months on the picket line — despite the wear-and-tear that comes with a long battle — most Eastern strikers remain determined to see their fight through to the end.

"I think we're doing good," said José Rodríguez, a ramp worker with 18 years at Eastern. Like a number of strikers in Miami, he was born in Cuba. He and his wife Elena were walking the picket line on 36th Street, by Eastern's headquarters and maintenance base during the afternoon of October 7.

Some strikers aren't so sure. "It's hard to tell where the strike is heading," said Dobson Collins, a young aircraft mechanic who was born in Jamaica. "Is it going up or down?" Collins was one of a number of mechanics hired by Eastern a few months before the strike started. "It's not really because of the union that I'm on strike," he said. "It's because of what we saw in the time we were in there."

Ernie Cottle, a shop steward for IAM Local

1126, also participates in the outreach committee. He has worked as a porter for 25 years at Dispatch Services, a company that subcontracts to handle baggage and do cleaning for some of the airlines that fly into Miami International Airport.

A few years after he started at Dispatch, a successful union organizing drive took place. Soon after, Cottle was elected shop steward. "I didn't really run," he explained. "It was more like I was drafted because I was outspoken." He's been a shop steward ever since.

"There are more than 30,000 workers at the airport," Cottle explained. In addition to the major airlines, dozens of small airlines, charter flight companies, freight services, cleaning companies, baggage delivery outfits, catering services, bus and limousine operators, taxi services, and other companies operate at the airport — not to mention all the restaurants, hotels, and stores.

Over the years, Cottle has seen the wages and working conditions of many of these workers deteriorate, as companies push to cut costs so they can underbid competitors and get contracts to handle baggage, cleaning, and other work. At Dispatch, for example, many workers make little more than minimum wage and get medical and other benefits

only after working for three years.

Even before the strike at Eastern started in March, Dispatch Service workers, many of whom are immigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean, were approached about taking jobs as scabs should a strike occur.

Cottle and other union activists organized to inform Local 1126 members about the issues in the Eastern fight and explain the need for solidarity. No Dispatch Service workers have taken the scab jobs.

Since then, Cottle and several other local members have been stalwarts in backing the Eastern workers' fight. The walkout has had an impact on many workers at the airport. "We have signed up more new members for our union since the strike started," Cottle said.

## —10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

### THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Oct. 26, 1979

Before an overflow audience at the United Nations, in an eloquent speech punctuated by frequent applause, Cuban President Fidel Castro called for "a new world order, one based on justice, on equity, and on peace. One that will replace the unjust and unequal system that prevails today."

"I speak on behalf of the children of the world who don't even have a piece of bread," said Castro, summing up the needs of the world's poverty-stricken masses. "I speak on behalf of the sick who lack medicine. I speak on behalf of those who have been denied the right to life and to human dignity."

When he finished his address, the representatives and UN staffers — most of them from colonial and semicolonial countries — began shouting "Fidel! Fidel!" They gave him a long and stormy standing ovation.

Castro had not earned this support by fine oratory alone. A much more weighty credential is Cuba's record of staunch anti-imperialist action in Africa, Latin America, and the Mideast and the exemplary social progress that Cuba has made over the past two decades.

When Castro addressed the UN 19 years ago, he came as spokesperson for the new and developing socialist revolution in Cuba.

This time he came in a far larger world role — president of the Movement of Non-aligned Countries, spokesperson, as he ex-

plained, for "95 countries from all the continents, representing the immense majority of humanity."

(The full text of Castro's UN speech is reprinted in a Pathfinder pamphlet. It is available for \$1.25 at bookstores listed on page 12.)

### THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

Oct. 26, 1964

As the November 3 election draws near it is clearer than ever that those concerned with social progress in this country should vote for the Socialist Workers Party ticket of Clifton DeBerry for president and Edward Shaw for vice-president.

On every key issue in this campaign the Republican Goldwater and the Democrat Johnson have proven, despite their verbal exchanges, to have a bipartisan approach. Johnson out-Goldwatered Goldwater on the Vietnam War when he ordered the bombing of North Vietnam following the Gulf of Tonkin "incidents." Goldwater supported, and egged Johnson on, in this dangerous adventure.

Goldwater accuses the administration of responsibility for U.S. involvement in Vietnam, but both Johnson and Goldwater have refused to entertain the only possible peaceful and honorable solution to the Vietnam crisis — withdrawal of U.S. troops from the South Vietnam civil war.

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# Machinists', miners' strikes

Continued from front page

World capitalism entered into a period of economic stagnation, shrinking markets for goods produced, and intensified competition between imperialist powers in the late 1960s. The consequences of this trend have been far-reaching.

