

## Salvadoran aircraft bomb civilian areas

BY GREG McCARTAN

In one of the biggest nationwide military battles in El Salvador's 10-year civil war, government aircraft have machine-gunned and bombed civilian areas.

Rebel forces have engaged government troops in open combat for nearly a week. In San Salvador, the nation's capital, the guerrillas occupy positions around the city, especially in working-class areas.

The offensive by the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, a bloc of five organizations, began November 11. At least 50 targets were attacked, 20 in the capital, including the home of President Alfredo Cristiani.

The rebel forces established an especially strong presence in the industrial city of San Miguel, the third largest town in the country.

"Everywhere we traveled we could hear gunfire," reported John Duda. A member of the Service Employees International Union from Boston, Duda was in El Salvador No-

vember 9-14 with a 10-person fact-finding team.

"There was fighting in different areas of town most of Saturday night. Sunday the whole capital was a ghost town," Duda said in a telephone interview on his return.

Public transportation was halted across the country following a call by the FMLN for a transit boycott. Fighting has been reported in eight of the country's 14 provinces.

### State of emergency declared

The government responded to the offensive by strafing neighborhoods with machine-gun fire from planes and helicopter gunships. The death toll immediately rose into the hundreds.

Sunday evening the Cristiani government declared a 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. curfew and suspended civil liberties for up to 30 days under a state of emergency.

U.S. Ambassador William Walker immediately backed the measures. They "are very temporary in nature if we can get this violence

behind us," he said.

The offensive follows the breakdown in negotiations between the rebel alliance and the government.

The 10-year civil war has led to the exile of 1 million Salvadorans and has claimed the lives of 70,000, most of whom were killed by the U.S.-backed and financed armed forces or by death squads linked to the military.

The U.S. government provides the Salvadoran government with \$1.4 million a day, mostly in military aid. Salvadoran troops are trained in the United States and there are at least 55 U.S. military "advisors" in the war-torn country.

### Little progress in negotiations

Talks between the FMLN and the government were held September 13-15 and again October 16-18. While no agreement came out of the sessions, both sides agreed to hold

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## Judge admits complicity in harm to socialists

BY NELSON GONZÁLEZ

LOS ANGELES — A federal judge has acknowledged for the first time the court's own complicity in the harm inflicted on the Socialist Workers Party by a lawsuit filed against the party 10 years ago by Alan Gelfand. Gelfand's suit is part of a broader campaign of harassment and disruption of the SWP organized by a small U.S. sect called the Workers League.

The admissions by U.S. Federal District Court Judge Mariana Pfaelzer came during a hearing held here November 13, at which the judge denied a motion by Gelfand to

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"amend" the court's "Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law" from August of this year. Pfaelzer's August decision ruled in favor of the SWP.

Both Pfaelzer's denial of Gelfand's motion and her statements accompanying that ruling mark a further victory for the constitutional right to privacy and freedom of association for working-class organizations and other groups.

Gelfand's lawsuit was filed in 1979 and went to trial before Pfaelzer in 1983. The suit charged that the SWP is run by FBI agents. Gelfand demanded that the court overturn his expulsion from the SWP and remove the party's leadership from office. U.S. Justice Department officials were also named as defendants by Gelfand in the suit.

Gelfand had been expelled from the SWP in 1979 after he filed a legal brief in federal court designed to undermine the party's lawsuit against the FBI for decades of spying and disruption. The SWP's case resulted in a historic ruling against the FBI in 1986.

### Judge admits 'bad mistake'

"I want to get something on the record," Pfaelzer said in response to an opening statement at the hearing by Gelfand's lawyer, Donald Norris.

"I made a bad mistake during the trial," the federal judge asserted. "I should have granted the defendant's motion for summary judgment six years ago," before the trial opened. ("Summary judgment" means that

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## Mass outpouring for abortion rights



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

Washington, D.C., November 12. More than one thousand actions in 150 cities defended abortion rights.

BY RONI McCANN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Supporters of a woman's right to choose abortion numbering in the hundreds of thousands filled streets and rally sites across the United States on November 12. In a simultaneous show of force, the prochoice demonstrators held more than 1,000 actions in 150 cities, from Kennebunkport, Maine, to Los Angeles in defense of abortion rights.

