

Thousands in Namibia rally for 'One nation'

BY SELVA NEBBIA

WINDHOEK, Namibia, Nov. 5 — "One Namibia, one nation!" "Viva SWAPO!" chanted the 5,000 gathered today at a campaign rally of the South West Africa People's Organisation in the township of Khomasdal here.

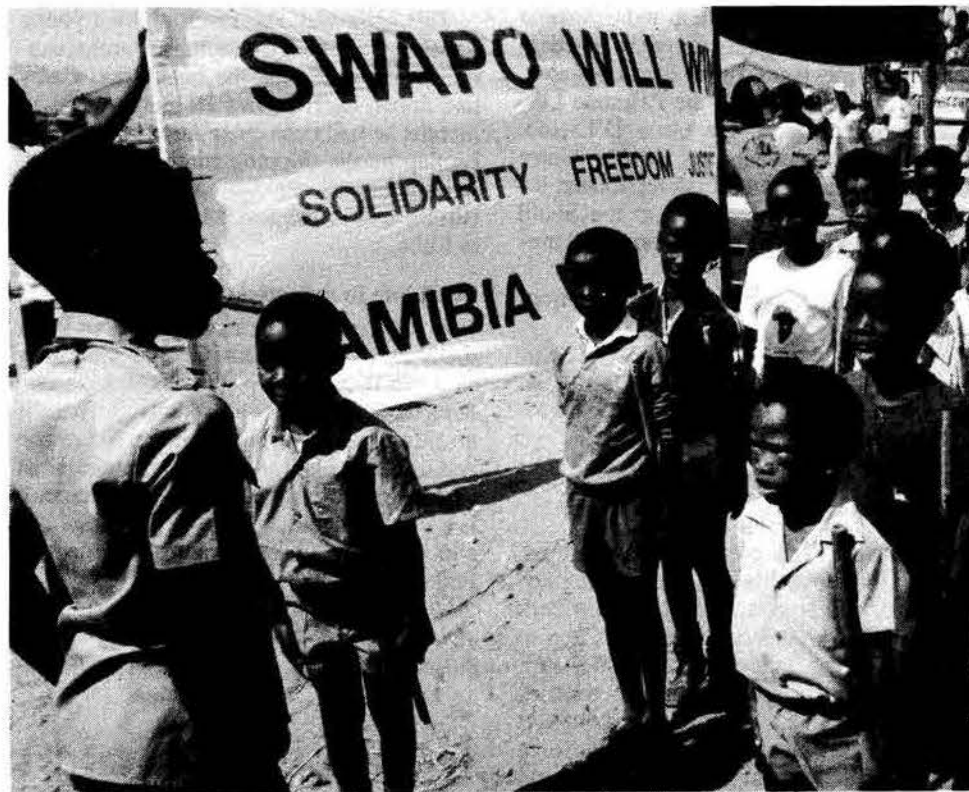
Many in the crowd wore the colors of the SWAPO flag — blue, red, and green. Men and women wore garments made of material printed with the image of SWAPO President Sam Nujoma. Several Herero women in the crowd wore SWAPO buttons pinned to their

Firsthand coverage from Namibia will continue in the next issues as Militant writer Selva Nebbia reports on her trip there with a delegation of the National Alliance of Third World Journalists. Readers' contributions are needed to help defray the costs of this important trip and can be mailed to address listed on page 2.

traditional headdresses.

The main speaker at the rally was Alan Boesak, a leader of the United Democratic Front of South Africa.

"We in South Africa are looking to you in Namibia," said Boesak. "Like Sam Nujoma came back to Namibia, we know that soon Mandela will be back in South Africa." Boesak was referring to Nelson Mandela, the



Afrapix-Impact Visuals/John Liebenberg

Youth supporters of South West Africa People's Organisation gather for a meeting in Katutura, Namibia.

leader of the African National Congress of South Africa imprisoned by the apartheid regime. Nujoma returned to Namibia September 14 after 30 years in exile.

The rally was one of many that have been

organized around the country in the days leading up to the elections. A constituent assembly of 72 is to be elected that will draft and vote on a constitution and set the date

Continued on Page 13

Defend a woman's right to abortion!

The Jan. 22, 1973, *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision expanded the constitutional right to privacy by ruling that it applies to the right of women to choose abortion.

This victory for democratic rights came in the aftermath of the advances of the civil rights movement in the 1960s. The democratic right to privacy establishes areas of people's lives — from politics to sexual behavior — over which the government has no control, and into which it has no right to pry.

In addition to strengthening and expanding democratic rights, the struggle for abortion rights, however, has much broader social im-

EDITORIAL

plications. The right of women to choose if and when to have a child, without requiring the consent of parents, husband, boyfriend, clergy, or government, is essential for women winning full equality with men. It is a prerequisite to the social liberation of women.

Without this guarantee, women are unable to fight to participate on an equal footing in the work force and in social and political life. The right of a woman to control her own body is necessary for establishing economic independence, and not being dependent on a father, husband, or companion.

The gains made in advancing the right to abortion have significantly increased the self-confidence of women. They have helped women fight their way into jobs previously denied them. They have given a boost to women who are fighting for an equal place with men in unions, political organizations, and social life.

This in turn has dealt a blow to the reactionary ideology that "a woman's place is in the home," that her job is temporary, or that women should earn less than men.

The legal right to abortion, however, is empty unless a woman can afford to obtain one.

For many years women from ruling-class families and other rich women have been able to get abortions, even when they were illegal.

But for the big majority of working-class women, especially those who are worst off,

Continued on Page 14

Canada conference on Cuba deals blow to U.S. government's blockade policy

BY STEVE PENNER

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia — The conference "30 Years of the Cuban Revolution: An Assessment" held here November 1-4 dealt a blow to Washington's three-decade-long effort to block political, economic, cultural, and academic exchange between socialist Cuba and the United States.

Some 600 people participated in the international conference, which was sponsored by the Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies. The majority were from the United States; the second largest number from Canada; with others from Latin

America, Western Europe, Africa, and the Pacific. Some 40 came from Cuba.

Given Washington's long-standing policy of rejecting most visa applications by Cubans, it would have been impossible today to hold such a conference in the United States. Thus, the very act of attending the conference was for many participants a political statement rejecting Washington's blockade against Cuba.

Over the past year, the U.S. government and supporters of its policies tried to undermine the success of the Halifax gathering. Officials of the U.S. State Department re-

fused invitations from conference organizers to speak. Pressure was exerted on foundations to withdraw funding. One prominent academic from a U.S. university withdrew from the conference advisory committee.

Wide-ranging program

The conference opened on the evening of November 1. The welcoming session was chaired by John Kirk, a professor at Dalhousie University and one of the central conference organizers. The keynote speaker

Continued on Page 8

Israeli journalist sentenced

JERUSALEM — Israeli peace activist Michel Warschawsky was sentenced to 20 months in prison, with an additional 10 months suspended. The court stipulated that the 20 months is not subject to the customary time off for good behavior.

In addition, the Alternative Information Centre, of which Warschawsky was director, was fined \$5,000.

Warschawsky and the center were victimized for their outspoken defense of the rights of the Palestinian people.

The November 7 court decision was based on the police accusation that the center and Warschawsky had provided typesetting services to "illegal organizations" and held material belonging to "illegal organizations."

The sentence was based exclusively on a single pamphlet that the prosecution said was intended to give guidance to Palestinian activists on how to "resist" during interrogation and torture by the Israeli secret police.

Warschawsky was also convicted for re-

fusing to divulge the names of the people who had furnished the information for the pamphlet.

In a statement protesting the conviction, Andrea Morell on behalf of the U.S. Socialist Workers Party's Political Committee, called the sentence "barbaric" and an attack on the rights of both Palestinians and Israelis. She said, "It will not succeed in muzzling this pro-Palestinian journalist."

The court dismissed an added charge against Warschawsky of "support to a terrorist organization."

The Alternative Information Centre will appeal its sentence and Warschawsky's and wage a campaign to win public support for his release. Coupled with the \$5,000 fine, this imposes a heavy financial burden. Contributions to help defray the cost of the fight can be sent to:

Alternative Information Centre, First International Bank, 015 Shlomzion Branch, Nr. 105183598, Jerusalem, Israel.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Prochoice activists...

After November 12 rally
come to a

Socialist Open House

Stop by for discussions, literature, Pathfinder books, and refreshments. Meet and talk with student activists, Eastern Airlines strikers, and learn about the miners' strike against Pittston.

2:30-7:00 p.m.

3:30 p.m. brief program

Hear: **Dick McBride**, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from West Virginia; **Heather Randle**, national secretary of the Young Socialist Alliance; a representative of the **Mark Curtis Defense Committee**.

At the Market Square dining room in the Marvin Center, George Washington University, corner of 21st and H streets NW. From Lincoln Memorial rally site go 7 blocks north on 23rd St., then two blocks east (right) on H St.

Cosponsored by Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

London meeting celebrates new Castro book

BY ANDY BUCHANAN

LONDON — "Cuba is a very large school of socialism. We are creating a far more humane and fair system than anything capitalism has to offer." With these words, Roberto de Armas, first secretary at the Cuban embassy, concluded his speech at a meeting here October 28 to promote the book *In Defense of Socialism*.

The book, published by Pathfinder earlier this year, contains four speeches by Cuban President Fidel Castro delivered on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the 1959 revolution.

Cuba's chargé d'affaires, Miguel Martínez, who has just arrived in Britain, was on the platform with de Armas. Prensa Latina journalist Elsy Fors reported on the meeting for the Cuban press, and an article appeared in the October 30 issue of the Cuban daily newspaper *Granma*.

Rectification 'deepens'

In his keynote speech, de Armas said the speeches in the book were made at "a crucial moment in our history and in the history of socialism." The implementation of "foreign models of socialist development in Cuba had brought society to the point of stagnation," he explained. Capitalist methods had been allowed to develop.

The Cuban people, de Armas said, were now tackling and overcoming these mistakes through the "rectification process" launched by the Cuban Communist Party in 1986. "Rectification," he continued, "is being widened and deepened to reach every aspect of Cuban society. The strong answers given to the recent cases of corruption show our determination to deal with these problems." Today, he stressed, the revolutionary consciousness of the people is being strengthened.

The rally, sponsored by the London Pathfinder Bookshop, drew 130 people. The platform included representatives of the labor movement in Britain and of the Britain-Cuba Resource Centre, which organizes solidarity activity with Cuba in this country.

Co-chairing the meeting were Celia Pugh from the Pathfinder Bookshop and Catharina Tirsén, Pathfinder representative in Sweden. They read messages from Faisal Aweida, London representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization; Francisco D'Escoto, Nicaraguan ambassador to Britain; Gerry Adams, president of the Irish republican organization Sinn Féin; and from the South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia.

Reading a message to the meeting from

Ken Gill, general secretary of the 650,000-member Manufacturing, Science and Finance (MSF) trade union, who called for the book to be "well read," Pugh said, "let that be the slogan of the meeting." Eighteen copies of the book were sold that night.

Zola Zembe, a leader of the South African Congress of Trade Unions, was introduced from the audience. Greetings from Brian Grogan, national secretary of the Communist League, were also read.

Ken Cameron, general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union, spoke at the gathering. He contrasted the social advances registered by the Cuban revolution in the fields of education, health care, and in the struggle to overcome racism and discrimination against women with the realities of life in capitalist Britain.

This point was also taken up by a young seafarer, Colin Caley. "Socialism works; capitalism doesn't" was the conclusion Caley had drawn over the last 18 months. For 16 months he had been on strike against union-busting by the shipping company P&O; for five weeks in September and October he had participated in the José Martí work brigade to Cuba.

'Antidote to defeatism'

In his speech to the meeting Labour Party member of Parliament George Galloway said, "In many parts of the world, socialism is to some extent on the defensive. There is a sense of socialism under siege. There is a certain triumphalism of the supporters of capitalism. So this book is most welcome. It is a very valuable antidote to the pessimism and defeatism. It is a ringing statement of faith in the socialist model of society."

The decisive factor that has made these advances possible — "the 'x' factor" as he put it — is the "leadership of Fidel Castro

and the Cuban Communist Party." Galloway highlighted the importance of Cuba's internationalism. In the struggle against apartheid in southern Africa, he stated, "the Cubans have paid the highest price and achieved the most."

Pathfinder representative Greg McCartan reported on his participation in a recent book-fair in Harare, Zimbabwe, where he had spoken at a meeting to launch the new book.

'Cubans legendary there'

Zimbabwe had given him a greater appreciation of the dramatic contribution the Cubans have made to the freedom struggle in southern Africa. "The Cubans are legendary there," he said.

McCartan said that Pathfinder had not published *In Defense of Socialism* as a history book, but as a "tool for working people. The course set by Cuba, mobilizing people to confront the coming economic crisis and military aggression of imperialism, will be taken up by working people around the globe." Pathfinder, he said, plays an important role in getting these ideas out to working people, who are confronting the challenges posed by the growing world capitalist economic crisis and the devastation of the Third World.

In the final speech to the rally, Stephanie Harrison, an executive member of the Britain-Cuba Resource Centre, drew together many of the themes of the evening. Harrison focused on the importance for advancing the rectification process of the convictions of top Cuban government officials last summer for corruption, drug smuggling, and embezzlement. She described the rectification process as a "cathartic exercise in self-criticism" and placed it in the context of a broad struggle initiated by the Cuban Communist Party against bureaucratic corruption.

Cuban government wins recent diplomatic, trade victories

BY SUSAN APSTEIN

By a vote of 146 out of a possible 156 in the UN General Assembly, Cuba was elected to the UN Security Council to represent Latin America and the Caribbean for the next two years. It was the largest majority ever received by any country elected to that body.

The October 18 vote was one of three recent diplomatic victories won by Cuba. In another, a group of Latin American governments declared that they would like to see Cuba rejoin the Organization of American States. And Brazil signed a major trade agreement with Cuba.

In May the UN Latin American Group, the body that chooses the region's candidate for the Security Council, backed Cuba's application. Cuba will be one of 10 rotating countries that serve two years on the 15-member body. The other five are the permanent members: Britain, China, France, Soviet Union, and the United States.

In 1979 the U.S. government maneuvered with Colombia and other countries to block Cuba's election to the council. "This time," reported the *Granma Weekly Review*, newspaper of the Cuban Communist Party, "not only did the United States fail to find any country willing to take Colombia's place . . . but the other candidate from the region, Guatemala, withdrew its application."

On October 12 the presidents of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela signed a declaration in Peru stating that it would be useful for Cuba to rejoin the Organization of American States. Known as the Group of Eight, the countries first came together as the Contadora Support Group in 1983 to develop proposals for a negotiated settlement to wars in Central America.

"We will disregard all the negative precedents and will be willing to rejoin the OAS if this is the opinion of Latin American and Caribbean countries," responded Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca.

Cuba was expelled from the OAS in 1962 on the initiative of the U.S. government, which said the "Marxism-Leninism" of its regime was incompatible with the principles of the organization.

Two weeks after the declaration of the Group of Eight, Brazil and Cuba agreed on a most-favored-nation trade agreement. With a 60 percent reduction of tariffs on more than 200 products, the pact will help increase trade from \$23 million in 1988 to \$150 million in 1989.

Among other things, Cuba exports pharmaceutical and laboratory supplies to Brazil and imports vehicles, soya flour, polyethylene, and frozen chickens.

New Zealand abortion clinic attacked

BY FELICITY WILLIAMS

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand — This city's public abortion clinic was badly damaged in an arson attack days after the introduction of a proposed amendment to the country's abortion law that could reduce obstacles to women getting abortions.

A gutted bedroom and extensive smoke damage from the October 25 assault on Lyndhurst Hospital mean abortions will not be performed there for four to six weeks. This was the third arson attack at the four-year-old clinic.

A spokesperson for the anti-abortion rights organization Prolife denied responsibility for the firebombing, but admitted his group had met hours before the attack to plan activities to disrupt the clinic.

Under the 1978 Contraception, Sterilization, and Abortion Act, abortion is legal before 20 weeks of pregnancy on restricted grounds, the most common being danger to

the life or health of the pregnant woman. Also, two certificates are required, from a limited number of doctors appointed as "certifying consultants."

The proposed amendment allows a woman's family doctor and any other physician to provide the certificates. The amendment also removes a ban on dispensing contraceptives to women under 16 years of age.

Abortion rights activists note that the bill does not ease restrictions on the grounds for obtaining an abortion, nor the need for more abortion facilities.

In Wellington, 55 determined abortion rights supporters repelled 30 thugs from the antiabortion group Operation Rescue who rushed the entrance to the Parkview clinic October 30. Fifteen of them were arrested, along with one prochoice activist.

Two days later, 80 prochoice activists rallied at the clinic, but Operation Rescue failed to show.

THE MILITANT TELLS THE TRUTH Subscribe today! 12 weeks for \$4 — an \$8 savings

The *Militant* features:

- On-the-scene coverage from our Managua bureau of the Nicaraguan people's fight to defend their sovereignty against U.S. threats.
- Firsthand reports of labor battles, from strikes at Eastern Airlines and Boeing to fightback in the coalfields.
- Regular coverage of advances being made by Cuban working people, and speeches by Fidel Castro and other Cuban leaders.
- Weekly coverage of developments in southern Africa, including mounting anti-apartheid protests in South Africa and freedom fight in Namibia.

From the fight for a shorter workweek in Britain to the Palestinians' protests against Israeli domination, the *Militant* covers the struggles of working people around the world.



- ☐ \$4 for 12 weeks, new readers ☐ \$9 for 12 weeks, renewals
☐ \$17 for 6 months ☐ \$30 for 1 year ☐ \$55 for 2 years
☐ \$1.00 for *An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*, a Pathfinder pamphlet.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Union/School/Organization _____

Send to THE MILITANT, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014

The Militant

Closing news date: November 8, 1989

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).

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

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

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

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

How the Machinists brought collapse of United's buyout deal

BY GREG McCARTAN

"This gives us more clout now that we're entering contract negotiations," was the response of a Machinist at United Airlines to the October 13 collapse of the UAL buyout deal.

"We'll have to strike if they try to make us give wage concessions," a ramp worker at Kennedy International Airport in New York commented. "We deserve a raise, not cuts."

This fighting stance by two members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) who work at United Airlines is shared by many workers at the company.

Their confidence and determination to fight against concessions demanded by United, the world's second-largest airline, brought about the collapse of the \$6.8 billion leveraged buyout, and in turn, the big drop in stock prices on Wall Street on October 13.

Pilots at United, members of the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), were instrumental in putting the deal together.

The pilots were to contribute \$200 million from their pension fund to buy into an employee stock ownership plan. They also said they would work an additional four hours a month without pay, take a 10 percent wage cut, and give up some vacation days. These steps were to save the airline's owners \$250 million.

British Airways was to put in \$750 million — 78 percent of the up-front money. Several members of United management, including UAL Corp. Chairman Stephen Wolf, were to put in another \$15 million.

The airline's debt after the transaction was to be completed would have stood at \$7.2 billion.

"We have no idea how these guys plan to

make this deal work," said one Wall Street executive shortly after the deal was announced in September. "If the price of fuel climbs 10 cents," he added, "the deal is shot. They're really dancing on the edge of the earth."