Pressed by a declining rate of profit, growing competition, and an excess of industrial capacity, the employers have attempted to make working people pay for their crisis through mounting work reorganization, speedup, plant shutdowns, and layoffs. By lengthening the working day and increasing the intensity of labor through speedup, the employers have been driving down the value of workers' labor power.

Millions have seen their standard of living fall, particularly those workers who are victims of discrimination because of their skin color or national origin.

The social consequences are also staggering. The growth of homelessness, resegregation in housing and education, declining health care, and deteriorating infrastructure such as roads and transportation are also a result of the workings of the capitalist system.

In the semicolonial countries oppressed by imperialism this crisis has become generalized. The mounting human toll resulting from the massive debt load means rising levels of unemployment, infant mortality, deaths from curable diseases, and a precipitous drop in real wages.

## Eastern, miners', and Boeing strikes

In this context workers' struggles today in the coalfields and against Eastern and Boeing have heightened significance.

These battles, coming after a long period of setbacks and retreat for the labor movement, show that a new pattern to labor struggles is emerging.

Other important strikes preceded the Eastern workers and miners' struggles. Meat-packers, paperworkers, coal miners, and others began to fight against concessions and union-busting demands by the employers. Beginning in 1985, these strikes broke a period of virtual rout for the labor movement.

Each one of these battles, although receiving support in the labor movement, had largely been defeated by the time the next fight began.

But today, for the first time in more than 40 years, three major national labor battles are unfolding at the same time, reinforcing each other, and inspiring millions of other workers as a result.

These battles point the way forward for working people to unify amidst the growing certainty of a coming economic collapse.

## Third biggest airline company

The Eastern Airlines strike began last March. The strikers took on the third biggest airline company in the United States. Years of company attacks on wages, working conditions, union rights, and human dignity forced 8,500 International Association of Machinists members at Eastern to walk off the job. Flight attendants and pilots joined the battle, and Eastern's operations rapidly ground to a halt.

A month later the coal miners struck at Pittston. Miners at the company's Virginia and West Virginia mines walked out after 14 months of working without a contract. They were determined to resist Pittston's drive to slash pension and medical benefits and weaken — if not break — the United Mine Workers at the company's mines.

Thousands of miners, determined to prevent a repetition of the serious blow dealt the union during the 1984-85 strike against Massey Coal Co., have become directly a part of the fight against Pittston.

In June and July 44,000 UMWA members staged a six-week walkout. This action on the part of the miners in turn inspired the Eastern strikers, who saw new ranks moving into common action.

These struggles are reinforcing each other as miners and Eastern strikers join together on picket lines, in rallies, and at demonstrations.

## Caravans

Striking coal miners and Eastern workers have united to back up other workers on strike. In addition, hundreds of miners and other unionists have organized caravans to the Pittston mines to bolster the miners' fight.

The Pittston strike is continuing to win broader support in the labor movement as a whole. National AFL-CIO officials have increasingly put their stamp of approval on the strike. This has opened even more doors for local, city, and statewide labor organizations to mobilize support for the miners.

Eastern strikers have reached out and involved thousands in rallies and picket lines across the country.

These two interlinked battles received a big boost on October 4 when 58,000 IAM members at Boeing, the world's largest aircraft company, went on strike after the company refused to substantially reduce forced overtime and increase wages. There are now two major strikes taking place in the IAM.

The common defiance of these strikers has in turn put its stamp on other fights that break out — from the strike by 5,400 steelworkers at three Ohio plants of Timken Co., to hospital workers in New York City, and phone workers across

the country. The solidarity built up by today's fights enables other workers to come into struggle in a stronger position.

Moreover, the solidarity that is growing out of these struggles is being expressed beyond the confines of the confrontation with the employers.

Through reaching out — to give and build solidarity — workers have developed a much greater openness to, and willingness to act around, social issues.

The combativity is swelling protests — from the August demonstration for affirmative action, to the 100,000-strong march for housing on October 7, to the actions in defense of abortion rights. The scope of the official endorsement and participation by unions, in addition to the thousands of working people at these protests, is also new.

## Impact of struggles

The struggles of the working class had a direct impact on the plunge in the stock markets around the world.

Instead of investing in new plants, factories, and mines where the falling profit rate generally dictates a low return on investment, the employing class has poured money into speculation in stocks, bonds, and other paper money. Corporate debt has risen to more than \$2 trillion as a result. These investments are not based on the worth of a company or the health of the economy. The hope is that someone else will come along and buy at a higher price.