Buses from all over the eastern and mid-western parts of the country began rolling into Washington, D.C., at dawn — along with prochoice supporters in car caravans, trains, and planes — for what was the largest action of the day. By noon some 150,000 protesters filled the lawn facing the Lincoln Memorial and surrounded the Reflecting Pool.

"Today is historic," said National Organization for Women President Molly Yard, as she welcomed the protesters. "It marks for all of us — no turning back!"

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## Crisis shatters E. German Communist Party

BY PETER THIERJUNG

The Communist Party of East Germany, the dominant governing party in that country for more than 40 years, is racked by a crisis that threatens to destroy it and end its rule.

In an attempt to stem its further disintegration, East Germany's party leaders have adopted the *perestroika*- and *glasnost*-type policies initiated by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in the Soviet Union more than four years ago. Similar policies are being adopted by CP officials in Poland and Hungary.

"It turns out that after four decades, this party structure is very fragile. It would be very easy for it simply to be blown away by the wind," an East German CP Central Committee member told the *New York Times*.

According to a report in the *Washington Post*, there are more resignations than have

been announced. People have been chased out of their offices by angry groups in East Berlin, and senior ministers have been humiliated in front of their staffs by public denunciations, the report said.

Party officials report the party's membership dropped from 2.3 million to less than 2 million in the month of October. They expect the losses to continue.

"This time, the Soviet Army would not intervene to guard us. We are on our own and the people have shown that they don't like us at all," a Central Committee member said. He was comparing the current situation with the massive workers' uprising in 1953 when Soviet troops and tanks rescued the Communist Party's leaders and escorted them into hiding.

The collapse of the East German Communist Party as a governing instrument for the

privileged bureaucratic caste that economically and politically dominates the country comes after the exodus of tens of thousands of East Germans and after several weeks of massive protests throughout the country.

Since January more than 225,000 East Germans have emigrated, most to West Germany. The exodus swelled in September when Hungary opened its borders, allowing East Germans an open route to West Germany.

By mid-October demonstrations in East Germany began to involve hundreds of thousands, bringing down party leader and chief of state Erich Honecker. The marchers chanted "We want to stay!" and "Gorby! Gorby!" referring to Gorbachev. Protesters also chanted "On to perestroika!"

Honecker, the East German leader for 18  
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# French unions demand transformer not be returned to S. Africa

BY DEREK JEFFERS  
AND CLAUDE BLETON

SAINT OUEN, France — A 200-ton transformer, in need of repairs, from a nuclear-power plant in South Africa was the subject of protests here at the GEC Alsthom transformer factory.

The GEC Alsthom plant employs some 2,000 workers and is located just outside of Paris. Workers at the factory are organized by the General Confederation of Labor (CGT) and the French Democratic Confederation of Labor (CFDT). When the broken transformer arrived from the Koeberg nuclear-power plant located 20 miles outside of Capetown, South Africa, both unions initiated protests.

Union members called on GEC Alsthom to respect international economic sanctions against the apartheid government of South Africa and not send the transformer back.

Management responded by demanding that all anti-apartheid materials be removed from union bulletin boards inside the plant. The unions ignored the order.

Instead, the unions went ahead with a two-week program to educate about apartheid. An anti-apartheid display, furnished by the African National Congress, was put up in the factory cultural center. Lunch-hour showings of an anti-apartheid film took place. The highlight of the program was to be a visit by ANC representative Solly Smith on October 12 to address workers at the cultural center. The center is run by elected union officials, and frequently outside speakers are invited to give presentations.

GEC Alsthom management then refused the ANC representative permission to speak to workers in the plant library and cultural center. In response, more than 100 workers walked out of the plant on October 12 for 15



Militant  
Union members took anti-apartheid posters and used them to cover a transformer from a South African nuclear plant. Unit had been sent to their factory in France for repairs.

minutes to listen to the ANC leader at the plant gate. Management mobilized more than a dozen guards and plainclothes police to stand at the gates. The head of personnel watched from the guard booth and refused to answer questions from the half dozen journalists on the scene.

ANC leader Smith began by thanking the workers for their action against the transformer and then gave an update on the struggle against apartheid inside South Africa.

The rally continued for close to an hour as workers used their lunch break to stay longer. Union members were pleased with the turnout, given that company officials tried to

dissuade workers from attending.

Efforts continue to get out the word about the presence of the Koeberg transformer. Smith announced at a later meeting in Saint Ouen that the protest actions taken by the GEC Alsthom workers received press coverage in South Africa.