Buyout targets workers

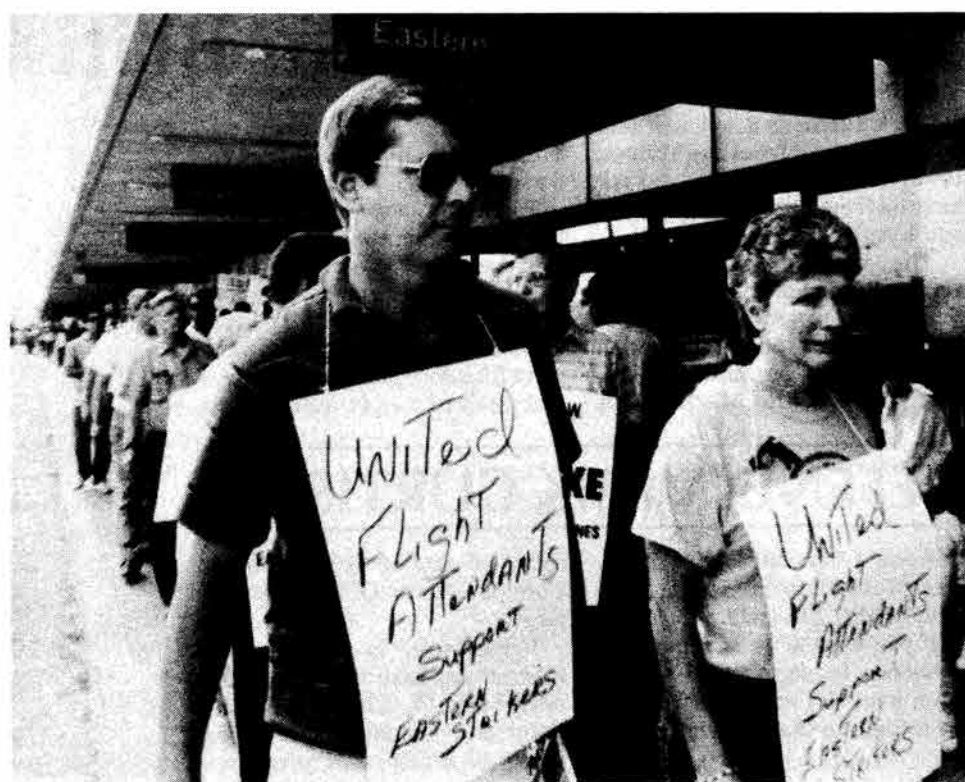
The answer from the buyout group was to demand \$1.65 billion in concessions from the Machinists and flight attendants. And until the final days before the collapse of the deal, the group thought the concessions were in the bag.

Flight attendants' wages were to be slashed by 12 to 24 percent. United planned to cut nonunion employees' wages by 10 percent for those earning above \$20,000. A September 11 letter from Wolf to the Machinists and other United workers said the buyout would result in "wage concessions and, where feasible, productivity improvements."

The Machinists, whose contract expired with United on October 31, had already given concessions over the past decade. Like other airline workers, their wages, benefits, and working conditions went on the chopping block as the airlines fought to maximize profits by cutting costs.

Pressed by rising competition, Braniff Airlines went bankrupt 1982 and tore up union contracts. In 1983 Continental followed suit after the Machinists went on strike. A four-tier wage setup was agreed to by Machinists at United, and a two-tier wage structure at American. From 1980 to 1984 workers at Pan Am took \$300 million in cuts.

During these years airline workers, like workers in many other industries, mostly voted themselves these concessions. Companies pleaded poverty and appealed to the



Militant/Nelson Blackstock

United workers on Eastern strike picket line in Los Angeles in July. The leveraged buyout of United was built around getting concessions from members of Machinists union.

workers for help in saving "our" airline.

These measures, plus a weeding out of competitors, turned around the profit picture for United and other airlines. In 1980 airlines in the United States lost \$225 million. Estimated profits in 1989 are \$2.5 billion.

After the devastating results of years of concessions, many ramp workers, cleaners, mechanics, and other IAM members at United were ready to press demands for higher wages, not more givebacks.

In addition, Machinists' opposition to more concessions at United comes in the context of a rise in labor struggles. IAM members at Eastern Airlines, backed by flight attendants and pilots are in the ninth month of a strike to defend their union. They have joined with striking Pittston Coal miners and their supporters in rallies, pickets, and marches around the country. These battles are giving other workers confidence in their own capacity to fight.

Blocking the buyout

"This is the most ludicrous transaction we have ever seen," IAM Vice-president John Peterpaul told a congressional subcommittee October 3. He said the union would "do whatever we have to" to block the buyout.

Peterpaul later stated the union's position that it would fight for significant wage increases. The buyout would subject the airline to "significant ongoing labor strife and disharmony," he added.

The pilots' association took an opposite stand, reflecting the class differences between this layer of professionals and the mechanics, baggage handlers, flight attendants, and other wage workers in the airline industry.

ALPA leader and pilot Frederick Dubinsky, for example, called the buyout a "major turning point in the labor-management relationship."

Referring to the professional association's three slots on the board of directors, Dubinsky stated, "There will always be a conflict of how much money should go out in wages and working conditions and how much should go towards capitalizing the business. People tend to take care of their property. That's what private property is all about."

"We won't be investing in someone else's company, but in one we own," Dubinsky said.

Another pilot thought, "It's better for employees to be owners and operators than for some speculator to come in and raid the airline."

But from the point of view of the Machinists there was little difference between these two alternatives. IAM financial advisor Brian Freeman accused the pilots of "blue-collar-mill" aimed at forcing the unions into the deal "just so they can declare victory."

Business Week analyst Robert Kuttner noted that while the pilots were giving up \$250 million in concessions, "Statistically, the only way pilots can produce productivity gains is to accept less money for each hour they fly."

Pilots are unlike airline workers

Unlike ramp workers, mechanics, and other airline workers, the pilots cannot produce more per hour. A plane can only fly a certain speed. Workers, though, can be forced to speed up baggage handling, repairing, and

cleaning of the aircraft.

Pilots earn salaries that are based on their monopoly of the profession. These salaries, which after a few years of service grow to \$80,000 a year or more, are higher than the actual value of the pilots' labor power.

Moreover, the salaries they command mean they are able to invest in businesses, real estate, stocks and bonds, or other money-making ventures. They often earn more money from their investments than from the airline they work for.

The pilots saw their contribution to the buyout — slightly cutting their salaries and committing monies from their pension fund — more as a business investment, rather than as concessions being demanded by an employer pleading poverty.

The wage cuts and "productivity gains" demanded from the Machinists and flight attendants were vast in comparison to what the pilots were giving up.

Noting that the pilots' concessions would only add modestly to the company's ability to pay the \$1.1 billion a year interest bill the airline would incur, investment analyst Helene Becker said, "That doesn't leave a big cushion."

Another said, "There's less likelihood of creating and completing a transaction without the unions' cooperation and wage concessions."

The speculative buyout venture was built around getting the concessions from the Machinists.

IAM members, though, are overwhelmingly against concessions and the union pledged to launch a campaign against the buyout. The union asked the U.S. Labor Department to step in to stop the buyout and threatened extended legal action. At the IAM national convention on October 12, the union's officials discussed kicking off a public relations campaign to win support for the union's position.

Buyout falls apart, markets plunge

The next day the buyout fell apart. At 2:30 p.m. trading on United shares was halted on the New York Stock Exchange. At 2:54 several banks announced they were pulling out of the financing arrangement.

At 3:30 the buyout group hastily assembled to try and rescue the deal. Outside the room a machine flashed the news of the stock market fall. "The Dow's going down, down, down," said one observer.

People inside were "surprised, shocked and upset," one official at the meeting said. UAL Chairman Wolf, confident the buyout would go through, was returning from Europe after pitching the proposal to several big European banks.

By saying no the Machinists scuttled the deal and sent the stock market into its second-largest drop in history. The resistance of workers directly had a big impact on the country's financial markets.

United management and the banks backing the buyout simply assumed that the workers would pay, through concessions, for their speculative deal. Far from "dancing on the edge of the earth," they had hoped to walk on the standard of living, working conditions, and health and safety of United workers. The Machinists showed they were just walking on air.

Socialists to hold regional conferences in three cities

BY GREG McCARTAN

Socialist activists will be participating in three regional conferences hosted by the Socialist Workers Party at the end of November and beginning of December.

The meetings will hear and discuss reports on the U.S. and world political situation and, from the standpoint of the resistance today in the coalfields, the new trends in the U.S. class struggle. The strengthening of the activities of socialist workers in coal mining

areas will be a central theme at all three weekends.

The first conference is scheduled for St. Louis November 24-26. Attending the weekend will be socialists from the Appalachian and western coal mining regions, as well as the South and the Midwest. The weekend will open with a public talk Friday evening on the world political situation and perspectives for communists and be followed by discussion and other reports Saturday and Sunday.

A special feature of the St. Louis weekend will be an international rally sponsored by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. The rally will feature a broad panel of Curtis supporters.

Socialists from the East Coast will attend a conference in New York City to be held at Public School No. 11, in Manhattan, December 2-3. The third conference will take place in San Francisco December 9-10 for socialists in California, the Pacific Northwest, and the Southwest.

The Young Socialist Alliance will be holding regional meetings on three consecutive weekends beginning November 26.

"These meetings will be an opportunity for all YSA members to discuss developments in politics and the activities we have been involved in over the fall," said YSA National Chairperson Aaron Ruby.

The meetings will coincide with the regional conferences being held by the Socialist Workers Party in St. Louis, New York, and San Francisco.

YSA members have been "actively building the November 12 march in Washington, D.C., to defend abortion rights, involving students in the strikes going on today, building solidarity with the Cuban revolution, and winning youth in the United States and internationally to support the fight of Mark Curtis," Ruby explained.

"At these meetings," he added, "YSA members and supporters will be able to discuss our plans for the coming months."

About this issue . . .

Cuba conference in Canada

Because of the significance of the conference assessing 30 years of the Cuban revolution held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, we've devoted extra space this week to that event.

In our issue dated December 1, we'll carry the paper presented at the conference by *New Internationalist* editor Mary-Alice Waters. Waters' presentation was made as part of a panel on "Che Guevara's Thought in Contemporary Cuba."

We'll also be running in a coming issue an interview conducted at the conference with Ricardo Alarcón, Cuba's deputy foreign minister.

An interview with Lindiwe Mabuza, African National Congress chief representative to the United States, that was originally scheduled for this issue will appear in a coming issue.

New support from British unionists won for Curtis

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

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

other labor movement fronts too. The defense campaign has been endorsed by seven Labour members of Parliament and one Labour member of the European Parliament. A recent endorser is secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering Union—group of sponsored MPs, Ken Eastham. He wrote to the government for information about the case and received a reply from the sec-

DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

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

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

The general executive council of the 1.3 million-member Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) has unanimously backed a call for a "fair retrial" for Mark Curtis.

"The TGWU decision is a major advance in the campaign to win labor movement backing in Britain," said Mark Curtis Defense Committee supporter Tony Hunt. "With the Guildford Four winning their release from prison, there is a much greater awareness of police frame-ups. As we seek to build on that awareness, the call for a fair retrial by the largest union in Britain will help to convince thousands of people about the need to defend Mark Curtis."

The motion was presented by executive member Steve Riley, a shop steward at the giant Ford plant at Dagenham, in east London, and a Curtis defense committee endorser.

Riley's branch, 1/1107, had discussed the frame-up of Curtis on a number of occasions before deciding on the motion, which first received the backing of the union's Region 1 and then led to the executive's call on September 18 for a retrial. It will be officially reported to the union's national committees and 11 regional committees and to the 34 union-sponsored members of Parliament. The union organizes workers throughout industry, including transport, food, chemicals, auto, and engineering.

Progress has been registered on

retary of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Timothy Eggar.

Eggar wrote, "In case it is of any interest, we have established that neither the AFL-CIO nor the United Food and Commercial Workers union, of which Mr. Curtis was a member, have associated themselves with the campaign to free him." This attempt by the government to dissuade people in the labor movement from associating with the campaign has had the opposite effect. When he received it, Eastham endorsed.

"The government is not known to take a position on a simple rape case; this confirms that there is more to it," said one of 19 endorsers who signed up at a Labour Party conference at the beginning of October. In addition, 383 participants signed a petition protesting the treatment of Curtis by Anamosa prison authorities. They contributed £72 (\$112) to the defense effort.

The union in which the greatest support for Curtis' release has been won is the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM). Hundreds of members have endorsed the campaign or sent letters of protest to prison authorities concerning their restrictions on allowing material in various languages into the prison and their treatment of Curtis. The union's general secretary, Peter Heathfield, is an endorser and has issued a statement for use by the campaign.

The Nottinghamshire Area of the NUM has endorsed, as has the National Justice for Mineworkers Campaign—the body that campaigns on behalf of miners victimized during the 1984-85 strike—and the national Women Against Pit Closures organization.

Following the last meeting of the



Militant/Linda Marcus

Longtime Des Moines civil rights activist and Curtis supporter Edna Griffin with defense supporters Robert and Nellie Berry at Curtis committee's open house.

Justice campaign, a special presentation on the Curtis case was given in the NUM headquarters by Graham Till. Till is secretary of the Midlands district of the National Union of Railwaymen. He traveled to Des Moines, in August where he learned more about the frame-up of Curtis and took slides for use by the campaign in Britain. The meeting was the target of a disruption attempt by an organization calling itself the International Communist Party, a British off-shoot of the U.S. Workers League. The Workers League is a small antilabor outfit that has been promoting the prosecution's case.

Support for the Curtis defense effort is also growing in Ireland and among Irish people in Britain. Erol Smalley is a Curtis endorser. He is the most prominent campaigner on behalf of the Guildford Four and uncle of one of the four framed Irish activists, Paul Hill. Breda Power, daughter of Billy Power, one of the Birmingham Six, and Bobby Gilmore, a priest and a prominent Birmingham Six campaigner, are also endorsers.

The Birmingham Six were also imprisoned in British jails on frame-up charges.

Solly Smith, official representative in France of the African National Congress of South Africa, has endorsed the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Smith replaced ANC representative Dulcie September after she was assassinated outside the Paris offices of the ANC in June 1988.

Curtis supporters have also scored a gain in media coverage for the defense effort. A weekly national radio program, "Les Voix du Silence" (Voices of Silence), will feature an interview with Curtis supporter Derek Jeffers in a portion of its 40-minute broadcast on November 25. The program is aired over the state-owned station Radio France Culture at 10:00 a.m. on Saturdays and can be heard in most of France.

Curtis supporters set up a literature table and distributed French-language defense materials at an October 15 meeting in Paris sponsored by the International Thomas Sankara Association. Dozens of participants discussed the case, and five immediately signed up as endorsers of the defense effort.

John Studer, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee,

welcomed those who attended a November 1 open house at the committee's new office in Des Moines. He thanked those who brought office-warming gifts. "We are here tonight to take on a new challenge: using this new office space as an even more effective organizing center for Mark Curtis' defense," Studer said.

"I visited Mark a few days ago," defense committee activist Priscilla Schenk said. "He wanted to tell all of us how pleased and optimistic he is, as we all are, about the defense committee's move to our own office."

Schenk reported that "Mark was deeply inspired by the freeing of Walter Sisulu and other fighters against the apartheid system in South Africa, and the freeing of the Irish political prisoners the Guildford Four, in Britain."

Alfredo Alvarez, chairman of the Des Moines Human Rights Commission, explained he would be traveling to Omaha as a member of the defense committee's speakers bureau to explain Curtis' case. "We have a lot of work to do," he told defense committee activists.

Edna Griffin, a longtime civil rights fighter, said she was preparing to send a letter to Curtis' November 8 parole hearing. "The parole board will get at least one letter from a Black woman speaking on behalf of justice," she said.

Defense committee leader Kate Kaku closed the program by describing the committee's fall tasks.

Art work donated by Johnny "Imani" Harris for fund-raising activities was displayed in the new office. Harris is serving a life sentence in Alabama on frame-up robbery and rape charges.

The new video *The Frame-up of Mark Curtis*, by Hollywood director and producer Nick Castle, Jr., was previewed for open house participants, who responded with enthusiastic applause and decided to send a telegram of thanks to Castle for his contribution to the defense effort.

Copies of the video can be ordered from the defense committee.

Jonathan Silberman from London and Natalie Bombaro from Des Moines contributed to this week's column.

Motion challenging SWP victory to be heard Nov. 13

BY PETER THIERJUNG

On November 13 a motion to reverse or substantially amend the judge's findings in favor of the Socialist Workers Party in a 10-year harassment lawsuit will be considered in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles.

Alan Gelfand, an attorney employed by Los Angeles County, filed the suit charging 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. U.S. Justice Department officials were also named as defendants in the legal action.

The suit against the SWP was tried in Los Angeles in 1983.

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

On Aug. 15, 1989, U.S. District Court Judge Mariana 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."

The final judgment by Pfalzer was filed on September 29 and included awarding the SWP some of its court costs. A court administrator later awarded the SWP more than \$5,000 despite objections filed by Gelfand and his attorneys.

A legal memorandum from the SWP's attorney, David Epstein, opposes the motion to amend Pfalzer's ruling. It explains that Gelfand presents no new evidence and only

repeats his and the Workers League's political attacks against the SWP.

A reply filed on November 3 by Gelfand's attorneys again repeats the Workers League's political attacks against the SWP and especially singles out SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes as a government "agent."

Originally, the hearing was scheduled for October 16, but Justice Department attorneys, with the agreement of Gelfand's attorneys, filed for a delay because, they said, they were not prepared to respond to the motion. They have now filed a memorandum opposing Gelfand's motions.

Once Pfalzer acts on the motion to amend the court's written findings, legal proceedings conclude in the district court and Gelfand will have 60 days to appeal to a higher court.

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

Tax-deductible contributions can be sent to the Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc., 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 PRDF at the same address.

N. Carolina judge fines Indian activists' attorneys

BY RICH STUART

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — "They don't want anything to come out about Robeson County. This is clearly a politically motivated decision," Alan Gregory of the Christic Institute South said, describing a September 29 decision by U.S. District Court Judge Malcolm Howard.

Howard fined three attorneys representing Indian activists Eddie Hatcher and Timothy Jacobs \$10,000 each plus \$92,834 in legal fees and expenses. Howard also ruled that none of the attorneys can practice law in the Eastern District's federal courts until the fines are paid.

Howard said that a lawsuit filed by attorneys William Kunstler, Lewis Pitts, and Barry

Nakell was not initiated "to vindicate constitutional rights, but more probably to gain publicity and to influence the state prosecution then under way against Hatcher and Jacobs."

The lawsuit was filed in February 1989 after Hatcher and Jacobs had been acquitted of federal charges in the February 1988 takeover of *The Robesonian* newspaper's offices in Lumberton, North Carolina. Hatcher and Jacobs said the action was an effort to draw attention to drug trafficking, corruption, and racist practices by the Robeson County police and sheriff's department.

After Hatcher and Jacobs were acquitted on federal charges, state officials began prosecution in state courts on almost identical

charges. The lawsuit asked the court to stop the state's prosecution of the two activists.

The suit alleged a civil conspiracy by state and local officials "to chill the exercise of First Amendment rights by the citizens of Robeson County," Gregory of the Christic Institute said.

Gregory said that Judge Howard's ruling was based on the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure against "frivolous lawsuits." Gregory explained that this ruling and the rules can be used as a "tool against public interest and civil rights lawyers." Howard's decision is being appealed.

Jacobs is now serving a six-year sentence on the state charges, and Hatcher is in Raleigh Central Prison awaiting trial.