The specter of both resistance by working people to concessions and a looming recession shook the employers' and bankers' confidence in the stability of the shaky debt structure and the inflated stock prices. As a result trading in junk bonds began to slide even prior to the October 13 stock market plunge.

## \$6.8 billion buyout

The decision by some banks to pull out of the \$6.8 billion buyout of United Airlines triggered the stock sell-off on Wall Street.

United had notified members of the IAM that big concessions by the union were to be part of the buyout deal. The concessions were needed to pay the new debt the airline would have. When the IAM said they wouldn't go along with the deal, some key bankers pulled out.

But far from potentially causing an economic collapse, these struggles are the only road forward for the unions and all working people today. In fact the stakes in these fights are higher now.

Workers cannot stop the onset of a recession or a depression any more than the capitalist rulers can.

Through these strikes and struggles, workers defend their unions, rights, and standard of living. The employers are finding out that imposing their solution to the economic crisis will not be a simple matter.

Like the growing solidarity between the Eastern and mine workers' fights, forging common actions between Eastern and Boeing strikers would give needed reinforcement to the seven-month-long battle at Eastern and show Boeing that it faces a determined resistance.

Eastern workers' caravans to Portland, Oregon; Wichita, Kansas; and Seattle can help the Boeing workers with the lessons already learned through the airlines strike. The Boeing strikers' rally in Seattle on October 21, as well as future actions, offers a significant opportunity for such an expression of united and broad labor solidarity.

## Break down divisions

The issues being fought out in the strikes also confront the rest of the IAM and labor movement.

Eastern strikers are defending their union against union-busting. In this fight other IAM members who work for airline subcontracting companies servicing Eastern flights are also attempting to forge unity and wage a common struggle.

Eastern strikers, as in Philadelphia, are confronting other strikebreaking moves by Eastern. The company hopes to sell off enough of the airline to finance its reorganization plan. A big chunk of Eastern has been sold off to Midway, which plans to open the Philadelphia gates on a nonunion basis.

Boeing workers are fighting against extensive forced overtime required by the company and for a restoration of wage increases.

## Galvanized IAM

What has opened up is the opportunity for all IAM members to join the battle with their union brothers and sisters at Boeing and Eastern. This would put other IAM members, such as those at Lockheed, McDonnell Douglas, and United, in a stronger position to wage their fights too. A galvanized IAM would strengthen the hand of the entire union movement and working class.

Today's rise in labor militancy also opens the road for working people in this country to reach out to our brothers and sisters around the world in a common fight against the devastating impact of the world capitalist crisis.

By joining the battle and standing together with coal miners and Eastern and Boeing strikers, working people will be in the best position to utilize union power to organize a common struggle against the effects of the capitalist economic crisis.

# What 1987 stock market crash signaled

BY DOUG JENNESS

On the morning after the San Francisco Bay Area earthquake one of many seismologists interviewed by reporters was asked by CBS anchorman Harry Smith to describe the force represented by a 6.9 rating on the Richter Scale, the gauge used to measure earthquake magnitude.

The earth scientist replied that any answer would be abstract and unintelligible unless she compared the recent quake with other tremors and earthquakes that people are

## LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

familiar with. She proceeded to list some of the more severe shakeups that have occurred along California's San Andreas Fault.

Similarly, it's natural that most of us have turned to a comparison with the October 1987 stock market crash to assess the severity of the most recent tremor on Wall Street.

On Oct. 19, 1987, average prices on the New York Stock Exchange plunged 23 percent, more than on any day in this century, including during the 1929 crash that signaled the Great Depression.

The Chicago stock futures market fell even more sharply, plummeting 36 percent in 10 hours over two days.

Moreover, unlike the 1929 crash, the plunge on Wall Street spread to many other countries. The increased interconnection of capitalist economies helped stock markets around the world drag each other down. The most devastating decline hit the exchanges in semicolonial and colonial countries.

In a blow-by-blow account a month later, two reporters revealed in the *Wall Street Journal* how close the October 19 dive came to triggering a collapse of credit and banking institutions.

After the closing bell on that day, the *Journal* team explained, major investment firms had gone into the red in an effort to calm the market by buying up stock from panic-stricken speculators. The banks then balked at extending further credit to finance these purchases.

"If credit dried up," the journalists noted, "securities firms could start to collapse, much as the banks did after the 1929 crash." Officials of the Federal Reserve Bank "saw a real threat of gridlock developing in the markets: Even the simplest financial transaction might have become impossible."

Investment banker Felix Rohatyn contended, "I think we came within an hour" of disintegration of the stock market.

The situation was only turned around when the Federal Reserve Bank began to purchase bonds and securities — putting massive amounts of money into the accounts of banks and other financial institutions that sold them. By October 21 a collapse had been averted.