The CGT and the CFDT launched a jointly-sponsored petitioning campaign to demand that the company refuse to return the transformer to the apartheid regime.

*Derek Jeffers and Claude Bleton are members of the CGT at the Saint Ouen GEC Alsthom plant.*

## Israel jails rights activist

BY HARRY RING

Shawan Jabarin, a Palestinian human rights worker who was savagely beaten by Israeli soldiers, has been sentenced to a one-year term of administrative detention.

Such detention is ordered without trial or charges. A year at a time, it can be extended indefinitely at the will of authorities.

In a telephone interview from Jerusalem, Jabarin's lawyer, Leah Tsemel, said the military order for Jabarin's detention was issued October 22. He was beaten and arrested October 10.

Tsemel, a noted Israeli civil rights attorney, said that while no charges have been made against Jabarin, officials have made it known that they consider him a major leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, an affiliate of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and a very active figure in the current Palestinian uprising.

And, Tsemel added, "they say — correctly — that he's a very popular figure among Palestinians."

Jabarin, 29, is a staff worker for al-Haq, the Palestinian human rights organization based in the West Bank. He has done extensive documentation of Israeli atrocities against Palestinians.

Last year he was held for nine months without charges at the notorious Ketzioz prison camp in the Negev desert.

On October 4, in his absence, soldiers smashed into his home near the West Bank town of Hebron. They seized affidavits he had compiled from Palestinians who had been brutalized by Israeli troops. They also

took photos he had collected of the victims.

On October 10 they returned and seized Jabarin. They beat him so badly he had to be sent to a major hospital in Jerusalem for treatment.

Tsemel succeeded in interviewing him briefly in the hospital. In an affidavit he gave her, Jabarin said the soldiers called him a dog and burned his body with a cigarette. They stuffed a cloth in his mouth to muffle his screams.

Forced to the floor, Jabarin said, one soldier stepped on his hands, chest, and head. Then, "The soldier grabbed on to something located above him and began to jump on me."

"Blood was dripping from my mouth. . . . Blood was dripping from my back, face, nose, shoulder, chest."

Tsemel said that after a half day in the hospital they returned Jabarin to prison.

Since then she has seen Jabarin once, and one of her staff has seen him a second time. She said Jabarin is "all right."

Tsemel is filing a legal challenge against Jabarin's detention.

She said the case had drawn wide attention in Israel and that numerous articles have appeared in the media.

Protests have begun to be registered. Among these, Tsemel said, has been a letter from former U.S. president James Carter.

Demands that Jabarin be freed and that those responsible for brutalizing him be brought to justice should be addressed, she said, to Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, West Jerusalem, Israel.

## Quake leaves workers homeless

BY ANDREW HUNT

WATSONVILLE, Calif. — The powerful earthquake that struck Northern California last month hit working people hardest in this town of 30,000 people, 60 percent of whom are Latino. The damage left 1,200 homeless, with 195 homes, 106 mobile homes, and 3 apartment buildings destroyed.

Many businesses downtown are boarded up, leaving workers out of jobs until they reopen. Work is slow in the frozen food packinghouses and farms in the surrounding Pajaro Valley, the economic lifeblood of the town.

Three hundred of those left homeless are living in a tent city in Callaghan Park. Most of the residents are farm workers or cannery workers and their families. Almost all are Mexican.

The tent city was set up because of the lack of privacy, restrictions, and callous treatment at the official Red Cross and National Guard-run shelter, Ramsey Park.

"They treat people like criminals" at Ramsey Park, a volunteer worker from Santa Cruz said. "Then, they put them in hotels with a week's rent and leave them with no

way to pay afterward. Just dump them."

"The city council seems more interested in rebuilding businesses downtown than helping these people," said another relief worker. "The Salinas Elks Club came here and fed 2,200 people. A city councilman told them to get out and not come back."

Although more than half of Watsonville's residents speak Spanish, it took city officials a week to post warning signs in Spanish on condemned buildings.

At Callaghan Park residents cook their own food, organize security, and clean the camp. They also organize to meet with city officials to put pressure on them to meet their needs. Volunteer workers are mostly from churches or people who come on their own. The tent city is funded by donations from churches and individuals.

The Red Cross refuses to recognize Callaghan Park as an official shelter and the city wants its residents to move to the official ones.