Final touches on Pathfinder mural

BY PETER THIERJUNG

NEW YORK — A flurry of artistic creativity envelops the Pathfinder mural as it nears completion. Painters are making final additions and putting finishing touches on the six-story artwork on the side of the Pathfinder Building here.

A celebration and dedication of the mural is slated for November 19.

Painter and sculptor Carole Byard has completed a major portrait of Malcolm X. Byard's work received notice in the New York daily *Newsday*. The half-page column, "Manhattan Profile," featured a photo of Byard painting the revolutionary leader, provided information on the mural, and summarized the artist's resume.

Muralist Martín Moreno added Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa. Moreno was active in defense of migrant workers' rights and with the United Farm Workers in the early 1970s. The sale of one of his paintings at an Arizona exhibition made it possible for him to travel to New York to join the mural project.

"I love the concept," Moreno said. "I have been involved in similar projects, but not as global."

Filipino muralist Mark Justiniani just arrived here from the Philippines. The young painter, with the help of several Filipino artists resident in New York, rapidly added two portraits: Lean Alejandro, a 27-year-old former leader of the League of Filipino Students and national political figure who was gunned down by rightists in September 1987, and Rolando Olalia, a chairman of the May 1 Movement (KMU) labor federation, who was kidnapped and murdered by military death squads in November 1986.

Justiniani was designated by the LFS, a leading force in the fight to dismantle U.S. military bases in the Philippines, and the KMU to participate in the mural project. Other portraits added to the mural by him and his collaborators include heroes of the Philippines 1896 war of independence. They are Andres Bonifacio, a warehouseman who led the Katipunan revolt against Spanish co-



Artist Carole Byard completes portrait of U.S. revolutionary Malcolm X. Byard has illustrated more than a dozen children's books, one of which has a full-page illustration of Malcolm X.

lonial rule, and Melchora Aquino, also known by her rebel name Tan Dang Sora, who hid and cared for wounded "Katipuneros."

Justiniani explained that in the Philippines, protest muralists learn to paint quickly to avoid harassment and violence by authorities and rightists. He will be pitching in to help complete other aspects of the mural in his remaining week in the United States.

Puerto Rican artist Robert Coane has painted every day for the last few weeks, adding several portraits to the mural. The additions include civil rights figure Rosa Parks, the late Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh, Puerto Rican independence fighter Lolita Lebrón, Haitian revolutionary Toussaint L'Ouverture, Cuban communist Celia Sánchez, and a scene of a Catalan workers'

brigade from the Spanish civil war in the 1930s.

Coane learned of the mural project a few weeks ago from artistic acquaintances. He decided to join the project after attending an event for Cuban painter Aldo Soler, who added a portrait of Fidel Castro. "I thought at first the mural would look like a hodgepodge, but then I came down to look at it," Coane explained. He was inspired by the collective product of many painters who have contributed. "It works beautifully as one composition," he said.

Three paintings and a photo mural by Coane were recently yanked from a National Arts Foundation exhibit at New York's Jacob Javits Federal Building because of their political content. One of his paintings depicted U.S. President George Bush gagged with a U.S. flag.

Coane's painting *The Return*, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade's participation in the 1936-39 Spanish civil war, is being exhibited in union halls and universities across the United States.

New York ACT-UP member Gary Speziale recently painted a gay and lesbian rights scene that included a portrait of gay rights activist Leonard Matlovich. Matlovich was booted out of the U.S. military for acknowledging that he was gay. He died in 1988 of AIDS. ACT-UP has organized protests demanding that the government and its agencies fund and organize a response to the AIDS epidemic.

Peltier's talents flower despite jail

BY GARY STONELAKE

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. — Most people wouldn't think of solitary confinement in a federal maximum security prison as a place where art is born, but the work of framed-up Native American activist and artist Leonard Peltier flowered despite such conditions.

"In 1985, in the hole in Marion prison, I began to be a serious artist and I haven't quit

since," Peltier said. He now uses his artistic talents to aid fund-raising efforts of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee and to help publicize his case. He was convicted on frame-up murder charges stemming from a 1975 FBI shootout on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

"I started drawing and carving even before I learned how to write," Peltier explained, "but because of poverty and the conditions on the reservation, I just never had the ability to really develop it."

Peltier, who worked in a potato house and was a farm worker, described how he was shocked to see white farm workers mistreated by the bosses. "I couldn't believe they treated their own people that way," he said.

At the age of 18 Peltier again became interested in pursuing art. He moved back to the reservation to apply to the Santa Fe Indian Art School, but there was a two to three year

wait once you got on a list.

When he became politically active, Peltier worked on murals. After his arrest in 1975 he tried to resume his art, but because he was shuttled between jails the only materials he could obtain were paint-by-number kits.

"It's hard to paint in close confinement," Peltier said. "Although the prison grounds are large, prisoners are very restricted on where they can go. I paint from books, pictures, and from memory." His current work will depict a gathering of five great chiefs — Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, Quanah Parker, Geronimo, and Chief Gull, a war chief at the battle of Little Bighorn. The painting of Crazy Horse will be a challenge, Peltier explained, "since there are no pictures of this great warrior."

Peltier contributed a self-portrait that has been added to the mural now being completed on the side of the six-story Pathfinder Building in New York.

New Zealand meetings help fund Filipino artist's trip to U.S.

BY JANET WARMAN

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Advocates of land and labor rights in the Philippines were featured speakers here at an October 27 fund-raising event for the Pathfinder mural.

More than \$200 was contributed to fly Filipino artist Mark Justiniani to New York to paint on the mural.

Two representatives of the Lumad peoples of Mindanao, in the southern Philippines, Mel Elio and Yul Caringas, are on nationwide tours here to inform people about the threat to their tribal lands and livelihoods by a New Zealand government-sponsored forestry project. Both expressed support for the mural at the meeting.

Elio explained that the Lumad's struggle was part of "the struggle for the liberation of mankind" and commended Pathfinder "for its efforts to recognize people who have sacrificed ahead of us. People who have not directly experienced struggles will be able to learn through seeing the mural," he said.

Another speaker was Ken Findlay, secretary of the West Coast branch of the New Zealand Meat Workers Union and a key figure in this country in winning union solidarity with the Philippine labor movement.

Similar meetings to raise funds were held in Auckland and Christchurch. Featured speakers in Auckland were artists Fatu Feu'u and Sally Griffin, who traveled to New York last June to participate in the mural project.

Cuban artist tours San Francisco Bay Area

BY CURT JAYNE AND TOM LEONARD

SAN FRANCISCO — Two hundred artists, art students, and workers signed petitions calling on the U.S. government to lift restrictions on cultural exchanges between Cuban and U.S. artists during a four-day tour of the Bay Area by Cuban artist Aldo Soler.

A letter from Congressman Mervyn Dymally welcomed Soler to California on behalf of "the many people here who support open and free cultural exchanges between our countries."

A member of the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists, Soler began a tour of several U.S. cities after painting the portraits of Cuban President Fidel Castro and Karl Marx on the Pathfinder mural in New York City. Artists from around the world have contributed to the six-story work on the wall of the Pathfinder publishing house.

Soler's presentation and slideshow on contemporary Cuban art was warmly received

by Bay Area audiences during his October 24-27 visit.

Asked about the impact of the Angola war on Cuban artists who have been there, Soler said seeing hunger and what it meant for an Angolan child to get even a piece of bread made a strong impression on him. He showed slides from a series of his paintings with this theme, begun a year after the artist returned from a two-year internationalist volunteer mission as part of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces in Angola.

More than 70 people heard Soler at the Dolores Street Baptist Church at an event chaired by Holly Fincke, co-chair of the Bay Area Regional of the Venceremos Brigade.

Soler toured the University of California Art Museum in Berkeley with museum curator Larry Rinder. He spoke at a noon campus meeting of 65 people, sponsored by the Visiting Lectures Series. Brazilian ceramics artist La Lada Palglissha, who specializes in studies on African influences on Cuban cul-

ture, helped organize events for Soler in Berkeley.

The Cuban artist also addressed 65 art students and others at the Art Institute of San Francisco. Among them was Prof. Alan Barnett of San Jose State University, author of *Community Murals, the People's Art* and a strong supporter of the Pathfinder Mural Project, host of Soler's U.S. visit. Dana Plays, head of the institute's Letters and Science Department, introduced Soler and took him on a tour of campus galleries and workshops.

Muralist Susan Cervantes, director of the Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center, and well-known mural documenter James Prigoff took Soler on a walking tour of mural art here.

In addition to Barnett, Prigoff, and Cervantes, sponsors of the tour here included Todd Edelman of Artist's Television Access, poet and author Piri Thomas, Mission Arts Consortium, Venceremos Brigade, and Malaquias Montoya, muralist and lecturer at the California College of Arts and Crafts.

Detroit unionists raise \$15,000 for Eastern strike

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

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

SUPPORT EASTERN STRIKERS!

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.

More than 1,000 Eastern strike supporters rallied in Detroit October 20 at a benefit rally and dance.

The event, cosponsored by the Detroit Metro AFL-CIO, was the culmination of more than a month of work by the Machinists and several United Auto Workers locals.

Tom Baker, Eastern strike coordinator, told the crowd, "When we went out we thought we were 37 people, but we were wrong. We have received tremendous support from the entire labor movement."

A striking Pittston miner, Freddie Wallace, explained to the unionists that the miners are determined, "whether it takes a year or more," to stop Pittston's efforts to gut miners' pensions.

Wallace spoke earlier in the day at two events hosted by the United Steelworkers to raise funds for the miners.

Members of UAW Local 735's "Striking Workers Assistance Team" (SWAT) have been helping out on the Eastern picket lines. One told the Machinists at the benefit, "This strike might be against Eastern but it is our strike. Every strike today has to be our own."

Eastern strikers have spoken to auto union locals in the city every Sunday for the past two months. UAW Local 909 presented the strikers with a check for \$5,000 during the benefit rally. Nearly \$15,000 in all was raised.

A spirited picket line of 55 unionists outnumbered arriving passengers on Eastern's first flight from Miami to San Francisco since the strike began.

The November 1 event, sponsored by IAM Local 1781 and the San Mateo Central Labor Council, drew participation from a wide range of unions.

Shouts of "From Boeing to East-

ern — we're going to draw the line!" rang through the terminal as passengers waited for their baggage. A festive atmosphere prevailed, with pickets carrying orange and black balloons plastered with "Stop Lorenzo" stickers.

The flight arrived at 9:37 p.m. — 30 minutes late. The non-stop service to Miami is the third regularly scheduled Eastern flight at San Francisco International Airport and the first new flight since twice-daily service began July 2 to Atlanta.

Pickets distributed flyers to people on both levels of the terminal, urging them not to fly Eastern or Continental.

One woman said, "I support you 180 percent. When you can get a crowd like this at this hour of the night, people have to pay attention."

An enthusiastic meeting of 50 students at the University of Louisville, in Kentucky, heard Eastern pilot Joe Buonadonna and other unionists

urge support for the strike.

"Frank Lorenzo and Pittston's Paul Douglas only look at the short term — next quarter's profits," said Buonadonna. "We are fighting for those of us who sacrificed before us and especially those that will come after us."

Steve Stoll, chairperson of the "Fairness at Eastern Committee" of the Central Labor Council, encouraged participation in an October 24 rally at Eastern's departure gate at the Louisville airport.

In another development the airport authority was forced to ease restrictions on pickets. Strikers and strike supporters had been barred from handing out flyers; pickets were limited to two. The new rules permit up to six pickets at the terminal entrance; leaflet distribution is now permitted.

Mark Friedman from Detroit, Kathleen Denny from San Francisco, and Bronson Rozier from Louisville contributed to this column.

Eastern strikers, miners in Washington, D.C., action

BY NANCY BROWN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — More than 200 striking Eastern Airlines workers and their supporters participated in a walk-through at Washington National Airport on the evening of November 3.

Organized by International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 796 in Alexandria, Virginia, the action was joined by flight attendants, pilots, carpenters, electrical workers, Teamsters, letter carriers, Machinists, and other unionists.

A busload of 34 coal miners on strike against Pittston Coal company drove eight hours from southwestern Virginia to join in. The miners are members of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) District 28.

A van full of Eastern strikers came from Philadelphia, and students from the University of Maryland participated too. As they arrived at the Eastern terminal, strikers and supporters signed a message of support to striking Machinists at Boeing.

UMWA President Richard Trumka and Lee Russell, president of Local 796, led off the action. The walk-through was met inside the Eastern terminal by cheering and clapping flight attendants, pilots, and Machinists from the Trump Shuttle. Eastern sold the shuttle to Donald Trump in the fourth month of the strike.

"I think we were an inconvenience to Eastern tonight," said Russell at a rally following the walk-through.

'Everybody came out'

"Lorenzo made a couple of projections when we went out. He didn't think we would get the pilots and flight attendants. He was wrong. Everybody came out — and we're going to be here one day longer than Frank Lorenzo."

Frank Lorenzo is head of Texas Air Corp., which owns Eastern and Continental airlines.

Francisco Acosta, North American representative of the Salvadoran trade union federation FENASTRAS, brought solidarity greetings to the rally.

"Two months ago an international convention in El Salvador passed a resolution in support of the coal miners and Eastern Airlines strikers," he said. "Many of those delegates have been killed or wounded. Last Tuesday our office was bombed. Nine were killed and 49 wounded."

The crowd erupted in cheers when Acosta said, "Brothers and sisters this situation has got to change."

Strikers encouraged participants in the action to join the November 15 caravan to the UMWA's Camp Solidarity in southwestern Virginia. The caravan is being sponsored by the Virginia State AFL-CIO to bring money, food, clothing, and toys to striking miners and their families.

Nancy Brown is a member of IAM Local 796 on strike against Eastern Airlines.



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

November 3 walk-through at Washington's National Airport drew 200

Boeing strikers 'never in better situation'

BY CONNIE ALLEN

PORTLAND, Ore. — "For most of the people I've talked to," said John Singleton, "it's now or never. We will never be in a better situation. If we go back with the contract they offered, it will be worse than it was before."

Singleton is a lathe operator and one of 58,000 members of the International Association of Machinists on strike against the aircraft manufacturer Boeing.

The Machinists in Portland, Seattle, and Wichita, Kansas, are in the sixth week of their strike to roll back extensive forced overtime and restore wages and benefits given up over the last six years.

On October 30 Boeing reported record profits of \$242 million for the third quarter — up 67 percent from the same period last year.

The strike is beginning to cut into the profits of some other airlines around the world. Qantas Airlines, based in Australia, is losing some \$50 million in revenue because late deliveries of aircraft has halted its expansion plans. America West Airlines cannot cover advertised routes for the same reason.

Boeing Chairman Frank Shrontz reported the strike would have a "severe adverse impact" on fourth-quarter profits.

"There is intense pressure to end this strike," noted one securities analyst. Profits should fall from \$1.75 to \$1 a share, he said.

In Seattle and Wichita, where Boeing is the biggest employer, the walkout is having an impact on local economies. A University of Washington professor said, "The main impact right now is the loss of millions of dollars normally floating around the economy from weekly paychecks."

"This strike shows the truth about the 'Boeing family,'" Singleton said. He had participated in "productivity circles" established by the company to speed up production. "I'm not going back to the circle," he commented. "It was just smoke."

Another striker, Paul Pace, explained, "When we go back to work I'll quit the circle

because they've slapped me in the face."

Other strikers are beginning to cover the Boeing logo on their T-shirts and hats with IAM strike stickers.

Workers signing up for picket duty reacted defiantly to takebacks proposed by the company in a negotiating session at the beginning of November.

Negotiations were broken off November 4. Boeing's offer contained small increases in year-end lump sum bonuses, but cut the previous cost-of-living formula and demanded union members pay part of the premiums of medical plans in return.

In addition the company said it would reduce mandatory overtime from 160 to 144 hours every three months, but not until next summer, to "catch up" from the effects of the strike.

"You can't be on strike more than we are now," said one striker. "Why should we vote for something worse?"

Negotiating committee member George Miller told strikers in Portland that the negotiating session was a "charade of collective bargaining that produced an offer less than the insulting offer of October 3."

The company's owners pressed the union to take the offer to the membership. Tom Baker, president of IAM District 751 in Seattle, responded, "I will not insult our members by taking this ridiculous proposal to the Kingdome." The Kingdome in Seattle is where mass membership meetings are held to vote on the contract.

Connie Allen is a member of IAM Local 63; on strike at Boeing in Portland.

Miami protest hits Haiti repression

BY SUE WILLIAMS

MIAMI — Some 300 people picketed the Haitian consulate here November 4 to protest the arrest and brutal beating in Haiti of three trade union and political leaders.

The three victims are Jean-Auguste Mesyeux, executive secretary of the Independent Federation of Haitian Workers (CATH); Marino Etienne, a leader of the September 17 Movement; and Evans Paul, a leader of the Confederation of Democratic Unity.

Stopped by a detachment of soldiers and undercover police, the three were charged with possession of weapons to overthrow the government of Gen. Prosper Avril.

They were subsequently beaten. Paul's "face was so badly disfigured you could not recognize him," a statement from CATH said.

The three were then shown on national television.

The charge was a frame-up aimed "against all organizations that stand for the struggle of the people who want authentic change," said the CATH statement.

A previously scheduled Militant Labor Forum here became a protest meeting. Forumgoers watched a videotape, received the previous day from CATH in Haiti, calling for union members and activists around the world to send messages of protest to the Haitian government. A demonstration in Brooklyn, New York, has been called for November 11. The action is called by the Assembly Against State Terrorism in Haiti.

Activists have launched an emergency campaign to press for the release of the three. Mesyeux is well known among unionists here. He and other CATH members have toured Miami and spoken at union meetings.

Protest messages should be sent to: President Prosper Avril, Palais National, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Copies should be sent to CATH, 93 Rue des Casernes, Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Subscribe to
the Militant

Efforts worldwide to make goals as sales drive closes

BY RONI McCANN

Supporters of the socialist press from Reykjavik, Iceland, to Omaha, Nebraska, are pushing ahead in the final week of the international sales drive to go over their goals.

The concerted drive to increase circulation of the *Militant*, Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*, French-language *Lutte ouvrière*, and Marxist magazines *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale* began September 9. Every week the drive has been ahead of schedule internationally.

Supporters in Reykjavik, who raised their goal twice, have been successful in making each one. Sales in the final days of the drive will push them over the top of their latest goal.

Success is due to consistent, weekly efforts aimed at community and plant-gate sales. Supporters in Iceland reported a good response at a supermarket they visit regularly. They have also set up a Pathfinder literature table at the university in Reykjavik for the past six weeks.

Supporters recently met young people who had formed a South Africa solidarity group. After a discussion at the local Pathfinder bookstore about events in Namibia, three of the activists decided to subscribe to the *Militant*. Supporters in Iceland also sell weekly to workers at a fish-processing plant and a textile factory.

Phone calls and visits to those already reading the press have resulted in several renewals. One subscriber had questions on recent developments in Cuba and after a lengthy discussion decided to renew his subscription for a year. Presently supporters report that more than half of the *Militant* readers in Iceland have year-long subscriptions.

Likes the ideas

In Christchurch, New Zealand, teams of salespeople have set up Pathfinder literature tables and sold subscriptions at the Toyota car assembly plant, meat-packing plants, vocational schools, and shopping centers. A person who had given the *Militant* a try by subscribing three months ago at the same location, returned and renewed his subscrip-

tion for a year. When the salesperson commented, "You must really like the paper," the subscriber replied, "Not the paper, I like the ideas!"