That a severe recession or depression didn't quickly follow such a steep plunge in stock market prices, as it did in 1929, has been hailed by some corporate analysts as a victory for the safeguards instituted since the 1930s. Others, such as one *Wall Street Journal* writer in an October 16 article, contend that the 1987 crash showed that the stock market cannot be "viewed as a barometer of the national economy" as it once was. "That has changed," he wrote, partly, because the two years since "have been reasonably comfortable."

He quoted a Chicago professor who says the 1987 crash was "a false alarm however you view it."

"The market seems increasingly disconnected from the rest of the nation," the *Journal* writer concluded.

This head-in-the-sand approach, not likely shared by most in ruling circles, is also not held by most workers who have not had as "comfortable" a decade as the *Wall Street Journal* correspondent and his ilk.

The 1987 crash *did* sound the alarm that something is deeply wrong with the capitalist system. The near meltdown on the stock exchange was the product of explosive pressures that have been building up since the world capitalist system began to stagnate in the late 1960s and early '70s. The crash was a sign that these strains have become more volatile following the deep 1981-82 recession in the United States.

The instability of the stock market is not caused by the convulsions of a "paper economy" disconnected from the "real economy." The trading in stocks and bonds, together with international credit and currency transfers, are at the hub of massive flows of capital among industrial corporations, banks, governments, and individual capitalists.

The rise and fall of stock and bond prices serve as a measure for the capitalists of the health and prospects of individual firms, as well as of the economy as a whole.

Since October 1987 every working person feels more uneasy. That crash was a warning that the social crisis that has already devastated layers of working people and geographical regions in the United States, as well as hundreds of millions of toilers in the semicolonial countries, will become the reality for the vast majority of working people throughout the world.

And recognition of this has only been deepened by the October 13 market dive.



# Seattle initiative seeks to do away with busing

BY ROBBIE SCHERR

SEATTLE — Republican Douglas Jewett and Democrat Norman Rice won the September 19 nonpartisan mayoral primary election here.

Jewett is the city attorney and co-author of an antibusing ballot measure known as the Save Our Schools (SOS) Initiative. Rice, who is Black, is a city councilman who entered the race at the last minute to oppose the initiative

## AS I SEE IT

when it became clear that it would win ballot status for the November 7 general election.

If passed, the SOS Initiative would dismantle the Seattle school district's busing plan.

The SOS Initiative has put the issue of busing and education at the center of this year's mayoral debate. The way this is being projected in the media is a contest between an antibusing white law enforcer and a prodesegregation Black community leader.

But I see it differently.

The story starts in 1977 when Seattle became the largest school district in the United States to "voluntarily" institute mandatory busing. It "volunteered" under the impact and influence of dozens of court decisions forcing other school districts to do the same. Like other cities throughout the country, it was affected by the big mobilizations and struggle in Boston in the mid-1970s to implement a busing plan that would desegregate the public school system there.

Before the 1989-90 school year began, antibusing forces, under Jewett's tutelage, collected 18,000 signatures to put the SOS Initiative on the ballot. Supporters of the initiative make no secret of their intentions. They propose to water

down the definition of a segregated school and to substitute the vague use of "goals" for the objective use of quotas to determine progress in desegregation.

Supporters of the initiative have been emboldened by the July U.S. Supreme Court decision against affirmative action. In the text of the initiative they state, "given changing court decisions... it is improbable that federal courts would interrupt" their plan. Their racist arguments are cloaked in rhetoric about "parental choice" and tirades about the poor quality of the Seattle schools. They blame busing for everything from "white flight" to traffic problems and pollution.

The City of Seattle and the School Board filed an unsuccessful lawsuit in an attempt to get the SOS Initiative thrown off the November ballot. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People also opposes the initiative. But unfortunately, none in the city, including mayoral candidate Rice, has waged a serious political campaign to discuss the merits of busing and to convince working people to vote no on the initiative. As a result there is a tremendous amount of confusion. Confusion propagated by opponents of school desegregation.

Even though a majority of working people in this city support desegregation, only a small minority favor busing. In a recent *Seattle Times* poll, 68 percent of those questioned said that they opposed busing to achieve school desegregation, with 51 percent strongly opposed. Only 5 percent were strongly in favor. In the same poll, 51 percent said that they would probably or definitely vote for the SOS Initiative.

Many opponents of the initiative, including Rice, are also opposed to busing. They want to disassociate themselves from the racist character of the SOS campaign, but they offer no real defense for busing. The same week the *Times* poll was conducted, Rice publicly opposed the mandatory

busing of elementary school children up to the fifth grade. In reality, then, the mayor's race pits two capitalist party candidates against each other, both of whom oppose busing to one degree or another and neither of whom puts forward a concrete program for school desegregation.