"If this were a whites-only tent city, the Red Cross would be here working their butts off," tent city resident Enrique Alvarez told the San Jose Mercury News.

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# Cuban author kicks off tour in Montréal

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — Cuban economist Carlos Tablada, author of the new Pathfinder book, *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*, spoke on a platform here November 5, with a wide range of speakers who had come to celebrate the book's publication in English. It was originally published in Spanish in Cuba as *El pensamiento económico de Ernesto Che Guevara*. The book launching was hosted by the Pathfinder Bookstore in Montréal.

Hours before the meeting, Tablada had arrived from Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he was part of a delegation of some 40 Cubans who participated in the November 1-4 international conference "Thirty Years of the Cuban Revolution: An Assessment."

The Montréal meeting to promote the book was the second in a series of four organized by Pathfinder in Canada. Two hundred of the Halifax conference participants attended a reception and book launching with Tablada during the conference. Other launchings are

scheduled for Toronto and Vancouver. Tablada's two-week cross-Canada tour is taking him to eight cities and 12 university campuses.

## Che's ideas relevant today

At the Montréal meeting, which drew some 100 people, chairperson Michel Dugré, an executive member of the Québec-Cuba friendship society, pointed to the Halifax conference and Tablada's tour as a blow to the U.S. government's efforts to isolate and bury the truth about the Cuban revolution.

Michel Prairie, editor of the new French-language Pathfinder pamphlet *Le Socialisme et l'homme à Cuba* (Socialism and man in Cuba) by Ernesto Che Guevara, stressed the need to get out the facts about the interconnection between the deepening of the Cuban revolution today and Guevara's ideas.

Chengiah Ragaven, representative of the African National Congress of South Africa, focused on the decisive role of Cuban troops in defeating South African forces in Angola

last year. "Cuba's role in Africa is in the spirit of Che Guevara's ideas," he said. "I want to personally thank Carlos Tablada for his book, which is a powerful tool for the liberation of our country."

"Che explains that building a new society is a question of consciousness, and not just the distribution of riches," said Fred Michel, speaking on behalf of the executive body of the Québec-Cuba friendship society. "The ideas of Che are one of the elements of the rectification process in Cuba today. Cuba is going in the right direction because Che is not dead. He is still living."

The rectification process was launched three years ago by the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba to overcome, through the mobilization of Cuban working people, the problems of growing bureaucracy, inefficiency, and declining political consciousness.

In hailing the publication of the book, Guy Roumer, Montréal correspondent for the New York-based newspaper *Haiti Progrès*, said the Cuban road was the one needed by the Haitian people for their liberation.



Mel Rosenthal  
Carlos Tablada, author of book on Che Guevara, is on an eight-city tour of Canada.

## Socialist meeting to discuss activities in the coalfields

BY GREG McCARTAN

The first of three political conferences hosted by the Socialist Workers Party in late November and early December will take place in St. Louis, November 24-26. The conference will be held at the Sheraton-St. Louis Hotel.

Attended by socialist activists from the Appalachian and western coal mining regions, as well as the South and Midwest, the weekend will open with a public forum Friday evening. Jack Barnes, National Secretary of the SWP, will present a talk entitled, "The 'Failure of Socialism' and the Future of Communism."

John Gaige, SWP national trade union director, will open the meeting Saturday with a presentation on the "Changing Patterns of U.S. Politics." The report and discussion will focus on developments in the U.S. class struggle, the rise in labor militancy today, and the significant links between the Eastern Airlines strike and resistance in the coal fields, which centers on support to the Pittston strike.

The strengthening of the work of socialist activists in coal mining areas will be the theme of a report presented Sunday by Mary Zins from St. Louis. She is a coal miner and member of the United Mine Workers of America.

Zins has participated, along with other miners, in the caravans, rallies, and other activities in support of the UMWA strike against Pittston Coal Group. Over the past several months socialist activists have sought

to broaden support for the miners' fight in the labor movement, increase circulation of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* among miners, and take steps to reinforce socialist forces in the coal fields.

An "International Rally for Justice" sponsored by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee will be a special event Saturday evening. Curtis is a union meatpacker and political activist framed-up on phony rape and burglary charges. He is now serving a 25-year sentence in Anamosa Prison in Iowa. (See page 12 for information on the rally.)