Supporters of the socialist press in Britain decided they would make every effort to achieve their goals. This week's scoreboard shows a 24-point jump in the percentage of the goal achieved. They stepped up all aspects of their sales: local community tables, sales at plant gates, and special regional teams.

Distributors in Cardiff in Wales sent out teams to Bristol and Swansea, targeting engineering workers in those areas. From Manchester, supporters visited Preston, where British Aerospace workers are on strike.

At Pittston picket, London

"Pittston — call off your thugs" and "Support Pittston miners" were signs seen at a picket of the U.S. embassy in London backing Pittston coal miners on strike in the United States. At the November 6 picket line, which was organized by London unions, supporters sold a *Militant* subscription and two copies of the *New International*. Miners in Scotland have recently sent a donation to the striking Pittston miners. A sales team will be traveling to Scotland visiting striking Rolls Royce Hillingdon workers in Glasgow.

U.S. coalfields

Miners and other workers in the western coalfields of the United States are also meeting salespeople who are visiting there. Team captain Steve Marshall reports that 47 subscriptions have been sold to miners in Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado.

On the other side of the country thousands of defenders of abortion rights will be converging on Washington, D.C., for the November 12 rally. Sales at this event will help boost the drive internationally and send the final circulation totals over the top.

The final scoreboard will be run in next week's issue of the *Militant*. The deadline for sales totals being sent in to the *Militant* business office is 12:00 noon Eastern time on Wednesday, November 15.

Miner invites 'Militant' team to speak at solidarity meeting

BY ELLEN HAYWOOD

BOONVILLE, Ind. — "I bet more people are reading that paper now," wagered a coal miner who also farms on the outskirts of town. The resurgence of militant unionism is strongly felt here in the southern Indiana and western Kentucky coalfields.

Twenty-five union families signed up for trial subscriptions to the *Militant* during a two-day visit by salespeople from the St. Louis area. Fifteen bought copies of the Pathfinder pamphlet, *An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*.

A young miner, Bil Musgrave, is among a vanguard layer of mobile union fighters. They have been to the United Mine Workers' Camp Solidarity in Virginia several times. The encampment is a base for solidarity with the strike against Pittston Coal. When Eastern Airlines tried to hold a hiring session for scab mechanics at a hotel in nearby Evansville, the interviewers walked into the room to find 40 miners already sitting there.

Musgrave, who had signed up for a trial subscription to the *Militant* at the October 15 Labor Solidarity Rally in West Frankfurt, Illinois, invited the *Militant* sales team to come to the regular meeting of the Solidarity Committee in Boonville. The meeting was held in the UMW union hall in town and attended by miners, Communications Work-

ers, building trades members, and four members of the International Union of Electronic Workers on strike at a nearby plant. Participants discussed building support for the electrical workers, who have been out on strike for seven months, as well as plans to go to Camp Solidarity again.

At the end of the meeting, Musgrave asked the *Militant* sales team to give a pitch for the paper. As a result, 11 people, including three of the IUE strikers, signed up for the trial offer.

The next day, the team headed south to Waverly, Kentucky, to meet miners and find out the facts behind the September 13 explosion at the nonunion Pyro Mining Co.'s William Station mine in which 10 people were killed.

"You've come to the right house. I can tell you all about it," said a miner coming out his door. "I was working in the mine the day of the explosion." The company illegally and without regard for human life removed a barrier controlling ventilation in the mine shaft without evacuating the mine, he said. Removing the barrier allowed air to push highly explosive methane gas into a section where miners were working.

"Please just let the union members know that this is their future if they don't fight back," he said. This miner and a coworker signed up to try out the *Militant* as did two union miners.

The team finished out the day by visiting the big Peabody No. 1 and No. 2 mines in Waverly at the afternoon shift change. Many miners had yellow ribbons on their cars and other signs of support for the Pittston strike.



Militant/Steve Marshall

November 1989. Sales team to western mining regions hit plant gates, a demonstration against the U.S.-backed war in El Salvador, and working-class communities. Above, team member and new subscriber in a shopping center in Gallup, New Mexico.

Subscription drive scoreboard

DRIVE GOALS				Militant <i>subscriptions</i>		New Int'l <i>single copies</i>		Perspectiva Mundial <i>subscriptions</i>		Lutte ouvrière <i>subscriptions</i>	
Areas	Goal	Total-Sold	%Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES											
Austin, Minn.*	102	131	128%	75	99	10	16	15	15	2	1
Cleveland	105	124	118%	75	95	18	20	10	7	2	2
Detroit*	260	307	118%	207	257	30	25	18	21	5	4
St. Louis*	200	229	115%	165	193	25	27	7	7	3	2
Kansas City	117	125	107%	80	93	20	20	15	11	2	1
Greensboro, NC*	120	126	105%	95	101	15	14	8	10	2	1
Milwaukee	123	126	102%	85	104	15	12	20	8	3	2
Des Moines, Iowa	225	228	101%	170	174	25	24	25	28	5	2
Portland, Ore.	195	184	94%	150	149	20	14	20	18	5	3
Omaha, Neb.*	137	128	93%	100	96	20	16	15	15	2	1
Miami	300	279	93%	180	156	40	49	50	40	30	34
Newark, NJ	490	448	91%	250	255	95	112	95	64	50	17
Brooklyn	410	373	91%	260	201	60	74	65	72	25	26
Washington, DC*	205	180	88%	140	129	25	15	35	32	5	4
Morgantown, WV	137	119	87%	100	95	25	21	10	3	2	0
Seattle	138	119	86%	95	84	20	14	20	21	3	0
Chicago	360	307	85%	225	204	50	51	75	50	10	2
New York	665	564	85%	330	303	150	116	150	129	35	16
Phoenix	77	65	84%	45	47	15	6	15	12	2	0
Twin Cities, Minn.	320	270	84%	250	223	35	25	30	20	5	2
Philadelphia	225	189	84%	155	145	30	16	35	28	5	0
Baltimore*	205	170	83%	165	142	25	20	10	8	5	0
Price, Utah	52	43	83%	35	38	8	1	8	4	1	0
Pittsburgh*	200	165	82%	155	135	30	24	10	4	5	2
Atlanta	210	168	80%	155	114	30	34	20	17	5	3
Birmingham, Ala.	177	141	80%	140	128	25	10	10	2	2	1
Los Angeles	510	403	79%	285	254	90	39	130	110	5	0
Salt Lake City	137	108	79%	100	67	20	25	15	15	2	1
Houston	227	178	78%	150	141	30	7	45	27	2	3
San Francisco	240	181	75%	165	124	35	24	35	33	5	0
Boston	250	186	74%	160	125	35	20	40	25	15	16
Charleston, WV	112	78	70%	90	68	15	6	5	4	2	0
Oakland, Calif.	200	133	67%	125	90	30	22	40	20	5	1
National teams	-	81	-	-	81	-	-	-	-	-	-
Binghamton, NY*	45	32	71%	36	28	3	2	4	1	2	1
Cincinnati	10	5	50%	10	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Denver	20	11	55%	10	6	-	-	10	5	-	-
Louisville, Ky.	8	6	75%	8	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other U.S.	50	57	114%	40	48	5	2	5	7	-	-
U.S. TOTAL	7,564	6,767	89%	5,061	4,803	1,124	923	1,120	893	259	148
AUSTRALIA	60	35	58%	35	18	6	4	17	12	2	1
BRITAIN											
London	165	155	94%	105	78	30	48	25	28	5	1
Manchester	74	67	91%	50	42	18	19	5	5	1	1
South Wales	62	50	81%	40	35	10	11	10	1	2	3
South Yorks	107	84	79%	70	44	25	27	10	11	2	2
Other Britain	-	28	-	-	25	-	-	-	3	-	-
BRITAIN TOTAL	408	384	94%	265	224	83	105	50	48	10	7
CANADA											
Vancouver	145	130	90%	100	89	20	21	20	15	5	5
Toronto*	290	239	82%	180	162	40	28	55	41	15	8
Montreal	230	172	75%	90	62	40	12	40	50	60	48
Other Canada	-	11	-	-	10	-	-	-	1	-	-
CANADA TOTAL	665	552	83%	370	323	100	61	115	107	80	61
FRANCE	40	49	123%	5	9	5	14	10	10	20	16
ICELAND*	32	36	113%	25	29	3	3	3	3	1	1
NEW ZEALAND											
Wellington	86	93	108%	70	78	12	13	3	1	1	1
Christchurch	83	75	90%	60	60	16	10	5	5	2	0
Auckland	162	132	81%	120	113	30	9	10	10	2	0
N. Z. TOTAL	331	300	91%	250	251	58	32	18	16	5	1
SWEDEN	66	59	89%	35	30	5	5	25	23	1	1
PUERTO RICO	35	18	51%	7	0	2	0	25	18	1	0
Int'l teams	205	128	62%	100	95	25	14	75	15	5	4
Other int'l	-	13	-	-	11	-	-	-	2	-	-
TOTAL	9,406	8,341	89%	6,153	5,793	1,411	1,161	1,458	1,147	384	240
DRIVE GOALS	9,000			5,800		1,400		1,400		400	
TO BE ON SCHEDULE		8,000	89%		5,156		1,244		1,244		356
*Raised goal during drive											

This publication is available in microform from University Microfilms International.

Call toll-free 800-521-3044. Or mail inquiry to: University Microfilms International, 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.



Canada conference on Cuba deals

Participants came from the U.S., Canada, Latin America

Continued from front page

was Ricardo Alarcón, Cuba's deputy minister of foreign affairs. Also speaking was Richard Gorham, Canada's permanent observer to the Organization of American States.

Participants were greeted by the mayors of Halifax and neighboring Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, as well as by the president of St. Mary's University, one of the institutions hosting the conference.

The morning and afternoon plenary sessions on November 2-3 opened with panels featuring presentations by five or six speakers. Each of these four panels focused on a particular aspect of the Cuban revolution: politics and government, economic policy, cultural and social questions, and international policy.

Following these sessions, as well as all day Saturday, November 4, participants divided up into workshops — more than 30 altogether. These also opened with presentations by a panel of speakers, followed by questions and comments from the floor.

Workshop topics included: human rights; political participation and the organs of People's Power; Ernesto Che Guevara's political contributions; economic policy; crime and the legal system; women's rights; housing; health care; education; the sugar industry; environmental protection; literature and the arts; religion and the church; Cuba's international policy; youth and the family; U.S. government policy; and the Cuban community in the United States.

Informal debates and discussions continued during coffee breaks and over lunch and dinner. Other conference events were scheduled in the late afternoon and early evenings: several receptions; a concert by Grupo Oru from Cuba; film and video showings; a boat tour of Halifax's deep-water harbor; and a book reception to mark the publication by Pathfinder of *Che Guevara: Economics and*



Conference panel with Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcón

Politics in the Transition to Socialism by Carlos Tablada, one of the Cuban participants (see accompanying article).

More than an academic conference

The conference was initiated by professors at several Nova Scotia universities. While having the character of an academic conference, both the topic — 30 years of the Cuban revolution — and the composition of the gathering made it much more than this.

Of particular importance was the presence of the Cuban delegation — the largest ever to participate in such an event in North America. As a result, the gathering was not just an exchange about Cuba by academic specialists from outside Cuba. There was also a

debate and dialogue between these scholars and members of the Cuban delegation, who themselves held a range of views on the questions under discussion.

The participants from Cuba included university professors and researchers, as well as government officials, leaders of organizations such as the Federation of Cuban Women, and representatives of the Communist Party. They were not only knowledgeable about various aspects of Cuban society, but most were themselves participants in revolutionary political activity going back many years.

Several dozen Cubans living in the United States, many of them from the Miami-Dade County area in Florida, also participated. Two

workshops focusing on the Cuban community in the United States were marked by discussion, and sometimes sharp exchanges, among the Cuban-American participants, between some of them and members of the delegation from Cuba, as well as with others attending the gathering.

Among the Cuban participants from the United States were: Ramón Cernuda, a Miami-area lawyer who has been attacked by ultrarightists in the Cuban community because of his support for cultural and artistic exchanges with artists in Cuba, but who remains a staunch opponent of the Cuban government; María Cristina Hererra, a self-avowed former counterrevolutionary terrorist who now advocates negotiated steps to normalize U.S.-Cuba relations; Alicia Torres, a lobbyist for the Washington-based Cuban-American Committee that favors changes in U.S. policy to make it easier for Cubans living in the United States to visit and communicate with relatives in Cuba; Andrés Gómez, editor of *Arelto*, a magazine published by Cubans living in the United States who oppose U.S. policy toward Cuba; members of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, an organization of Cuban young people living outside Cuba who support normalization; and numerous others.

Participants also came from Cuba solidarity organizations: the Venceremos Brigade and Center for Cuban Studies in the United States; the Québec-Cuba friendship society and Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association; as well as committees from Britain, the Netherlands, and Sweden.

In addition, college students from campuses in Canada and the United States came to the conference.

Cuba's weight in world politics

Participants in the panels and workshop ranged from staunch defenders of the Cuban revolution to intransigent opponents and with

Cuban economist: 'Che Guevara's time has come again'

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia — "Che Guevara's time has come again," Cuban economist Carlos Tablada told a standing-room-only crowd of 200 people who attended a reception here during the conference on Cuba. The reception was held to celebrate the publication by Pathfinder of his book *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*.

Among those who attended the November

3 gathering, chaired by Pathfinder Director Steve Clark, were many of the Cuban delegates, including Ricardo Alarcón, Cuba's deputy foreign minister. Others included Robert Middleton, Canada's ambassador to Cuba; Wayne Smith, former head of the U.S. government's Interests Section in Havana; many of the most prominent academics participating in the conference from the United States, Canada, Western Europe, and Cuba

itself; and members of several Cuba solidarity organizations from North America and elsewhere.

Tablada was introduced by Prof. John Kirk of Dalhousie University, one of the principal organizers of the conference. Kirk thanked Pathfinder for its help in the planning stages of the conference and for publishing the book by Tablada. He described it as a "seminal work" on Guevara's economic and political views.

Andrew Zimbalist, author of numerous articles and books on Cuba and a professor at Smith College in Massachusetts, also spoke. Zimbalist explained that while he is not convinced that Guevara's views can be the basis for advancing Cuba's economic development, the book is an important contribution to the discussion that has opened up on how to do so.

"Tablada has done a superb job, an erudite job of making Che Guevara's economic thought available," Zimbalist said. The book is also important, he said, because it is the first time that the views of a Cuban economist have been made available to the English-speaking world.

Zimbalist was one of a dozen professors at the conference who have extended invitations for Tablada to speak at U.S. universities in February and March 1990.

Claude Morin, a professor at the Université de Montréal, explained why he found the book so inspiring. "Before I read this book I knew Che Guevara, the man with the vision of a new society. I also knew Che the brilliant military strategist. . . . But through the book I've discovered another Che Guevara — Che the economist, the administrator, the revolutionary leader." He discovered the Che who sought "to build a socialist society based on human needs" and to find the means to transform and develop the consciousness of the Cuban people.

Tablada answered those who argue that the

ideas of Guevara on building socialism have been bypassed by the changes that have taken place in Cuba and the world in the 22 years since the revolutionary leader was murdered in Bolivia. "Yes it's true that the world has gone through many changes since then," Tablada said, "but the problems of war, of exploitation, injustice, and alienation that Che was fighting against have not disappeared. In fact, these evils are even greater in the world today." That's why Guevara's ideas are more relevant than ever, he insisted.

Tablada pointed out that Guevara's communist perspective is at the center of the rectification process that was launched by the Cuban Communist Party in 1986 to overcome problems of bureaucratic abuse, mismanagement, and social privilege and to strengthen Cuba's fight for a socialist future. "The hour of rectification is the hour of Che," Tablada said. —S.P.



Militant/Jon Hillson
Carlos Tablada, author of new book on Che's economic views.

JUST REISSUED

New International

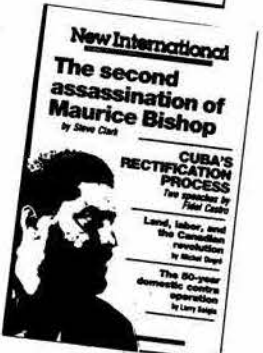
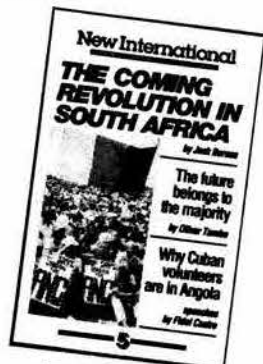
A MAGAZINE OF MARXIST POLITICS AND THEORY

New International is reissuing the six issues of the magazine that have appeared since it was founded in 1983. No. 5, featuring "The Coming Revolution in South Africa", and No. 6, with "The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop" and "Cuba's Rectification Process: Two Speeches by Fidel Castro" are already available. The first four issues will be reprinted soon. Use the form below to order your copies.

Please send me _____ Issue No. 5, at \$5
_____ Issue No. 6, at \$7

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State / Zip / Postal Code _____
Country _____

Clip and mail to *New International*, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014



blow to U.S. blockade policy

, Western Europe, Africa, the Pacific, and Cuba

a spectrum of views in between. Controversial points raised in one session were answered in others, and debates spilled over from one day to the next.

One theme that ran through several days of discussion was a debate over why Cuba, a small country with a population of 10 million, has so much weight in world politics.

James Petras, who teaches at the State University of New York in Binghamton, offered one explanation: "Cuba showed that revolution is possible in the Americas," he

Why Cuba, a small country, has so much weight in world politics was a debate at the conference.

said. "That it is possible to stand up to the United States" and follow an independent and socialist road.

Donald Chimankire from the Zimbabwe Institute for Development Studies contended that because of Cuba's unparalleled internationalism it has "emerged as a leading spokesman for the Third World." He pointed to Cuba's decisive role in the struggle against apartheid and the defeat of South Africa's invading forces in Angola at the battle of Cuito Cuanavale last year.

Jorge Domínguez from Harvard University had a different view. He argued that the withdrawal of Cuba's troops from Angola following the achievement of a negotiated settlement signaled a retreat by Cuba from its international role. This prospect, he maintained, is "haunting Cuban revolutionaries" with the prospect that their revolution "might become boring."

Canadian government official Richard Gorham was not so convinced. While Canada's relations with Cuba would remain "correct and cordial," Gorham said on opening night, they would not significantly improve until Cuba stops supporting "disruptive armed revolutionary causes in Central and South America and in Africa."

Carlos Alberto Montaner, a Cuban émigré author and employee of the U.S.-financed "Radio Martí," disputed the charge that the U.S. government has carried out a policy of military encirclement and attacks against socialist Cuba. He claimed that this aggressive policy was abandoned following the failure of the U.S.-backed Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961.

A member of the Cuban delegation drew an appreciative response from the audience when he responded to Montaner, pointing to Washington's nuclear threats against Cuba during the October 1962 missile crisis; the well-documented attempts by the CIA to assassinate Cuban President Fidel Castro and other revolutionary leaders; the three-decade-long economic blockade against Cuba; and germ warfare to spread disease among the Cuban people and kill off livestock.

Most conference participants, despite their varying viewpoints, expressed opposition to Washington's economic and travel blockade of Cuba. Wayne Smith, former head of the U.S. government Interests Section in Cuba, called on Washington to normalize relations between the two countries.