The simple fact is that busing has proved to be the only way to desegregate schools. The schools with better facilities, buildings, and funding are in white neighborhoods, and only by transporting students can educational opportunities be equal for children who are Black, Asian, Latino, and white.

Busing is not, as its opponents argue, the reason that the schools are bad. Busing has no impact on the quality of education. It has one purpose and one purpose alone. That is to allow Blacks and other oppressed youth equal access to the educational opportunities that do exist. And it should be defended on that basis.

What is needed today is a broad campaign on the part of the labor movement and civil rights organizations to urge a no vote on the SOS Initiative and a fight to defend busing in Seattle. Such a fight could help stem the growing inequality and resegregation that is taking place.

Such an effort would also fuel social struggles to defend women from attacks on abortion rights and affirmative action, workers from union-busting, and family farmers from the threats of foreclosures.

The fight for equality for oppressed national minorities must be a cornerstone of uniting working people for an effective mobilization against the impact of the next recession and possibility of it triggering an even more devastating economic and social crisis.

Robbie Scheer is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Seattle.

## LETTERS

### Palestinian struggle

Thanks to the *Militant* and to Harry Ring for his excellent pieces on the oppression in Palestine. We need to be reminded that the struggle of Palestinian workers is our struggle too, and Ring does this job very well.

What's going on in occupied Palestine is not a matter of Arab versus Jew, and this ought to be emphasized to Americans. Too many feel that pro-Arab means anti-Jew. The story of Abie Nathan's courage and unjust imprisonment is just one example of this.

People fighting for ideals, like Nathan and the intifadistas, will not be bought, and they will not quit. The only thing that holds up the Zionist entity is the \$3 billion a year that the United States sends to its ally. If that blood money ceased to flow, not only would Palestinian blood cease to flow, but we might conceivably use some of it here at home to start to clean up our own act. If this were done, perhaps the world would have been spared the ridiculous and embarrassing spectacle of thousands of homeless Americans marching on Washington.

Patricia Maynard  
New Hope, Minnesota

Editor's note: Abie Nathan, one of Israel's best-known peace activists, was sentenced by an Israeli court to six months in prison on October 3.

Charges were brought against him for meeting with Yassir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Nathan, 62, said he would not appeal the sentence nor perform community work as an alternative to jail.

### Attendance policy kills

More than 700 angry postal workers picketed and rallied on September 27 in Philadelphia to protest the post office's harsh attendance policy — which led to the death of a 36-year-old coworker, Michael Armstrong.

The unionists carried picket signs reading, "We just come here to work, we don't come here to die" and "Health and safety first."

Armstrong died of a heart attack after reporting for work on August 18. He was a custodian at the Philadelphia General Post Office. Management had warned Armstrong when he was hired that if he got sick, he should report to work and then go to the post office's medical unit to avoid being penalized for unscheduled absences.

Armstrong had two unscheduled absences due to illness, a third would have subjected him to disciplinary action.

The American Postal Workers Union local in Philadelphia is investigating whether policies initiated by Postmaster Charles James contributed to the untimely deaths of two other employees.

The protest action involved the three postal unions and their national presidents — the American Postal Workers Union, National Association of Letter Carriers, and the Mail Handlers Union.

Maura O'Brien  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### London Cuba meeting

A recent meeting organized by the Britain-Cuba Resource Centre gave supporters of the Cuban revolution here the chance to discuss the implications of the Arnaldo Ochoa and José Abrantes trials last summer.

Roberto de Armas, first secretary at the Cuban embassy, addressed the meeting "in a frank mood, to share with you my own knowledge." The Ochoa affair had caused a great deal of thought among the Cuban people, about how such things could happen, and how they can be avoided in the future, he said.

After 30 years, De Armas explained, the high standards of the



revolution had "been forgotten in some cases."

"The conclusion we draw," he said, "is that the revolution needs to be much tougher as regards shaping the new human being we are trying to create."

The Cuban official explained that what is being done in Cuba is something new, even among the "socialist countries."

In answer to questions, De Armas explained that the decision to use the death penalty had been a painful one. But, he said, "the key issue was the credibility of the party and the revolution. In dealing with the future of our revolution, we have to be not only open, but totally clear. We gave our people all the information. All this was aimed at preventing the kind of discrediting process that happened to, for instance, the Communist Party of Poland. The credibility and prestige of the party in Cuba has grown."

De Armas also talked about what Cuba's internationalist volunteers did in Angola. Their achievements will be celebrated at a meeting in London on October 21 at which De Armas will again speak.

Also addressing the meeting will be representatives of the African National Congress of South Africa and the South West African People's Organisation. Part of the video *Response to the South African Escalation* will be shown. The meeting is sponsored by the BCRC and the London Committee of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, and will take

place at 3:00 p.m. at The Quad, LSE Students' Union, Houghton St., London, WC2.

Bridget Elton  
London, England

### Phone workers' strike

On September 21 some 500 striking phone workers and other unionists rallied at the big phone company building in Boston as the strike against NYNEX entered its eighth week. The crowd, which shut the building's gate for two hours, heard speakers from the Machinists' union at Eastern Airlines, the mine workers' union, and victorious striking teachers from Everett, Massachusetts.

The phone workers' strike in the Boston area has been characterized by mass picketing and other actions that have kept the strike visible and morale high. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2222 has regular mass membership meetings here. The meetings are open to strike supporters from other unions.

Across New England 18,000 phone workers from the IBEW and the Communications Workers of America are out in addition to 40,000 strikers in New York. This is the first time in recent years the two unions have coordinated bargaining.

After awarding most IBEW members unemployment benefits in September, the state legislature voted to revoke the benefits October 6. Two days earlier, 2,000 strik-

ers and supporters rallied at the state capitol, demanding that unemployment benefits be maintained. NYNEX has also cut off medical and life insurance benefits.

Dozens of strikers have been arrested by cops who are often on paid details for the company.

Mutual support by phone workers and Eastern strikers has been growing. Solidarity has been increasing from other unions as well. Material and financial support is badly needed. Neither phone union has strike benefit pay.

A recent plant gate collection at the General Electric plant in nearby Lynn organized by the union there raised \$2,300. Another at Raytheon raised \$15,000.

Russell Davis  
Boston, Massachusetts

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

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

## Corrections

In last week's *Militant* editorial announcing the release of eight anti-apartheid leaders jailed in South Africa, all were identified as members of the African National Congress. Of the eight political prisoners released, seven are members of the ANC.

An article in the October 13 *Militant* on the prochoice actions in the United States stated that the Coalition of Labor Union Women in the San Francisco Bay Area was sponsoring a forum at the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 6 in Oakland. The meeting was held at the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 6.



## Thousands demand abortion rights

### 20,000 demonstrate across Canada

BY MONICA JONES

TORONTO — "No politician, however wise he or she may think he or she is, no prime minister, no premier, no legislator, however well-meaning or all-knowing they may think they are, has the right to tell a woman what to do with her own body." With these words, Bob Rae, leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party (NDP) received the loudest applause of the day from the 5,000 people rallying here October 14 for a woman's right to choose an abortion.

Some 20,000 people came out in more than 30 towns and cities across Canada on that day. The National Day of Action was called by the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League, National Action Committee on the Status of Women, and other prochoice groups. "No new law" was the theme, in opposition to plans by the Canadian government to recriminalize abortion.

In January 1988 Canada's abortion law, dating from 1969 and under which abortion was a criminal act, was struck down as unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

Carolyn Egan from the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics told the Toronto rally, "The Supreme Court justices were forced by the strength of our movement to overturn that law." The October 14 actions, she said, indicate that the movement to defend a woman's right to choose is growing.

#### Labor support

The protests showed that unions are becoming more involved around this issue. Linda Torney, president of the Metropolitan Toronto and District Labour Council, pledged to the Toronto rally to defend abortion clinics as long as they are under attack and to continue to fight "until the issue is won."

Torney explained, "The choice question is vital because unless women can control their bodies they cannot control their future. There will be no new law!"

This theme was echoed by Christine Micklewright of the British Columbia Federation of Labour at a West Coast demonstration of 5,000 held in Vancouver. At that rally union banners included those of hospital workers, postal workers, telecommunications workers, carpenters, teachers, and municipal workers.

In Toronto the banner and jackets of the Canadian Auto Workers union were highly visible.

Rallies of 400 were held in Regina and Saskatoon in the prairie province of Saskatchewan. Barb Byers, president of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, addressed the Saskatoon demonstration.

In Vancouver banners were there from the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, and Langara College.

Three of the major political parties had also been invited to speak at that action. British Columbia NDP leader Mike Harcourt spoke, but the Liberals and Conservatives declined. Individuals carried signs reading "Tories for Choice."

Iona Campagnola, former president of the Liberal Party of Canada, addressed the rally of more than 200 in Hamilton, Ontario.