Debate on rectification process

One sharply debated topic that came up in most of the panels throughout the conference was the rectification process launched by the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba in 1986.

Fernando Martínez Heredia, a researcher with Cuba's Center for the Studies of the Americas, pointed out that for more than a decade prior to 1986 Cuba had followed economic and social policies based on the notion that "socialism can be built spontaneously through a combination of market mechanisms and individual incentives." The result had been growing bureaucratism, reinforcement of bourgeois values, inefficiency, declining political consciousness, and the "si-



Billboard on the outskirts of Havana, Cuba, proclaims Che's slogan: "Volunteer labor: an absolutely immense endeavor."

Militant/Monica Jones

lencing of problems and criticism."

The rectification process, Martínez said, aims to overcome these problems through the "massive conscious action" and "systematic mobilization" of Cuban working people. What is needed, he argued, is "the strengthening and development of socialist democracy."

Many conference participants contrasted the rectification process to the *perestroika*-style, market-oriented policies being followed today in the Soviet Union and several East European countries. Jorge Domínguez, for example, argued that Cuba could not continue to be the "exception" in this regard.

Continued refusal to adopt capitalist market relations to advance economic development will backfire, Domínguez said. Cuba's very success in raising basic educational, health, and other living conditions of the Cuban people will lead to growing demands for consumer goods available in industrially advanced countries, he said, and perhaps eventually for a return to capitalism, as well.

Quite a different point of view was expressed by Max Azicri, a professor at Edinboro University in Pennsylvania and a Cuban émigré. He pointed to the contrast between the progress made by socialist Cuba over the past 30 years and the mounting crises in Poland and Hungary.

Isn't the key difference that these and other East European countries don't have "a socialist leadership like that headed by Fidel Castro?" Azicri asked. On the other hand, Sergio Roca, another Cuban émigré, insisted that Cuba's economic problems today are due to the errors of the rectification process, and that the revolution is "dragged, fettered, and

constrained by an aging leadership."

David Barkin, a professor at the University of Mexico, contrasted the "extraordinary achievements" made by Cuba in economic development, health, and education to the growing misery in other Third World countries. In Mexico, for example, average living

The rectification process in Cuba was a topic of sharp debate and came up in most panel discussions.

standards have declined by 65 percent in the past half decade. It is socialist Cuba, not capitalism, that points the way forward, Barkin said. "That's why Cuba is more than just a thorn in the side of U.S. imperialism," he explained.

Cuban participants in the conference, who took part in every panel, expressed a range of viewpoints on how best to advance the country's economic and social development. In answer to a question, José Luis Rodríguez of Cuba's Center for the Study of the World Economy (CIEM) explained that these questions, as well as "the reforms in Eastern Europe and China," are being discussed and debated in various Cuban journals, including *Cuba Socialista*, a bimonthly published by the Communist Party of Cuba.

A majority of the conference participants who came from outside Cuba maintained that rectification is only worsening the country's problems.

Archibald Ritter from Carleton University in Ottawa argued that the revival of Ernesto Che Guevara's economic and political ideas as part of the rectification process is "very worrisome." He particularly disagreed with Guevara's stress on developing the social consciousness of working people, rather than reliance on competition and material incentives, to spur labor productivity.

María Pérez-Stable from the State University of New York (Old Westbury) also called into question this emphasis on the development of communist consciousness. "It is only in extraordinary times that ordinary people reach for the sky," she said. "In ordinary times, like today, they reach for the stove and the refrigerator."

Juan Antonio Blanco from the University of Havana pointed out that one lesson from 30 years of the Cuban revolution, as well as the experiences of other socialist countries, is that "socialism is not only a matter of industrial and economic development." Such an emphasis can easily lead to losing sight of "the socialist society that we fought for," he insisted.

Communists, Blanco said, must chart unexplored terrain and not fear to "explore the outer limits of the possible."

Continued on next page



Rita Pereira, a leader of the Federation of Cuban Women.

Militant/Jon Hillson

Get the news every week from Cuba!

SUBSCRIBE TO
Granma
WEEKLY REVIEW

Granma Weekly Review is Cuba's international newspaper, with speeches by Fidel Castro and other Cuban leaders, and important public statements from Cuba's government and Communist Party.

Granma Weekly Review also includes news and features on

- Building socialism in Cuba
- The freedom struggle in southern Africa
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Art, music, literature, and sports

Available in English, Spanish, and French (specify). One year: US\$16.
Make checks payable to Pathfinder.

PATHFINDER
410 WEST ST., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10014

Canada conference on Cuba: blow to blockade

Continued from Page 9

Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Alarcón explained that many of the errors that the rectification process is now attempting to correct had their origins in Cuba's "imitation and mechanical application" of the experiences of other socialist countries, especially beginning in the mid-1970s.

"To copy is the opposite of creativity," Alarcón said in his opening night remarks. "That's why to copy is a verb that cannot be conjugated with the construction of socialism."

Alarcón also challenged those who claim that the errors in Cuba, or even the deep crises in Eastern Europe, signify the death of socialism and triumph of capitalism. Socialism, he said, is produced by the inevitable contradictions of the capitalist system "and will continue to be so."

Che Guevara's contributions

One of the liveliest debates on aspects of the rectification process took place in the workshop on "Che Guevara's Thought in Contemporary Cuba."

Cuban economist Carlos Tablada and Mary-Alice Waters, editor of the magazine *New Internationalist*, for example, both referred to the importance of the minibrigades that as part of the rectification process are mobilizing Cuban workers on a volunteer basis to build housing, day-care centers, schools, and other necessary social projects.

In addition, special contingents — larger volunteer brigades comprised of full-time professional construction workers — are engaged in building roads, dams, and other major civil engineering projects.

Che Guevara had placed great emphasis on such forms of voluntary work during the early years of the revolution, Tablada pointed out. But in the 10 years prior to the launching of rectification, he said, "the essence of Che's ideas" on the transition to socialism were scrapped. "We stopped using voluntary labor."

Far-reaching changes in the organization of labor and the reemergence of voluntary work, Waters said, "are the heart and soul" of the rectification process. Central to Guevara's communist perspective, she noted, is the fact that the working class can and must build a new economic foundation for socialist society and begin transforming itself in the process into "the new man and the new woman" of humanity's future.

Claes Brundenius from Lund University in Sweden countered that Guevara's "economic ideas have very little relevance to solving Cuba's economic problems today." Voluntary labor, he said, is not "very efficient economically or very productive." Nor is

voluntary work "exceptional" he added. "It is used in many countries, including South Korea."

Cuban participant Juan Antonio Blanco sharply rejected this comparison by Brundenius. He pointed out that there could be no truly "voluntary labor" in South Korea, where workers are so brutally exploited that they resist by engaging in pitched battles against the government and police.

Brundenius also expressed strong disagreement with Waters' assessment of the trials, convictions, and sentencing over the summer of several top Cuban officials (including former minister of the interior José Abrantes and former army general Arnaldo Ochoa) on charges ranging from drug trafficking to gross corruption and abuse of authority.

It was inevitable, Waters said, that the deepening of the rectification process would bring Cuban working people into conflict with privileged, petty bourgeois layers threatened by the deepening socialist course of the revolution. The fact that high-ranking Cuban officials were brought to justice was salutary, she said. "It registered the fact that Cuba's working people are on the march."

Brundenius responded that he could not believe what he had heard Waters say. "I don't see what is salutary about what happened," he said. "The Cuban people are totally demoralized."

In the panel on the "Ochoa affair" later in the conference, the discussion on the response of the Cuban people continued. Sandra Levinson of the Center for Cuban Studies in New York City said that the stepped-up struggle against corrupt officials in Cuba "could lead to greater mass participation in the revolution."

Women's fight for equality

Rita Pereira, a leader of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), spoke in the two

conference workshops on women and the Cuban revolution. She said that Cuban women still face "difficulties that hinder the achievement of full equality." But the rectification process, Pereira explained, "has given Cuban women much more confidence" to press forward.

Discussions leading up to the next FMC congress in March 1990 aim at a "candid assessment of difficulties facing women in the work place," including discrimination and harassment; challenges posed by the double day (housework and work on the job); and sex-role stereotyping in the Cuban media. The FMC leadership, she said, hopes that the discussion will help "break up old myths" and strengthen the understanding that "women are capable of leading."

Judith Adler Hellman from York University in Toronto agreed that the rectification process can advance the interests of Cuban women. But initially it seemed to be too much of "a top-down process," she said.

Elizabeth Stone, editor of the Pathfinder book, *Women and the Cuban Revolution*, replied that it was the period prior to rectification above all that was marked by "top-down" policies by technocrats and bureaucrats. "It was then," Stone said, "that volunteer labor died out and the construction of day-care facilities ground to a halt."

A historic conference

The Halifax gathering "was the largest conference by far on Cuba since the revolution," Cuban leader Ricardo Alarcón said in an interview at the close of the event.

To have had the opportunity for such a wide-ranging discussion "at this moment, the 30th anniversary of the Cuban revolution, and in the current international situation, is the best possible thing."

Because of the gathering's proximity to

Media coverage of Cuba conference

Several of Miami's major media outlets paid significant attention to the conference on Cuba held in Halifax. The *Miami Herald* and its Spanish-language supplement *El Nuevo Herald* dispatched two reporters to Halifax. They filed daily stories from the conference.

Miami's leading Spanish-language television station, Channel 51, also covered the gathering, news of which was aired twice daily in the city, including an extensive interview with Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcón.

The conference was a major news story in Cuba, appearing on the front page of *Granma*, the country's major daily newspaper, and reported on television and radio news. A crew from Cuban television was at the event. Its reporters interviewed numerous conference participants, including a diverse group of Cuban-Americans from Miami and around the United States, to be used in feature programs in the near future.

The conference received coverage in Nicaragua's *El Nuevo Diario* and the Mexico City daily *El Día*. A team from Puerto Rican Television also reported on the conference.

Local coverage appeared in the Halifax media.

the United States and the large number of participants "from the United States and the U.S. Cuban community," Alarcón explained, the Halifax conference was truly "historic."

Interest in Pathfinder titles at conference

BY JON HILLSON

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia — Literature published by Pathfinder was warmly received by many participants in the conference "30 Years of the Cuban Revolution: An Assessment."

Several professors told the Pathfinder representatives staffing a well-stocked table and display that the publisher's collections of speeches by Fidel Castro, books by and about communist leader Che Guevara, and other Cuba-related titles are useful in the classroom.

Pathfinder author Elizabeth Stone, editor of *Women and the Cuban Revolution* and who participated in a conference workshop by the same name, was greeted by many participants who had read the book or used it in a class.

Interest was high among Cuba solidarity activists and young people at the conference. The latter included two dozen Halifax-area student volunteers who helped staff the gathering.

Carlos Tablada's *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* was Pathfinder's bestseller, 24 copies were sold. Two other popular titles were *In Defense*

of *Socialism*, a collection of recent speeches by Fidel Castro (18 copies) and *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution* (five copies).

Altogether, more than \$1000 in book and pamphlet sales were registered at the table.

Sales also included six subscriptions to the *Militant*; three to *Perspectiva Mundial*, a Spanish-language monthly; two to *Lutte ouvrière*, a French-language quarterly; and 10 copies of *New Internationalist*, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory.

In addition, two subscriptions were sold to the Cuban newspaper *Granma Weekly Review*, which Pathfinder is helping to distribute internationally.

New Zealand seafarers win strike

BY MICHAEL JARVIS

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Seafarers here won an important victory after a week-long strike ended in defeat for the employer, the state-owned Railways Corp.

On September 26 Seamen's Union members struck ferries that carry freight and passengers between this country's North and South islands. The workers' action was in response to Railways Corp.'s announcement that it was cutting crew sizes on ferries. The company unilaterally began firing workers.

Despite two rulings by the Labour Court ordering a return to work, unionists voted to continue the strike until all fired workers were reinstated. The Labour Court was established under the 1987 Labour Relations Act, which gives it far-reaching legal powers to impose penalties.

Because of workers' "flagrant and deliberate" defiance of its decisions, the court ordered the property and assets of the Seamen's Union seized on September 28. The union was also ordered to pay the Railways Corp. \$6,200 (US\$3,600) in legal fees.

The escalation of the attack on the union deepened the resolve of workers. The overwhelming attitude expressed at union meetings was "to fight all the way," Gerry Evans, national secretary of the union, said. "A union is people, not its assets," many seafarers explained.

Strikers began to reach out for support and countered the propaganda barrage of the employers. They organized to speak to meetings of other workers, and seafarers at the center of the fight went on television and radio.

Workers appealed for support from the 1,500 passengers stranded by the strike. They issued leaflets and spoke with passengers, individually and at ferry terminal meetings. Ferry workers provided meals and accommodation on the vessels.

In previous disputes employers used the plight of stranded passengers to whip up antiunion sentiment. When Railways Corp. refused an offer from the strikers to work without wages to transport passengers and cargo, excepting Railways Corp. freight, passengers' attitudes began to shift against the company.

Under the Labour Relations Act, Seamen's Union officials would have been jailed on October 2 and fines imposed on the union had the strike continued.

To get the ferries back to sea would have required using the armed forces. Such action was expected to bring immediate strike action by the Seamen's Union throughout New Zealand, with the likelihood of support from seafarers in Australia and other countries.

In this context Railways Corp. management opened emergency talks with union leaders and gave in to workers' demands. The firings were reversed. The company also agreed to petition the Labour Court to return the union's assets and agreed to pay a fine of \$15,000 imposed on the union by the court.

Later, at the request of the government, the Labour Court imposed another \$15,000 fine on the union.

The action against the Seamen's Union was the first time a union defied a Labour Court order and had its assets seized.

Contribute to the Pathfinder Fund

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

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

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

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

So far \$107,500 has been collected. The deadline for completing the fund is December 1. Please contribute as generously as possible.

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

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State/Province _____
Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____

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

\$150,000
\$107,500

Canadian government pushes bill to make abortion illegal

BY MAGGIE TROWE

TORONTO — Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's government introduced legislation into the Canadian federal Parliament November 3 that would recriminalize abortion. Prochoice supporters responded with protest actions in several cities and are planning more.

Since the Supreme Court struck down Canada's abortion law in January 1988, abortion has been legal. However, access and funding varies widely from province to province. In Prince Edward Island, for example, no legal abortions have been performed since 1982. The proposed legislation clearly allows third parties — husbands, boyfriends, neighbors, or others — to press charges if they can provide evidence the abortion was illegally obtained. This is a real concern in Canada where in two cases last summer ex-boyfriends tried to prevent women from obtaining abortions.

Up to two years

The government's proposed law makes abortion a crime subject to a two-year maximum prison sentence, but allows a woman

to obtain an abortion if a physician agrees that her mental or physical health could be endangered by carrying the fetus to term. Federal Justice Minister Douglas Lewis claimed the bill is a balance between pro-choice and antichoice positions and is intended to insure that women can obtain legal abortion.

Prochoice forces denounced this claim at rallies in Toronto, Vancouver, and other cities on November 4. Lynn Kaye, president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, a coalition of pro-women's rights organizations across Canada, told supporters, "The law is not a compromise, it's a violation of a fundamental right. Every woman, rich or poor, of color or white, must have equal access to exercise her fundamental right to make a choice about abortion."

Cherie MacDonald, leader of the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics, explained, "The new law states that a physically and mentally healthy woman cannot have an abortion. Period." MacDonald said the law will intimidate doctors who will fear prosecution. "Why is it in the criminal code to



Militant/Cliff Mack

Toronto, Canada, abortion rights action on the October 14 National Day of Action. More than 20,000 marched in 30 cities across Canada.

begin with?" she asked. "Abortion is not a crime. You can't amend this law; you've got to throw it out."

Dr. Nikki Colodny of the Toronto Choice Clinic spoke in support of Dr. Henry Morgentaler, who recently opened an abortion clinic in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The Nova Scotia provincial government adopted a law last June restricting abortions to hospitals it approves, a move specifically directed at Morgentaler's clinic. Morgentaler, a long-time abortion rights fighter who has provided abortion services for several decades and whose defiance of restrictive abortion laws has been a rallying point of the prochoice

movement, has openly broken the Nova Scotia law, maintaining it is unconstitutional. Seven charges have been laid against Morgentaler.

The Toronto rally of 1,000 met in front of Conservative Party headquarters before marching to the offices of the antichoice organization Campaign Life. Marchers chanted "No new abortion law, we're never going back," "Tories out," and "Free abortion on demand from B.C. [British Columbia] to Newfoundland." Participants, the majority young people, included members of campus prochoice groups, unions, antiracist organizations, and the New Democratic Youth.

British strike remains solid in fight for 35-hour week

BY BRIAN GROGAN

LONDON — The second week of strikes by 7,000 engineering workers in pursuit of the demand for a 35-hour workweek registered solid support for the action.

More than 600 staff personnel at the British Aerospace plant in Preston decided to join the strike of the production workers.

At the Preston plant, the largest machine shop in the country, 71 percent of shop-floor workers voted for action.

Every employee has had a series of letters mailed to them at home by management to persuade them to oppose the strike. Management has set up a telephone "Helpline" for workers to call who are "frightened" to approach them directly. Half-page advertisements in the local *Lancashire Evening Post* publicize the Helpline, which is aimed at encouraging workers to scab on the strike.

However, out of 2,000 workers at the plant, only 10 are crossing the picket lines. Most trucks making deliveries to the plant have turned back at the pickets, and picketing at the company dock warehouse a short distance from the plant has prevented any raw materials from being moved.

Moves to expand action

Leaders of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions have started to consult with shop stewards representing 7,000 workers at nine factories owned by four companies not yet involved in the action — Lucas, GKN, Weir Group, and Cattons Foundries — about preparations for strike votes at these plants. In addition, management at NEI-Parsons in Newcastle and at Smiths Industries in Cheltenham — where workers have already voted for action — have been told strikes will begin at these sites unless an agreement on a shorter workweek is agreed to by November 17.

Workers at three of Vauxhall's (General Motors) plants — at Luton, Toddington, and Ellesmere Port — have started their own action, a series of one-day stoppages in support of a 35-hour week, among other demands.

Talks between unions and management at the Ford Motor Co. broke down November 6. The company refused to accept the union's demand for the 35-hour week and did not move from its two-year wage offer of 8 percent followed by 7 percent. The talks were the occasion for unofficial strike action by workers at Dagenham in east London and at Halewood in Liverpool.

Union officials' letter

The action conflicts with a letter issued to the work force by Transport and General Workers Union officials in the name of the six TGWU branches at Dagenham. The letter

calls for greater efficiency, speed up, and an end to "unofficial action."

The union officials claim that this is the only realistic self-defense against Ford's ability to move its production facilities across borders and place one plant in competition with another — dangling the reward of investment and jobs. The letter was widely reported in the press as constituting a "break-through in industrial relations" at Dagenham, but leaders of the largest of the six branches, the 1/1107 have to date refused to distribute it to their members.

"Future redundancies [lay-offs] and plant closures cannot be staved off by workers at different plants and in different countries fighting it out as to who is collaborating with company plans most," explains 1/1107 member John Barton. "This just makes the threats of the big multinationals like Ford all that easier to implement. We'll never get a shorter working week as a reward for increased productivity, efficiency, and round-the-clock shift working. We'll have to fight for it."