#### Message from U.S. civil rights leaders

In Toronto a message was read from civil rights leaders in the United States. It challenged the claims of Operation Rescue, an outfit that attempts to block access to abortion clinics across North America, to represent the traditions of the civil rights struggles of the 1960s.

"The civil rights struggle fought to extend constitutional rights to all Americans," the message read, "and to have those rights enforced." By harassing women attempting to enter abortion clinics, Operation Rescue "is attempting to deny women their constitutional right to freedom of choice. . . . Perhaps it is more accurate to compare Operation Rescue demonstrators to segregationists who fought desperately to block Black Americans from access to their rights."

Manon Bouchard, representing the Québécois Coalition for Free and Legal Abortion, told the Montréal rally that of 170 government-run community clinics in the province of Québec, only 12 offer abortion services and 65 percent of abortions performed in that province are done in Montréal.

Up to 1,500 marched in Ottawa where a rally took place in French and English. Richard Mercier, a vice-president of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), urged all Canadians, union members or not, employed or unemployed, to stand up and defend a woman's right to choose.

The CLC has long held a prochoice position and stands by that policy. "We will stand by our sisters," he said.

In most cities across Canada prochoice supporters intend to remain on an action footing, prepared to demonstrate within 24 hours if the government moves to introduce legislation recriminalizing abortion. At a pro-choice meeting in Toronto organized by the Law Union and attended by 400 October 13, Carolyn Egan invited people to become part of the North American fight for choice by joining the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics on its buses to Washington, D.C., for a November 12 demonstration.

*Dan Grant in Hamilton, Ontario; Katy Le-Rougetel in Vancouver; Susie Berman in Montréal; Carole Caron, who attended the rally in Ottawa; and Sheila Steele, who chaired the Saskatoon rally, contributed to this article.*

## Labor backs California action

BY AMY BELVIN

SAN FRANCISCO — Tens of thousands of protesters gathered here October 15 to march and rally in support of abortion rights. Contingents came from campuses and towns throughout northern California. Buses brought marchers from Fresno, Santa Cruz, Davis, and Sacramento. Others came by train from San Jose and Oakland. Some marchers came from as far away as Oregon and Washington State.

Many students participated, including a contingent of 200 from San Francisco State University.

Nearly 30,000 people participated in the rally, and march organizers estimate that total participation during the day may have been higher.

In the broadest labor endorsement for an abortion rights march in this area, all seven of the San Francisco Bay Area central labor councils backed the action. One-fourth of all

the endorsements came from labor organizations, including local chapters of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW).

The march route went by the Pacific Stock Exchange building. As demonstrators passed by, they shouted derisively, referring to the 190-point drop in the New York Stock Exchange two days before.

Strikers from Eastern Airlines set up an information table, collected donations, and signed up people to walk the picket line at San Francisco International Airport. A striking coal miner from the Pittston strike in Appalachia shared a table with CLUW, next to the Eastern strikers.

Supporters of Mark Curtis, jailed Iowa packinghouse worker and political activist, collected signatures on cards endorsing the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

The biggest cheers of the day went to rally speaker Norma McCorvey, "Jane Roe" in

## All out for Nov. 12 march!

The following statement was adopted by the Young Socialist Alliance National Executive Committee in New York on October 16.

The Young Socialist Alliance urges all young people to help build and participate in the November 12 march to defend abortion rights, called by the National Organization for Women.

The right to choose abortion was won in struggle and now must be defended in struggle. This includes visible protests and speak-outs and winning the labor movement to support the fight for women's rights as part of defending the rights of all workers.

A woman's right to control her own body is fundamental to the struggle for full equality and participation in the work force, politics, and every aspect of society. Women must be able to decide when and if to have children.

The July 3 Supreme Court ruling upholding a Missouri law restricting access to abortions, particularly for poor women, was a big blow to working people, a major attack on the right of women to control their own bodies.

Moreover, it was a setback to the constitutional right to privacy — a right that the courts have been forced to recognize for more layers of the population and more areas of conduct. This expansion of rights has been won as a result of struggles by working people, including the massive civil rights movement that brought down the Jim Crow form of segregation.

The July 3 Supreme Court decision has intensified the struggle around abortion rights as supporters of a woman's right to choose have stepped up resistance to measures that would restrict these rights.

In Florida a statewide mobilization

brought 10,000 abortion rights activists to the state capitol on October 10 to protest 10 proposals to impose tighter restrictions on women obtaining abortions. All the measures were defeated by the state legislature.