Jaguar takeover

Ford's declared profits last year totaled nearly £700 million (£1=US\$1.60). Like other firms that have put their retained profits into speculative ventures and takeovers, Ford has used its profits to buy out the Jaguar car company. Ford paid £1.6 billion for this British-based luxury car maker on November 2. In 1984 Jaguar was privatized by the government for \$300 million. The unions have opposed the takeover, citing it as a nail in the coffin of the British car industry.

The chairman of Jaguar joint shop stewards, Keith White, declared that Jaguar "is not about share [stock] manipulation. It is about making motor cars, providing work for people in Coventry and the West Midlands and pride in engineering skills."

Jaguar, however, is about making profits. What made Jaguar ripe for takeover was that its profits had dropped from £22 million last year to just £1.4 million in the first six months of 1989. So attacks on the Jaguar work force were bound to intensify irrespective of the change of owner.

"What we need now is joint action for the 35-hour week" said Ford worker John Barton, "including unions at Ford in other countries." The major German union IG Metall, which organizes German Ford workers, has itself just initiated an overtime ban as the first stage in its own fight for the reduction of the working week to 35 hours.

Marcella Fitzgerald and Cliff Williams, members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, contributed to this article.



—WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

Union leader arrested again in Zimbabwe

The general secretary of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, Morgan Tsvangirai, was rearrested moments after being released from jail by a court order.

Tsvangirai had been detained for protesting the jailing of student leaders at the University of Zimbabwe and the police occupation and closure of the school October 4.

When arresting him for the second time, on October 19, the government charged the union leader with working for South African intelligence "to create turmoil in the Zimbabwean labor movement." He was accused of being "actively involved in South Africa's strategy of destabilization" for his role in a series of strikes from February to October.

The closure of Zimbabwe's only university came following the arrest of two student leaders who had issued a statement denouncing the government's refusal to allow them to hold a political meeting on campus. University students rallied in protest of the arrests. Police then occupied the campus, sending the students home.

University of Zimbabwe officials announced October 19 that the school would reopen temporarily for students to complete their examinations.

Returning students are required to sign a statement saying they will not participate in any demonstrations, unauthorized meetings, gatherings, or disturbances. Several members of the leadership body, the Students Representative Council, remain in jail.

Although the courts have again demanded that Tsvangirai be released from prison, the government has refused to do so.

Nuclear waste release protested in Mexico

Peasants, cattlemen, and fishermen in the state of Veracruz, Mexico, are protesting the extensive release of radioactivity from the Laguna Verde nuclear power plant.

With the help of ecologists they have documented the dumping of 3.8 million gallons of radioactive waste into the ocean. The quantity of gases released into the air makes it possible to measure "the effect

and increase of radioactivity in the regional environment," the group said.

The plant, run by General Electric, has been shut down 16 times on an emergency basis during the trial run period. In 1988, a total of 13,986 emergency maintenance requests were made and 5,126 in the first four months of this year.

The release of radioactive material is "due to fissures in the fuel castings that permit the fission products to leak into the cooling water," admitted the Federal Electricity Commission.

The commission said it had the right to release even greater amounts of radioactive liquids into the sea. Huge amounts of chlorine have also been dumped into the ocean to prevent the accumulation of marine growth in the condenser's seawater inlet.

The ecologists issued a report stating, "The Executive Branch should order the immediate suspension of the Laguna Verde power plant's contaminating trial start-up runs."

Haitian strike demands end to austerity moves

A one-day general strike shut down Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital city, at the end of September.

The walkout, called by 32 organizations, protested the implementation of austerity measures adopted by the government of Gen. Prosper Avril.

Avril announced a 30 percent increase in the cost of most imported goods and a rise in the price of flour, telephone services, and cement. A government minister said the measures were "dictated by the IMF [International Monetary Fund]," and added that "the pill is perhaps bitter, but its effect will be positive."

Haiti must pay \$32 million on its \$800 million foreign debt each year. Following the government moves, the IMF announced it was granting the country a \$26 million loan over the next 15 months.

The government also issued a timetable for local, regional, and national elections. Avril came to power through a coup in September 1988.

Voting for local and regional offices will begin in April 1990 and conclude with presidential elections in October of that year.

ARIZONA

Phoenix

As a Recession Looms: How Can Workers Fight for Jobs? Speaker: Danny Booher, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America Local 3937. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Nov. 19, 3 p.m. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 279-5850.

CALIFORNIA

Oakland

The War Against Drugs. Speaker: Diane Wang, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Nov. 18, 7 p.m. 3702 Telegraph Ave., Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 420-1165.

San Francisco

Celebrate Publication of *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches*. Sat., Dec. 2, 7 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Conversation on Contemporary Cuban Art. Speaker: Aldo Soler, Cuban painter. Fri., Nov. 17, 1 p.m. at Duvall Auditorium, Haven-Warren Hall, Clark University, and Fri., Nov. 17, 4:30 p.m. at H.M. Smith Hall, Room 104, Georgia Tech University. Sponsors: P.M. Projects, Clark University Arts Dept., Religious Heritage of the African World, ITC. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

A Showing of the Pathfinder Mural Video. Fri., Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Pathfinder Mural Project. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

Bus Trip to New York City for Dedication of Pathfinder Mural. Sun., Nov. 19. Sponsored by Morgan State University Art Club. For information on bus tickets call Pathfinder Bookstore at (301) 235-0013, or 466-8315 in the evenings.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Celebrate the Publication of *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches*. Speakers: James Gibbs, United Mine Workers of America member and Pittston striker; Nathan Head, United Auto Workers Civil Rights Committee; Andrew Pulley, Pathfinder Bookstore; Peter Mahlangu, African National Congress of South Africa. Sun., Nov. 19, 4 p.m. Museum of African American History, 301 Frederick Douglass Blvd. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA

Austin

Celebrate Publication of *In Defense of Socialism*, by Fidel Castro. Speakers: David Carey and Mary Joe Doyle, members of the 20th Venceremos Brigade to Cuba; Charles Katjivire, Namibian student at Macalester College; Dave Miller, Young Socialist Alliance, student at Macalester; Gale Shangold, Socialist Workers Party, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 9; Henry Zamarrón, member United Auto Workers Local 2125 and civil rights activist. Sun., Nov. 19. Reception 6:30 p.m.; program 7 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

St. Paul

Discussion of *In Defense of Socialism*, by Fidel Castro. A panel of speakers on the recently published Pathfinder book. Sat., Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

Why the Palestinian People Fight. A panel discussion on the West Bank and Gaza uprising. Sat., Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Mass Rally for the Hoover Family. Support the Hoover family in their trial by jury set for Nov. 17. Speakers: Chokwe Lumumba, Hoover family's attorney in Jackson, Mississippi; Atanacio B. Gonzalez, executive director Equal Rights Congress, Chicago. Tues., Nov. 14, 7 p.m. Central Baptist Church Educational Building, 2843 Washington St. Sponsor: St. Louis branch, National Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression; Equal Rights Congress of Chicago. For more information call (314) 521-6658.

The New Rise in Labor Militancy. Panel discussion on the Eastern Airlines, Pittston Coal, Boeing strikes. Speakers: Larry Ross, United Steelworkers of America Local 67, Granite City Steel, staff writer for *Union Voice*; David Yard, United Mine Workers of America Local 1967, Morrisonville, Illinois; International Association of Machinists member active in Eastern strike. Sat., Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

The Root of Women's Oppression. Speaker: Andrea Morell, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Elections in Nicaragua. Speakers: Julie Weiner; Dr. Harold Osborn, Nicaraguan Medical Aid Campaign; guest representative from Nicaragua. Sat., Nov. 18, 7 p.m. Casa de las Américas, 104 W 14 St. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Casa Nicaragua. For more information call (212) 769-4293.

Labor Strikes Back. Speakers: representatives of Local 1199 Hospital Employees union; Eastern Airlines strikers; Communications Workers; United Mine Workers. Thurs., Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m. District 65, 13 Astor Pl. Donation: \$4, union members free. Sponsor: N.Y. Local National Writers Union. For more information call (212) 677-9705.

OREGON

Portland

The Great Spirit Within the Hole. A documentary about American Indian prisoners. Sat., Nov. 11, 7:30 p.m. 2730 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. (formerly Union). Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Rally to Defend Political and Union Activist Mark Curtis. Speakers: Regula Burki, president, Utah Women's Physicians; Kathy Hurd, programs coordinator Phoenix Center; Nancy Jones, president American Federation of Gov-

ernment Employees Local 2199; others. Video premiere of documentary *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis*, by Hollywood film director Nick Castle, Jr. Sun., Nov. 12, 4:30 p.m. Labor Center, 2261 S Redwood Rd. Sponsor: Utah Supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Celebrate the Publication of *In Defense of Socialism*, by Fidel Castro. Speakers: Beatriz Murphy, solidarity activist; Ed Epstein, Latin American Studies professor, University of Utah; Al Campbell, economist, University of Utah; Barbara Greenway, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Nov. 18. Open house 7 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

The Pathfinder Mural. Video presentation on mural in New York that features portraits of revolutionary leaders whose writings are published by Pathfinder Press. Sat., Nov. 18, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

Morgantown

Pathfinder Mural Project Benefit. Music by Carla Daruda, Ed Cabbell, Rose Robards, Steve Thompson and Cindy Taapken; poetry by Cosmo Pieterse, exiled South African. Sat., Nov. 18. Reception 7 p.m.; program 8 p.m.; music and poetry 9 p.m. John Henry Blues Society, 227 Spruce St. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

BRITAIN

London

Crisis in Eastern Europe. Speaker: Pete Evans. Fri., Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forums. For more information call 01-928 7947.

Manchester

What's Behind the Tory Crisis. Speaker: Pete Kennedy, Communist League. Wed., Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m. Unicorn Hotel, Church St. (near Piccadilly). Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forums.

Sheffield

The Struggle for a Shorter Working Week. Speaker: Wendy Knight, member Amalgamated Engineering Union. Wed., Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m. 2A Waverley House, 10 Joiner St. Sponsor: New International Forums. For more information call (0742) 729469.

Solidarity with Cuba. A political and cultural evening with the Britain-Cuba Resource Centre. Speakers: Marcella Fitzgerald, José Martí 1989 International Brigade, member Amalgamated Engineering Union; Dave Grimshaw, José Martí Brigade, member National Union of Mine-workers; Eliunede Edwards and Sharon Hayden, 1989 Cuban Cultural Brigade; Richard Caborn, Labour member of Parliament. Fri., Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m. Sheffield Co-ordinating Centre Against Unemployment, 73 West St. Sponsor: Britain-Cuba Resource Centre.

CANADA

Toronto

Hands Off Panama. Speaker: Tom Leys, Young Socialists. Sat., Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

Vancouver

Celebrate Opening of Pathfinder Books. Speaker: Michel Prairie, editor of *Lutte ouvrière*. Video presentation on the Pathfinder Mural Proj-

CANADA

Building socialism in Cuba: The ideas of Che Guevara

Hear Cuban economist

Carlos Tablada

author of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*

Toronto

Saturday, Nov. 11, 7:30 p.m. 519 Church St. Community Center. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information: (416) 861-1399.

Vancouver

Friday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m. Russian Hall, 600 Campbell. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information: (604) 872-8343.

Speakers include: **Toronto:** Pastor Valle-Garay, Sandinista National Liberation Front; Nadia Geith, president Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association; Lennox Farrell, Rally Against Apartheid; Zaheer Bhyat, African National Congress of South Africa; Michel Prairie, editor of new Pathfinder pamphlet, *Le Socialisme et l'homme à Cuba* (Socialism and man in Cuba), by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara; representative Ontario Public Service Employees Union. **Vancouver:** Jack Nichol, president United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union; Nedjo Rogers, representative Latin American Studies Student Union, Simon Fraser University, participated in 1988 SFU-Cuba Field School; Mike Barker, executive member B.C. Hospital Employees Union; Dr. James Lindsay, past president Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association, former health consultant to Cuban government; Roberto Aviles, Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front support group; Michel Prairie.

ect. Sat., Nov. 18, 3 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Pathfinder Books. For more information call (604) 872-8343.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Abortion Is a Woman's Right. A panel discussion. Sat., Nov. 18, 7 p.m. 157 Symonds St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Socialist Forum. For more information call (9) 793-075.

Cuban Leaders' Tour of New Zealand. Hear Guillén Yelaya, veteran of *Granma* expedition, vice-president of Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP); Basilio Gutiérrez, ICAP. Thurs., Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m. Hotel Workers Union, New North Rd. and George St. Donation: \$10, includes supper. Sponsor: New Zealand-Cuba Friendship Society. For more information call (9) 641-350.

SWEDEN

Stockholm

Workers in the U.S. Fight Back. Speaker: Erik Dahlrot. Sat., Nov. 18, 3 p.m. Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (08) 31 69 33.

The Struggle for Palestine: Two Years of the Intifada. Eyewitness report and slideshow. Speaker: Tony Carlsson. Sat., Nov. 25, 3 p.m. Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (08) 31 69 33.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find Pathfinder books and distributors of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *New International*, *Nouvelle Internationale*, and *Lutte ouvrière*.

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA: Birmingham: 1306 1st Ave. N. Mailing address: P.O. Box 11963. Zip: 35202. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

ARIZONA: Phoenix: 1809 W. Indian School Rd. Zip: 85015. Tel: (602) 279-5850.

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. **Oakland:** 3702 Telegraph Ave. Zip: 94609. Tel: (415) 420-1165. **San Francisco:** 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

FLORIDA: Miami: 137 NE 54th St. Zip: 33137. Tel: (305) 756-1020. **Tallahassee:** P.O. Box 20715. Zip: 32316. Tel: (904) 877-9338.

GEORGIA: Atlanta: 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd Floor. Zip: 30303. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 6826 S. Stony Island Ave. Zip: 60649. Tel: (312) 363-7322.

IOWA: Des Moines: 2105 Forest Ave. Zip: 50311. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

KENTUCKY: Louisville: P.O. Box 4103. Zip: 40204-4103.

MARYLAND: Baltimore: 2913 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 605 Massachusetts Ave. Zip: 02118. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN: Detroit: 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA: Austin: 407 1/2 N. Main. Zip: 55912. Tel: (507) 433-3461. **Twin Cities:** 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI: Kansas City: 5534 Troost Ave. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 444-7880. **St. Louis:** 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Zip: 63113. Tel: (314) 361-0250.

NEBRASKA: Omaha: 140 S. 40th St. Zip: 68131. Tel: (402) 553-0245.

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 141 Halsey. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK: Brooklyn: 464 Bergen St. Zip: 11217. Tel: (718) 398-6983. **New York:** 191 7th Ave. Zip: 10011. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

NORTH CAROLINA: Greensboro: 2219 E Market. Zip: 27401. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

OHIO: Cleveland: 2521 Market Ave. Zip: 44113. Tel: (216) 861-6150. **Columbus:** P.O. Box 02097. Zip: 43202.

OREGON: Portland: 2730 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Zip: 97212. Tel: (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA: Philadelphia: 9 E. Chelton Ave. Zip: 19144. Tel: (215) 848-5044. **Pittsburgh:** 4905 Penn Ave. Zip: 15224. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS: Houston: 4806 Almeda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

UTAH: Price: 253 E. Main St. Mailing address: P.O. Box 758. Zip: 84501. Tel: (801) 637-6294. **Salt Lake City:** 147 E 900 South. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 3165 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699, 797-7021.

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

WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston: 116 McFarland St. Zip: 25301. Tel: (304) 345-3040.

Morgantown: 221 Pleasant St. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

WISCONSIN: Milwaukee: 4707 W. Lisbon Ave. Zip: 53208. Tel: (414) 445-2076

AUSTRALIA

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

BRITAIN

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

Sheffield: 2A Waverley House, 10 Joiner St., Sheffield 3. Tel: 0742 729469.

CANADA

Montréal: 6566 boul. St-Laurent, H2S 3C6. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

Toronto: 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400, M5V 1S8. Tel: (416) 861-1399.

Vancouver: 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102, V5V 3C7. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

ICELAND

Reykjavík: Klappartíg 26. Mailing address: P. Box 233, 121 Reykjavík. Tel: (91) 17513.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: 157a Symonds St. Postal Address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 793-075.

Christchurch: 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 656-055.

Wellington: 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Postal address: P.O. Box 9092. Tel: (4) 844-205.

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Vikingagatan 10, S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

Capitalist know-how — While some folk fret over how to make housing available for the homeless, Visyboard, the Australian cardboard company, came up with a quick fix — disposable paper sleeping bags. Featuring a corrugated lining and



Harry Ring

assertedly waterproof, 10,000 will be distributed.

Truly un-American — Foreign

investors "are very opportunistic.... Their investment is not a loyal one. They move extremely fast, wherever the opportunity is." — Prof. Avner Arbel, Wall Street seer.

Book them — Commonwealth Oil Refining of Texas, now bankrupt, shut down its Puerto Rico plant two years ago, leaving behind a massive cesspool of deadly contaminants. A judge has now ordered a \$100 million cleanup of the site, but the feds say it's a sticky problem. An official asked, "What do you do with a bankrupt company?" Easy. Put the officers behind bars until the site is clean.

Hard ball they call it — Willie

Horton, whose prison parole was used as a racist weapon in the Bush presidential campaign, says he was approached during the campaign by a Republican employee who tried to pressure him to endorse Dukakis.

Disaster agency — The Federal Emergency Management Agency used to advise on how to survive nuclear war. Now it's a natural disaster strike force. Like, Lt. Col. Jerry Brown, FEMA's medical-disaster coordinator. The morning after the Bay Area quake, he went on vacation, explaining he had non-refundable cheapo airline tix.

Couth, too — A group of New England doctors, nurses, and para-

medics sent \$234,000 in emergency supplies to hurricane-stricken St. Croix and then requested of FEMA that a team of them be sent there, along with added medical equipment. Responded a FEMA official: "You can take that request, fold it up, and stick it where the sun doesn't shine."

Same size shoe — It's expected that *The Queen of Mean*, a biog of Leona Helmsley, will do nicely in the Philippines. A spokesperson for the publisher said, "It seems they are fascinated with Leona. They see her as the American Imelda Marcos."

A sticky proposition — We're

not sure if they're pulling our leg, but the Cape Cod Resource Center for Peace and Justice Newsletter reports: "Under a \$2.9 million federal drug-fighting grant, members of the Texas National Guard will be placed along the Mexican border disguised as cactus plants."

The civilizers — "Last month Palestinian children killed haphazardly constituted for the first time almost half the total number shot dead by Israeli army bullets. I am not talking about masked teenagers... but about children between the ages of five and eight." — Zeev Schiff, military editor of the Israeli daily, *Haaretz*, September 15.

Thousands mobilize for 'One Namibia, one nation!'

Continued from front page
for Namibia's independence. Voting is scheduled for November 7 to 11. The results will be made public November 18.

Colonized by Germany in 1885, Namibia — then known as South-West Africa — was mandated to South Africa following World War I and has been under its colonial rule since. In 1966 the United Nations terminated South Africa's mandate over Namibia.

In 1978 the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 435 calling for the independence of Namibia. But it was not until December 1988 when Angola, Cuba, and South Africa signed a treaty that the process was begun to hold elections. This treaty was the result of

South Africa defeated at Cuito Cuanavale.

the decisive military defeat to South Africa's forces in southern Angola by the combined forces of the Angolan army, Cuban volunteers, and SWAPO fighters at the town of Cuito Cuanavale. This is what led Pretoria to begin compliance with Resolution 435.

UN's role

As outlined in Resolution 435, the independence process is supervised by the UN. Troops organized into the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG) were to monitor South African forces.

However, once sent, the force headed by

Martti Ahtisaari of Finland has done little more than observe Pretoria's violations of the agreement. They are unarmed and their force is two-thirds what was called for under Resolution 435.

SWAPO rally largest

Here in Windhoek, Namibia's capital, the SWAPO rally was by far the largest held by any party running candidates. Ten parties are participating in the elections.

The Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, the main party running against SWAPO, represents the views of the current South African administration in Namibia. Its rally held in the Black township of Katutura on November 4 had 400 people at it. A rally held in Katutura by SWAPO with Nujoma as the main speaker drew 50,000 September 24.

Of Namibia's 1.5 million people, 700,000 have registered to vote. The white population is estimated at 85,000.

This is the first time Namibians will be able to vote. "I'll be 50 years old this year, and this is the first time I'm going to be able to vote for the government of my choice," said Willem Simon, a priest in Keetmanshoop, a sheep-raising community of 20,000 in southern Namibia.

The ranches owned by white farmers are worked by Black farm workers earning 13 rand (\$US5) a month. Blacks are not allowed to own land.

Some 5,000 attended a SWAPO rally in Keetmanshoop November 4 where Nujoma spoke, and the following day 1,000 people heard the SWAPO president at a rally in Gobabis, a town west of Windhoek.

Pretoria's fabrication

In the days leading up to the elections, the liberation organization and its leaders were the focus of a campaign by government forces to smear SWAPO's name.

On November 1 Roelof Botha, the South African minister of foreign affairs, announced at a news conference in Pretoria that troops from the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's armed forces, were gathering at the border between Angola and Namibia. Botha said the information came from messages between UNTAG stations intercepted by the South African forces.

Botha himself later admitted the messages were forgeries at a news conference held here yesterday with the foreign minister of Angola.

"Yesterday," said Moses Garoeb, SWAPO's administrative secretary, "Botha came to apologize."

But "South Africa is still trying to prevent this process from taking place," he said, referring to the elections. "It is amazing for a foreign minister to be telling all these lies." Garoeb was addressing the SWAPO rally at Khomasdal.

Appealing to the white population, which has been arming itself, fearing a SWAPO victory, Garoeb asked, "Why are you arming yourselves?"

Boesak also appealed to the whites not present at the rally. "I come from South Africa. There the government also divided us into different ethnic and racial groups, kept us apart, and told us that we do not understand each other and that we do not have the same goals. That we do not have the same desires, cannot live together, and that we might as well forget about forming one united country, one united nation."

"That same lie has been told to Namibia

"White people dedicated to equality need not leave Namibia."

for all these years," he continued. "It is the responsibility of the people of Namibia to show that kind of propaganda is a thing of the past. You cannot go into the new Namibia with the language of Pretoria. You cannot build a new nation with the language of Pretoria. Don't be taken in by the propaganda of the South African government."

Namibians first

"You are a Namibian. You are not in the first place a Baster. You are a Namibian."

"You are not in the first place a white person. You are a Namibian, you are not in the first place a part of a racist society. Forget that now... be one nation."

The speeches were translated into Afrikaans and Ovambo and given in English. Representatives of the Congress of South African Trade Unions were also present at the rally. Boesak announced that Walter Sisulu and Winnie Mandela would arrive in Windhoek on November 6.

Boesak said there are whites in Namibia, as in South Africa, who are afraid of the future. "Don't go into the future with this fear," he said. "You are afraid so much that SWAPO will turn Namibia into another Idi Amin Uganda. You know that will not happen."

"You fear that SWAPO and the people of Namibia will do to you what you have done to them. Don't go into the future with this kind of fear. White people could live in

Namibia. White people could stay and build one nation. White people who are dedicated to equality need not leave.

"There is a place in Namibia for all who are dedicated to the principles of equality and democracy," he added. "You fought the battle and the struggle was long and hard. But your day has come now."

"Now that you have come this far," Boesak said, "you have a sound foundation to build a new nation, to build a new future for you and for your children and for the whole world and for southern Africa."

"Send a message to Pretoria, send a message to President George Bush, to Margaret Thatcher, to Tokyo, to the Soviet Union, to all over the world. SWAPO has returned, the people are united, our day is coming now," he concluded to an ovation.

Nicaraguans debate end of cease-fire

Continued from Page 16

contras out," she said. "But the Sandinistas should not have lifted the cease-fire and started calling the reservists. More war just means more hunger and more suffering for the mothers and wives of the combatants."

Fermina Torres, who has one son in the army and another who will soon be eligible for the draft, agreed with the government's position. The attacks by the contras were "too much," she said.

Freddy Narvaez, 27, a mechanic and army reservist, said he thought the government had ended the cease-fire at the right time, although other workers felt it should have been lifted long before. "We had to show our willingness to reach a peaceful solution, but now the contras have exposed themselves."

— 10 AND 25 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Nov. 16, 1979

In the face of a new wave of anti-imperialist struggles by Iranian workers, peasants, and young people, the Carter administration is threatening to take military steps against the Iranian revolution.

The pretext for the U.S. threats was the November 4 occupation of the U.S. embassy in Tehran by students demanding that the U.S. extradite ex-shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi to Iran to face trial for his countless crimes. The students are holding a number of embassy personnel and others as hostages.

In the oilfields of Khuzestan, strikes by oil workers are said to be responsible for an oil stoppage. There have been reports that all deliveries to the United States may be cut off by oil workers protesting the shah's presence in this country.

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

Nov. 16, 1964

Over 2 million Cuban workers on Decem-

ber 2 will elect five-man councils in their places of employment.

Council members will be nominated from among workers in all enterprises of over 25 employees (some 7,000-8,000 establishments) and will be chosen by secret ballot. Workers will choose among seven or more nominees, depending on the size of the work force in a given enterprise.

The function of these councils will be to administer a new labor code to go into effect January 1. The Cuban leadership has apparently decided that the work discipline required to raise labor productivity — and raising productivity is one of the most serious problems facing the revolution — can best be enforced by the workers themselves.

Candidates will be nominated this month in workers' assemblies at all farms, factories, and offices. Candidates are required to have "good socialist attitudes toward work" and records clean of work offenses. They must have a sixth-grade education or be working toward one in evening classes.

Cuban workers have been engaged in public discussions and elections at their assemblies for several years — in the process of selecting the best workers to be members of Cuba's United Party of the Socialist Revolution.

CELEBRATE THE COMPLETION OF THE PATHFINDER MURAL



SUNDAY, NOV. 19

Traduction of español
Traduction en français

DEDICATION AT MURAL SITE: 1:30PM
PATHFINDER BUILDING, CORNER OF
CHARLES AND WEST STREETS, MANHATTAN

BENEFIT PROGRAM: 3:00PM AT
WESTBETH GALLERY, 55 BETHUNE ST.
(3 BLOCKS NORTH OF MURAL)

DONATION: \$10; SPONSORED BY
THE PATHFINDER MURAL PROJECT

For more information, Pathfinder
Mural Project, 410 West St., New
York, N.Y. 10014. (212) 741-0690.

A historic turning point

News reports from Namibia on the first day of the elections described long curving lines of determined people waiting under a broiling sun by the thousands to vote.

This is a historic event. All Namibians are for the first time casting ballots throughout the country in a nationwide election for a constituent assembly. The South West Africa People's Organisation, whose activities were greatly restricted due to the repression by the South African colonial government, has held rallies. Its members and leaders have returned from exile and openly organized its supporters.

After 73 years of colonial rule by the apartheid government of South Africa, and decades of German rule before that, a new chapter has opened in the fight for self-determination and independence for the peoples of Namibia.

Beginning November 7, elections opened in which every adult in Namibia, the majority of whom are Black, has a vote, both men and women. "It's a day we have fought for," said Jeremiah Nambinga, an election coordinator for SWAPO, as the South West Africa People's Organisation is called.

It's a day that millions of Blacks are still fighting for in South Africa, drawn nearer by the defeat of Pretoria in Angola and by Namibian independence.

This milestone, like any victory, is a result of struggle. The Namibian people waged a political and armed battle for 23 years under the leadership of SWAPO against the ruling South African government. This stood on the shoulders of more than 100 years of resistance by Namibians to colonial domination.

Pretoria ruled the oppressed majority in Namibia much like it rules in South Africa — with apartheid laws backed up by the weight of brutal repression. Systematic murder, torture, violence, and harassment was the rulers' answer to Namibians fighting for change. Pretoria spent enormous resources building up a massive military machine in Namibia and used the occupied country as a base from which to carry out its war against the people of Angola to the north.

A decisive breakthrough came in March 1988 when the Angolan army, SWAPO combatants, and Cuban internationalist volunteers defeated Pretoria's forces in battle at Cuito Cuanavale, in southern Angola. This victory reversed forever apartheid's expansionist aims on the continent. It is now retreating. South Africa's military forces were forced out of Angola, and the vast territory of Namibia is being yanked from South Africa's hands.

Instead of going into the 1990s with its colonial domination consolidated in Namibia and new frontiers for apartheid rule in Angola, Pretoria enters the new decade having been beaten back to its borders and facing an unprecedented level of struggle inside the country itself.

This struggle has forced the apartheid rulers to deal with the fighting people of South Africa, led by the African National Congress, on new terms. Each victory in the struggle to secure the independence of Namibia advances the fight against apartheid, and vice versa.

Defeated but not overthrown, Pretoria, backed by Washington, continues to sabotage the Namibian independence process. Resolution 435, adopted by the United Nations in 1978, stipulates terms for Namibian independence. It outlines a year-long process, beginning with the current elections, that is to be supervised by the UN.

Before the ink was dry on the agreement implementing Resolution 435 signed by the governments of Angola, Cuba, and South Africa in December 1988, the U.S. government proposed the UN forces bound for Namibia be drastically cut, a proposal that evoked outrage from the Nonaligned Movement countries. However, the cut was adopted unanimously by the five permanent UN Security Council members — China, Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and the United States.

Since the beginning of the implementation of Resolution 435 in April, South Africa has attempted to discredit SWAPO and thwart the independence process. Due to the tireless campaign waged by the liberation organization and supporters of freedom for Namibia worldwide, Pretoria has been forced to concede on many fronts — from roping in its hated Koevoet mercenaries to concessions on electoral regulations. The colonial rulers tried to sabotage the elections up to the last day when an "unidentified helicopter" covered Oshakati, a SWAPO stronghold, with leaflets telling voters to wait until the last two days to cast ballots — supposedly signed by a SWAPO leader.

The winning of the right to vote, elections, and open political organization are a part of a continuing battle for independence.

This process opens the way for the Namibian people to broaden their struggle against South African imperialist domination, consolidate their independence, and weld together a nation for the first time in history.

Defend right to abortion

Continued from front page

the cost of an abortion can be, and is, a restriction.

In 1976 bipartisan majorities in the U.S. Congress adopted the Hyde Amendment that barred the use of federal Medicaid payments to finance abortions except where the woman's life was in danger, or where the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest. In 1981 Congress eliminated even that exception.

Ending federal funds for abortions, the shrinking number of medical facilities willing to perform the operation, and difficulties in gaining access to birth control and sex education all conspire to make the constitutional right to control their own bodies difficult to actually exercise for a big majority of working-class women.

In order for all women to be able to choose whether or not to have a child, abortion should be free upon demand. Women on Medicaid and Medicare should be covered as well.

The right to sex education; contraceptives; free 24-hour day care; affirmative action in training, hiring, and upgrading on the job; and a series of other such measures are necessary for women to be able to truly have the right to choose to have children, or not to have children.

President George Bush's veto of a recent congressional measure to restore federal funding of abortions for poor women whose pregnancies are a result of rape or incest is a sign of the extent of the fight that will be needed to conquer these rights.

The struggle to defend abortion rights takes place in a world of increasing difficulties of the world capitalist economic system. The unprecedented growth in corporate debt, and the devastating burden of the debt owed by the semicolonial countries to the imperialist bankers, makes the banking system vulnerable to collapse. This, or other shocks, such as a price explosion or stock market crash, could send the capitalist economy into a full-scale depression.

The U.S. rulers have responded to the growing pressure to maintain their profit rates with attacks on the wages and living standards of working people, which range from cutbacks in social services to extracting takebacks from workers to outright union-busting.

Along with these attacks the assault on women's right to choose abortion has been stepped up. Restricting or denying this right is a part of the capitalist employers' efforts to heighten the burdens on working women and undermine their self-confidence.

As part of this offensive the rulers seek to force working women to accept lower wages and worse working conditions, including homework and other forms of highly profitable discrimination — all under the guise of women's primary role should be childbearers rather than "breadwinners."

Defending and extending abortion rights, like the battering down of legal segregation and the continuing fight for affirmative action for Blacks and Latinos and for women, strengthens the fighting capacity of the whole working class.

The national, state, and local protests in defense of abortion rights coincide with a rise in labor struggles — from the strikes at Eastern Airlines, NYNEX and Boeing, to the fightback in the coalfields. These struggles have brought with them a growing solidarity, confidence, and social consciousness.

The winning of abortion rights, and the fight to defend them, has strengthened the ability of women and men to join together to take on the airline bosses, coal companies, and social issues such as affirmative action, housing, raising the minimum wage, and defending democratic rights.

The growing labor resistance today, and the larger number of unions and working-class fighters joining the fight to defend abortion rights, highlights the opportunities to draw even broader layers into the struggle to defend, and extend, a woman's right to choose.

How big business sized up N.Y. mayoral race

BY DOUG JENNESS

The British weekly magazine the *Economist*, commenting on New York City's mayoral race in its October 7 issue, contends that "the greatest challenge facing the city's new mayor" is "the growth of a largely black underclass, desperate and increasingly dangerous."

While the *Economist* is known for its abrasive and smart-alecky style, this admonition is simply an unprefixed and blunter-than-usual presentation of how the capitalist ruling families throughout the world view the great bulk of the working class, especially those of color.

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Workers who are unemployed or unskilled; who live in run-down tenements or are homeless; who are afflicted with drug addiction, alcoholism, and disease; whose children drop out of school at an early age; whose incomes and standard of living are deteriorating; who are angry and likely to explode in revolts or organize strikes and protests, are all part of that "dangerous" stratum the ruling rich call the "underclass."

In New York City, like other cities in the United States, conditions of life for working people are worsening. Unemployment is high, inflation is mounting, homelessness is growing, and the cases of tuberculosis, AIDS, and other diseases are increasing, as is the rate of infant mortality.

At the same time, the big-business rulers say that New York City faces a "budget crisis" and that many services must be axed and wages of public employees kept down in order to reduce expenses. From the standpoint of the bankers, merchants, and real-estate speculators who dominate New York City's politics, the principal concern in the race was electing a mayor who will have the best chance of getting labor officials and community leaders to help convince working people to accept cutbacks.

Most of the big-business dailies backed David Dinkins in the race, and the *New York Times* editors were particularly crude in explaining their support. "The next mayor will have to ask for, and sell, sacrifice to all New Yorkers," an October 29 editorial stated, "most notably the poor citizens hurt most by reductions in city services. Mr. Dinkins seems better qualified to persuade all New Yorkers to share the burdens ahead."

Dinkins' qualifications, the *Times* said, were his experience as a "conciliator" and his "race." As the city's first mayor who is Black, he would be "likely to instill a sense of pride and participation in blacks and other minority groups."

On November 8, the day after Dinkins defeated Republican contender Rudolph Giuliani, the *Times* warned, however, that "there are limits to the power of ethnic pride and civic joy. Neither will get New Yorkers through the difficult times immediately ahead."

The *Times* editors stated, "Mayor Dinkins will have to tax more, spend less, and make government more productive. There are no other responsible options."

Other voices in ruling circles, such as *Crain's New York Business*, backed Giuliani, expressing concern that Dinkins' liberalism might lead him to spend too freely.

Dinkins expressed his stand with little ambiguity. Addressing potential Wall Street contributors a few weeks before the election, the candidate explained, "It may well be that I'll have to tell some of my friends they cannot have the things they want. But they'll take it from me."

At this stage that appears to be the prevailing view of many of Dinkins' "friends," among whom are the officials of most unions in the city. One of his staunchest backers is Barry Feinstein, president of Teamsters Local 237, which organizes some of the city's public employees. "The next mayor, like the present one," Feinstein admitted to a *Times* reporter, "will be much more conservative than we believe he ought to be. We did better with [Edward] Koch than we can hope to do with Dinkins."

Victor Gotbaum, former head of District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, said that union officials are "not going to make David look bad."

While the city's rulers debated whether or not Dinkins or Giuliani could more effectively carry through the next round of attacks on New York's "dangerous underclass," working people attempted to judge which candidate would be most sensitive to their interests.

It's not that many workers have much confidence that either Giuliani or Dinkins would bring about radical change. But many think that they might get a slightly better hearing with Dinkins, who appears to be more concerned with the problems of workers, especially the most oppressed. Many see Dinkins' victory as a chance to end the strident racism and worsening conditions of the Koch years.

But a rude awakening is coming, as the new mayor begins to carry out policies dictated by the employers and bankers and starts demanding sacrifices of working people.

California meat-packers unite to refuse overtime

BY TAMAR ROSENFELD

SAN LORENZO, Calif. — Gallo Salame, one of Sara Lee's meat-processing plants, employs some 200 workers, who are members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 120.

October 1 marked the end of our three-year contract. The work force here is composed of many immigrant workers. Most are from Mexico and Central America, or Asia. One-third of the workers are women.

Hourly wages for those hired before 1982 are from \$10.22 to \$11.75 an hour. Workers hired in the last seven years —

UNION TALK

80 percent of the work force — start at \$6.46 an hour. After one year, these "second-tier" workers reach their maximum hourly wage of \$7.64. For the last 10 years bonuses have been given instead of raises.

At the same time production has increased dramatically as a result of speedup and the introduction of new machinery.

Workers — who want to win back lost wages and rights on the job — have been looking forward to the expiration of the contract for some time.

At an August union meeting, the local president raised the idea of boycotting voluntary overtime for the month of September to prevent the company from stockpiling.

This sparked a discussion in the plant. Would this tactic be effective? Was it necessary? It appeared to some that the company was telling the truth when it said extra hours were needed to fill orders.

Union members decided that whether the company was

stockpiling or not, a show of unity by boycotting overtime would send a message to Gallo that workers were serious.

Labor Day weekend was the first test. Many workers were pessimistic about overcoming the divisions that plague us. After all, we speak different languages, come from different countries, make different wages, and are men and women.

To everyone's surprise, the women workers in the largest department, slicing, took the main responsibility for organizing to convince every worker of the need to say no when asked to put in overtime.

Many workers count on overtime pay to supplement their low incomes. Some whose first language is not English were not informed about the boycott campaign.

Discussions were organized, matching up languages between someone who was already convinced and someone who was unclear. Over the course of a few days, almost every single person in the slicing department had refused the overtime.

Gallo panicked and called the union hall, pressuring union officials to convince members to work the weekend. The company had an emergency order to fill, they said.

Union officials agreed to send the business agent down to the plant to call off the campaign. That day a couple dozen people volunteered to work on the weekend.

Other workers thought we should have stood our ground and felt betrayed and disoriented.

Discussions on the shop floor got more intense. Should we continue the campaign? What would stop the company from declaring an emergency every weekend?

The campaign to refuse overtime did continue, and everyone felt more confident as a result of the unity we were

showing. A sense of "us" as the union began to develop.