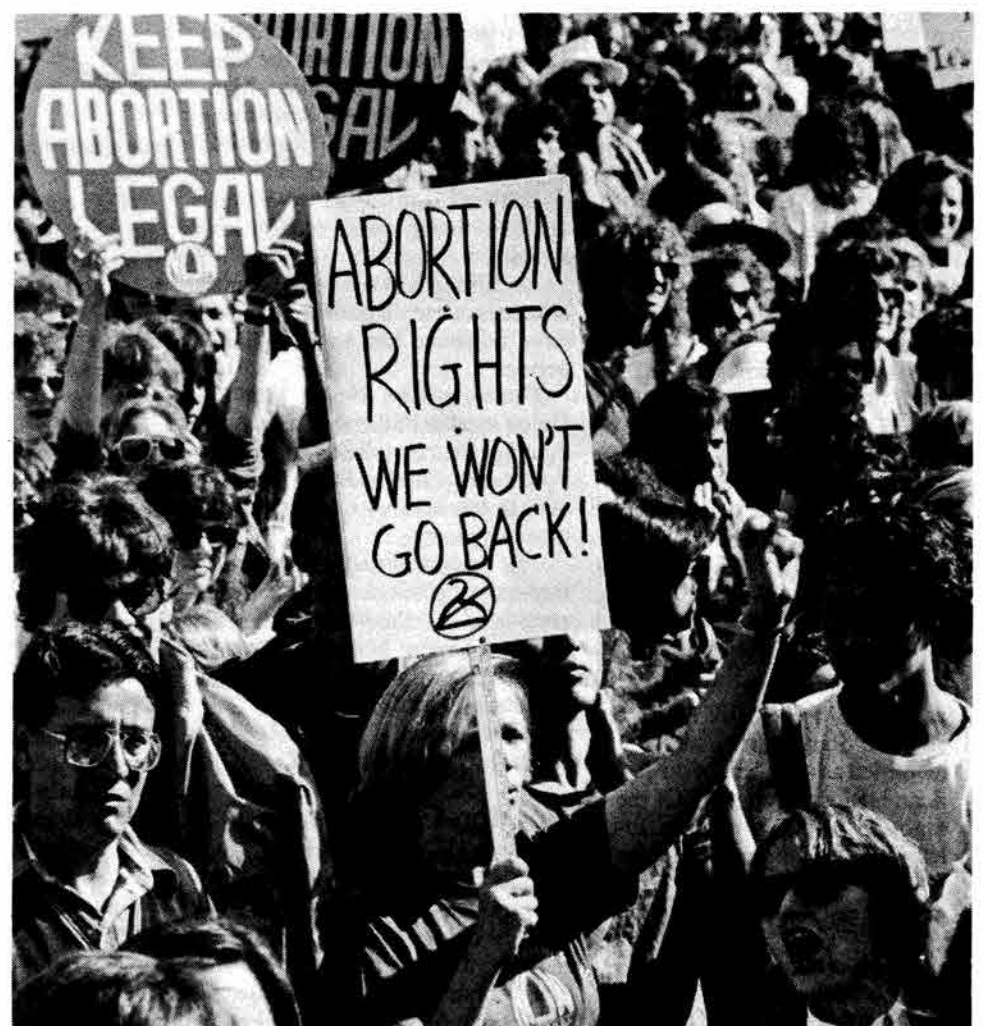
A sign of the pressure that is building was the House of Representatives turnaround October 11 on providing federal financing of abortions for low-income women who are victims of rape or incest. President George Bush has threatened to veto the legislation if the Senate approves it.

A few days later a massive mobilization of tens of thousands in San Francisco showed the mounting momentum of the abortion rights fight. And some 20,000 marched in cities and towns across Canada.

The growing fight to defend abortion rights is occurring in the context of a new pattern of struggle in the labor movement. For the first time in decades important national fights such as the strikes at Eastern Airlines and Boeing and the resistance of coal miners are occurring at the same time. These and other labor struggles are becoming interlocked as strikers and other unionists join in the fight for solidarity. And this growing solidarity has heightened awareness and sensitivity to social struggles, shown by the increased labor support for abortion rights actions and actions such as the October 7 march to demand housing and aid for the country's homeless.

All of this points to favorable prospects for building a powerful, ongoing response to the attempts to reverse the abortion rights that have been won.

In this process the November 12 abortion rights march on Washington, which promises to be massive, can play a very important part.



October 15 abortion rights march in San Francisco

Militant/Robert Kopec

*Roe v. Wade.* In that case the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1973 that state laws barring the right of women to abortion were a denial of the constitutional right of privacy.

McCorvey said that she and *Roe v. Wade* didn't start the movement for abortion rights.

"I was just the straw that broke the camel's back," she stressed.

Speakers at the rally urged everyone to go to Washington, D.C., on November 12 for the prochoice mobilization called by the National Organization for Women.