The company then invoked mandatory overtime for the next three Saturdays. Gallo management began spreading rumors that people who refused overtime were afraid of retribution from union militants.

Since September conditions in the plant have been like a guerrilla war. The company pushes, we push back, they respond, and on it goes.

On October 1, 150 workers attended a union meeting to discuss the status of negotiations. It was the final day of the old contract, and after one month of negotiations, not much progress had been made, the union president reported.

We were told to go back to work the next day, Monday. The only thing that changed was that the no-strike clause in our contract no longer applied.

Negotiations continued to go nowhere for one more week, and another union meeting was held. Workers expressed their willingness to fight by voting 101-to-8 for a strike authorization vote.

The salami business is at its height until Christmas, and the company does not want production interrupted now. If anything is to be won by the union, the workers agree, action must be taken now.

A federal mediator has just been called in on the negotiations. It is not yet clear how this contract fight will end. For our part, more actions like the overtime boycott will be needed to continue breaking down the divisions among union members.

Tamar Rosenfeld is a member of UFCW Local 120 at Gallo Salame.

LETTERS

Solidarity

Strikers at the Circuit-Wise electronics plant in North Haven, Connecticut, got a big boost recently when a busload of 37 members of the United Auto Workers from a Ford electronics plant in Pennsylvania joined their picket line.

Walking the line that day as well were UAW-organized Colt strikers, who had won a court victory in their long fight to win back their jobs, and members of other Auto Workers and United Electrical Workers locals. Clerical workers from Yale University, community supporters, and a group of students from Yale were there too.

The Circuit-Wise (CW) strikers, organized in Local 299 of the United Electrical Workers, had earlier traveled to Lansdale, Pennsylvania, to involve the Ford workers, from UAW Local 1695, in their strike.

At a noon press conference on the picket line, a representative of the Auto Workers reported to thunderous applause that the scab-made circuit boards coming into Ford from CW are being found "unsatisfactory." The CW strike chairman announced that \$50,000 worth of circuit boards had been returned by Ford.

Rank-and-file strike leader Dorothy Johnson said it was necessary to "shut this plant down." The crowd responded, chanting, "Shut it down!" Johnson said she has been inspired by the Colt workers and Pittston Coal miners. "They're not going to stop," she said.

Carl Weinberg
New Haven, Connecticut

Zimbabwe

I subscribe to the views expressed in the September 29 *Militant* letters column by Albert Musarurwa as regards the Robert Mugabe government in Zimbabwe.

V.I. Lenin taught that we cannot inherit the bourgeois state machinery and hope that somehow it will serve our interests. The entire security and intelligence service we inherited has from 1980 been used to harass left wingers, more so because they had a vendetta against comrades who distinguished themselves as outstanding fighters in the liberation struggle against colonial settlerism.

Under the notorious, inherited state of emergency, of late the president of the Student Representative Council of the University of Zimbabwe and its secretary general were arrested, provoking a student-state confrontation leading to the

indefinite closing of the university.

Hot on that, the secretary general of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, Morgan Tsvangirai, was picked up after he condemned the closing of the university. To date we do not know of his whereabouts.

Only four months ago a Marxist-Leninist law lecturer, Comrade Makamure, was detained and his interviewers suspended from their jobs after he gave a radio interview critical of the new investment code, which seeks to further entrench capitalism by opening up the economy to large-scale rape and plunder.

Under the same state of emergency the prosecution of striking workers has become the order of the day.

To comrades in the international community our appeal is — do not be taken in by the Marxist rhetoric of this government.

Benny Moyo
Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Paperworkers vs. BE&K

Nonunion contracting work is being performed by the scab outfit BE&K Construction at the Boise Cascade paper mill in St. Helens, Oregon.

At a rally of 500 workers October 14 the president of the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers, Ferris Bryson, said, "We do not intend to ever submit to BE&K. We will resist it as long as we can breathe." He was joined on the speakers' platform by the president of the Oregon AFL-CIO, as well as Rep. Jolene Unsoeld of Washington State.

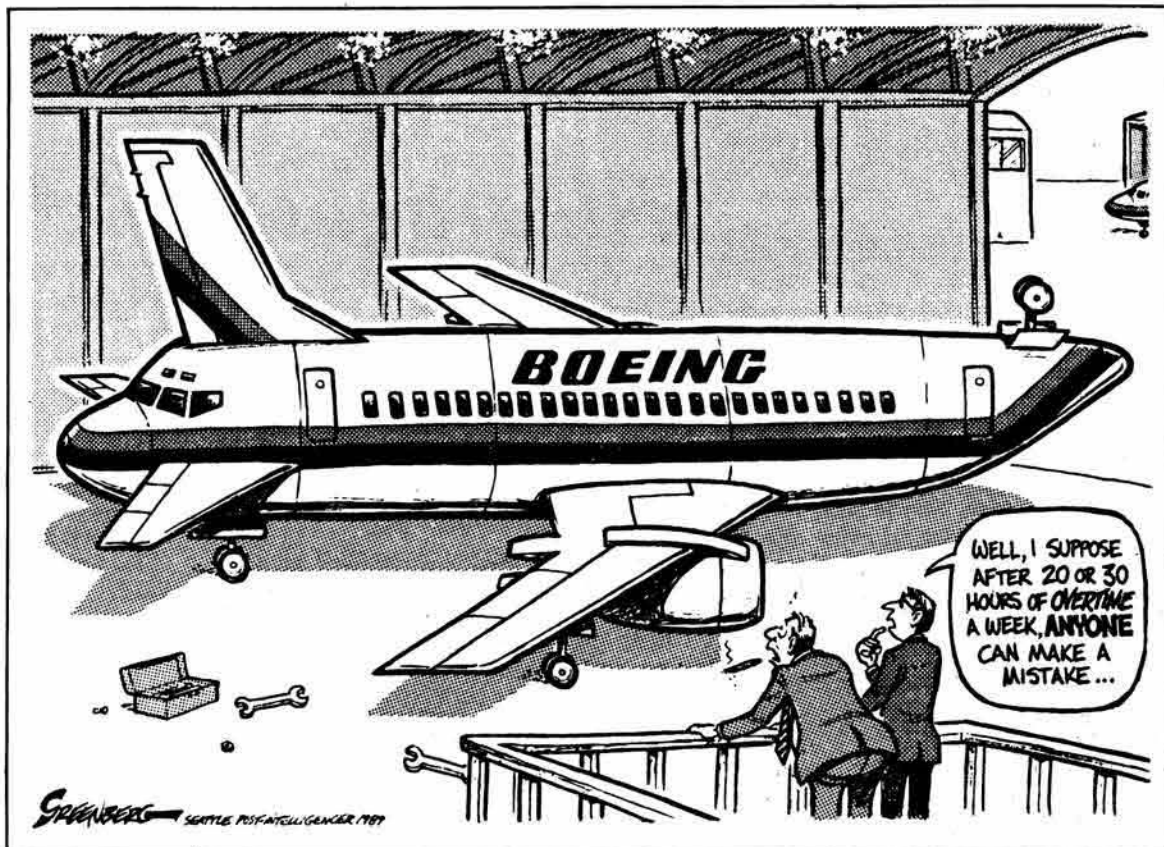
The rally drew workers from several surrounding paper mills in Oregon and southern Washington.

Brian Williams
Portland, Oregon

Imprisoned

I seek the support of your newspaper to publicize my wrongful and false imprisonment for the rape of a woman I did not commit. Hopefully support will pressure the Commonwealth of Virginia and the members of their judiciary to provide me with either a new trial or the DNA tests I hope will be conducted to exonerate me.

I was arrested in 1982 in my hometown, Washington, D.C., and charged with kidnapping while armed. The kidnapping charge was dismissed. However, I was returned to jail to be illegally extradited — abducted — to the state of Virginia for prosecution on rape, sodomy,



and firearms charges.

My trial was a farce. I was denied any chance of proving my innocence through the use of an electrophoretic blood test. The victim identified me as her assailant in court and the police blatantly lied, saying that I had confessed during interrogation. Although there is no physical evidence that implicates me as the assailant, I was convicted by a judge in a nonjury trial.

Jerry Moore
Lawrenceville, Virginia

Max Weiner

A memorial meeting to celebrate the life of Max Weiner drew 400 people October 29 at the Friends Center in Philadelphia.

Weiner was a founder and leader of the Philadelphia-based Consumer Education and Protection Association. CEPA protects people from unscrupulous practices of corporations. As a result of this work, many proposed utility rate increases were held in check.

Max was a consistent defender of civil rights. When the MOVE house was bombed by the Philadelphia police department in 1985 and 11 people killed, CEPA was one of the only groups in the city to organize demonstrations protesting the murders and exposing the real criminals. Max and CEPA were also instrumental in circulating a petition to free Ramona Africa, a MOVE mem-

ber who survived the assault.

Max had direct experience with political victimization. He was arrested in the 1940s for circulating a nominating petition to get a Progressive Party candidate on the ballot.

Max's approach was different than that of other consumer advocates. He demonstrated at corporate headquarters and city hall to protest injustices inflicted upon consumers. He also understood that the Democratic and Republican parties were no friends of working people.

Steven Halpern
Judi Chertov
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Asylum

On October 5 two asylum seekers from north Kurdistan, Siho Iyiguen and Dogan Arslan, set fire to themselves in their cell in Harmondsworth Detention Centre. Siho died later in the hospital. Dogan is in critical condition.

Siho, a 26-year-old political refugee, came to Britain in May, leaving his wife and child behind in Kurdistan. They were to join him later. After his application for asylum had been refused, he was detained at Harmondsworth.

The Home Office ignored the facts surrounding his testimony of torture and detention in Turkey and the documented evidence from the British Medical Foundation. More poignantly, they ignored his state-

ment that "only his dead body would return to Turkey."

Siho came to Britain to escape constant fear of persecution in Turkey. How disillusioned he must have been. His widow in Turkey is now left to pick up the pieces and to bring up their child alone.

We, the Siho Remembrance March Organising Committee, appeal to you for donations for Siho's widow to help alleviate the financial burdens now placed on her. Checks are payable to the Elif Iyiguen fund and should be sent to: Elif Iyiguen, c/o Liberty Hall, 489 Kingsland Rd., London E8.

Siho Remembrance March
Organising Committee
London, England

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.

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.

Bomb blast kills 10 in El Salvador National union federation's offices destroyed

BY IKE NAHEM

WASHINGTON, D.C. — At 20 minutes past noon on October 31 a powerful bomb devastated the headquarters of one of El Salvador's trade union federations in San Salvador, the country's capital.

The death toll of 10 is expected to rise as many of the 30 wounded are in critical condition.

The National Federation of Salvadoran Workers' Unions (FENASTRAS) organizes some 20,000 workers in the textile, garment, transport, construction, telecommunications, electric and water utilities, coffee processing, and fishing industries.

The union is outspoken in its opposition to U.S. intervention in El Salvador. More than 800 of its members and leaders have been assassinated since the early 1980s by right-wing death squads tied to a series of U.S.-backed governments.

Union leaders killed

Febe Elizabeth Velásquez, an internationally known leader of the Salvadoran working class, is among those who died in the bombing. A mother of three, Febe, as she was affectionately called by workers, was 35 years old.

For many years Velásquez was a textile worker and leader of the textile workers' union. She worked at a large plant in San Salvador where Levis and Calvin Klein jeans are manufactured. Workers at the plant earn \$3.00 a day.

Elected as general secretary of FENASTRAS in 1984, she played an important role in the formation of the broad-based National Unity of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS) two years later. She was currently serving on the executive committees of both federations. In 1988 she was elected international affairs director of FENASTRAS.

Another FENASTRAS leader, José Daniel Meléndez, also died in the attack. Two union officials, Enrique Díaz and Mario Palencia, were wounded.

On the same day another bomb exploded at the office of the Committee of Mothers and Family Members of Political Prisoners, Disappeared, and Assassinated of El Salvador (CoMADRES). Six people were wounded in the attack.

Appeal to international community

The day of the bombing FENASTRAS issued an "Urgent appeal to the international community" calling for the suspension of all economic aid to the Salvadoran government of Alfredo Cristiani from "the European Community, and the governments of the United States, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Canada."

The statement said the bombings were a "clear demonstration . . . that the army and security forces have initiated a fascist-style extermination plan against unionists."

Thousands of teachers and workers in the construction, water, and metal industries responded to a call by the UNTS for a 24-hour work stoppage to protest the murders.

Thousands more attended the November 2 funeral march and burial of Velásquez and the other unionists killed in the bombing.

International labor delegations from Australia, Norway, and the United States participated. Leaders of the Christian Democratic Party also joined the march.

Francisco Acosta, FENASTRAS representative for North America, said the October 31 bombing was the most serious and deadly of five separate attacks on the union headquarters over the past year.

'Engine of workers' movement'

"They have targeted us," Acosta said, "because we are the engine of the entire workers' movement in El Salvador."

On November 2 the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front suspended negotiations with the Cristiani government in protest

of the "government's responsibility in this massacre."

FENASTRAS has established a Febe Velásquez Memorial Fund. The union is seeking to raise \$300,000 to aid the families of the workers murdered and to rebuild the union headquarters.

Checks, made out to the Salvadoran Labor Fund/Febe Velásquez Memorial Fund, can be sent to: FENASTRAS, Machinists Building, Room 808, 1300 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036.

Demonstrations took place in cities across the United States to protest the bombing of the FENASTRAS headquarters. Some 150 people demonstrated in Los Angeles; more than 100 in Boston, San Francisco, and Chicago; and 75 in New York.

In Washington, D.C., 75 people rallied in front of the White House November 3. Speakers included Angela Sanbrano, national coordinator of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador; National Organi-

zation for Women Vice-president Patricia Ireland; Rev. William Sloane Coffin; David Schleim, national vice-president of the American Federation of Government Employees; and Paul Baicich, a striking Eastern worker and recording secretary of International Association of Machinists Local 796.

Baicich read a message from the local's president condemning the bombing and demanding an end to U.S. military aid to El Salvador.

"We've been on strike at Eastern for 244 days and we have sacrificed a great deal in our strike, but it is clear that unionists in El Salvador risk their very lives by being trade unionists," the statement said.

Ike Nahem is an Amtrak passenger engineer and member of United Transportation Union Local 1522. He attended the 20th congress of FENASTRAS held in San Salvador Nov. 11-12, 1988, as representative of the Washington Area Committee of the Labor Committee on Central America and the Caribbean.



Febe Elizabeth Velásquez

Nicaraguans debate end of cease-fire

BY SETH GALINSKY

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The reorganization of command structures and redeployment of troops in the northern and central parts of Nicaragua was announced by commanders of the Sandinista People's Army (EPS) soon after the November 1 suspension of the unilateral cease-fire that had been in place here since March 1988.

According to the November 2 daily *Barricada*, Maj. Daniel Pozo, head of the EPS joint chiefs of staff in the northwest, said, "We have given the order to seek out the contras, combat them, and wipe them out." There have been reports of additional call-ups of reservists in other parts of the country.

"We are not launching a large-scale offensive against the contras," army spokesperson Lt. Col. Rosa Pasos told the paper on November 4. "We are only increasing our level of activity and combat readiness."

As of November 7 few new confrontations between the army and the U.S.-backed mercenaries had been reported, and there had been no reports of increased casualties on either side.

On November 6 representatives of the contra forces agreed to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's proposal that the government and contras hold talks. They will take place November 9 and 10 at the United Nations. They will be the first such meetings since peace talks broke down in June 1988.

In a November 1 press conference Ortega indicated that the government would be willing to renew the cease-fire if there was movement toward dismantling the contra bases in Honduras and demobilizing the contras. These moves were agreed to by the five Central American presidents in an August meeting.

Role of UNO

Responding to calls by the National Opposition Union (UNO) for abolition of the military draft, Ortega stated, "If we want to save the lives of Nicaraguans, that is not done by eliminating the patriotic military service. It is done by ending the war. Without war, the military service does not risk the lives of Nicaraguan youth."

UNO is fielding Violeta Chamorro and Virgilio Godoy for president and vice-president in the February 1990 elections in Nicaragua.

At a press conference the same day, Godoy "strongly and energetically censured the government decision" to end the cease-fire. UNO spokesperson and former contra leader Alfredo César claimed that recent contra attacks

might really have been done "by the Sandinista government." These contra operations included one on October 21 when some 20 people, including army reservists, were ambushed and killed.

The UNO especially condemned what it called "the manipulation by the government and the FSLN [Sandinista National Liberation Front] of these events to justify restarting of the war" and "stealing" the elections. The FSLN often calls the contras "armed UNO activists."

'Omissions and ambiguities'

Luis Humberto Guzmán, an UNO supporter and editor of the opposition weekly *La Crónica*, warned that "the Sandinista Front has taken advantage of" infiltrations by the contras from Honduras and their acts of sabotage "not just to obtain a legitimate objective such as the demobilization of the contras, but also to try to associate the National Opposition Union with the contra forces."

But taking his distance from other mem-

bers of the opposition coalition, Guzmán said FSLN attempts to link UNO to the contras were aided by the group's mistaken "omissions and ambiguities." UNO "should not allow itself to be associated as an accomplice of those who perturb the peace and obstruct the political process," he added. "There is no doubt that the counterrevolutionary forces have never been democratic."

In a joint statement supporting the end of the cease-fire, the Sandinista Workers Federation, Association of Rural Workers, and other progovernment unions said, "Working people are ready to mobilize to the war fronts and in the streets to defend peace and the honesty and security of the electoral process against all those who try to sabotage it."

Garment workers

At the Enaves garment factory here Maritza Quintero, a sewing machine operator, said both sides were wrong. "The president of the United States should pull the

Continued on Page 13

Ohio unionists rally to support Pittston miners

BY BERNIE SENTER

ATHENS, Ohio — Unionists and other supporters of striking Pittston coal miners gathered here November 5 for a solidarity rally backed by 12 international unions and the Ohio AFL-CIO.

The action, which drew 300, was organized by United Mine Workers of America District 6 and involved miners throughout the region. Members of the United Auto Workers, United Food and Commercial Workers, United Steelworkers, and numerous other unionists participated along with students from the Ohio University campus.

Some 1,700 miners have been on strike against Pittston Coal Group since April 5 in West Virginia and Virginia. The initial walk-out was joined a few weeks later by 200 Pittston miners in Kentucky.

Addressing the rally, striker Jerry Stallard said, "With the strength you are demonstrating here in Ohio and elsewhere in the country, we can stay strong through the peaks and valleys of this strike."

Referring to Pittston's attempts to bust the union, Stallard said, "We need to nip this in the bud. If they can get away with doing this

to 1,900 miners today, 130,000 miners are next."

Rally participants noted the importance of the Pittston strike for their future. One miner from southern Ohio said, "We need to support the Pittston miners with everything we've got." Referring to the defeated strike against A.T. Massey in 1984-85, he added, "We can't afford another loss like that. It's time to deliver a message that we built this country. All we ask is for a little justice, and if we don't get it there will be some hell to pay."

Many miners at the rally had visited Camp Solidarity, a strike support camp in Virginia. Some trips have been organized by mine union locals. Other miners have gone on their own or with coworkers.

Pittston announced on November 6 that it would reinstate medical benefits to some 100 UMWA miners laid off before the strike. The agreement was reached in a case pending before U.S. District Judge Dennis Knapp.

Pittston officials, who cut off pension and medical benefits to 1,500 disabled miners and retirees before the strike began, made a point of saying the reinstatement does not mean they are guilty of unfair labor practices.