"Conversations on Contemporary Cuban Art," a program featuring Cuban artist Aldo Soler, will take place Sunday afternoon. Soler is on a tour of several U.S. cities after painting the portraits of Karl Marx and Cuban President Fidel Castro on the Pathfinder Mural in New York City.

A conference in New York City for socialists on the East Coast will take place December 2-3. Socialists in California, the Pacific Northwest, and Southwest will attend a conference in San Francisco, December 9-10.

Both the New York and San Francisco meetings will begin Saturday morning. The public forums in both cities will take place Saturday evening.

The three gatherings will coincide with three conferences sponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance in St. Louis, New York, and San Francisco. The meeting in St. Louis will take place Sunday, November 26, at 8:30 a.m. at the Sheraton-St. Louis Hotel.

## Discussion welcomed

Greetings were read to the meeting from Claude Morin, a professor from the University of Montréal; Nicaraguan ambassador to Canada, Sergio Lacayo; and Jean-Claude Parrot, president of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers.

"This book no doubt will have an important role to play in shaping the debate on understanding the struggle for socialism in Cuba and in clarifying our appreciation of events in other 'socialist' states where discussion sharpens daily on such subjects as the role of 'profit,' of the market, of incentive systems and of economic planning," said Parrot in his greetings.

Suzanne Dagenais, manager of the Nouvelles Frontières bookstore, distributor of Progress Publishers in Québec, also emphasized the Tablada book's contribution to the discussion on the future of socialism in the world. "I want to thank Pathfinder for inviting me to participate in this meeting," she said. "This kind of collaboration should continue. These complex questions need to be discussed. People look at Poland, Hungary, and the Soviet Union and say socialism is dead. But events in these countries show that Marxism is alive and is not frozen. There is a debate on the role of the market and Carlos Tablada has helped contribute to this debate."

Mary-Alice Waters, from Pathfinder New York and the editor of the Pathfinder book by Cuban President Fidel Castro *In Defense of Socialism*, explained that Marxism is "not a set of ideas, but the generalization of the experience of the working class as it struggles to advance along its historic line of march." She underlined that in rejecting the methods

of capitalism such as the market economy, Cuba was advancing where "no revolution had gone before." She described the rectification process in Cuba as "a profoundly working-class mass movement" that shows the capacity of working men and women to build a society based on human solidarity and transform themselves as they do it.

Following Waters' presentation, Tablada was introduced by Lourdes Urrutia, consul general of Cuba in Montréal. She pointed out that the Tablada book had already been published in several other languages in many editions and in many countries. It is a best seller in Cuba with 250,000 copies sold, she said.

"This is one of the most beautiful meetings I have ever participated in," Tablada said, commenting on the multinational composition of the audience that received translation in English, Spanish, and French. "This meeting is an example of how Che still lives, of Che's vision of a humanity without borders."

"Since the time of Lenin, Marxism in the socialist countries has become uncreative and dogmatic," Tablada noted. "It came prepackaged to Cuba as though all problems had already been solved."

He said that between 1975 and 1985 Cuba had copied this "prepackaged" Marxism from Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. "We are correcting our errors through the rectification process," he explained, "by discussing and understanding the ideas of Che" that were promoted in the early years of the Cuban revolution.

On the Montréal leg of the tour, Tablada spoke to 65 students and professors at meetings at McGill University, the University of Montréal, and the University of Québec in Montréal.

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ST. LOUIS:

Speaker: **Jack Barnes** National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party  
Friday, November 24, 7:30 p.m.  
Sheraton-St. Louis Hotel — West Ballroom  
910 North 7th St. (near Convention Center)

NEW YORK:

**Doug Jenness** Editor of the *Militant*  
Saturday, December 2, 7:00 p.m.  
Public School 11, 314 West 21 St.  
(between 8th & 9th aves., Manhattan)

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA:

**Mary-Alice Waters** Editor of *New International*  
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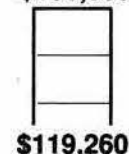
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To carry out its ambitious program of publishing and promotion of revolutionary books and pamphlets, Pathfinder needs financial support from people like yourself.

In August a \$150,000 fund was established to help get into print a book on the rectification process in Cuba, a volume in the series *The Communist International in Lenin's Time*, and French-language editions of *Thomas Sankara Speaks* and *Socialism and Man in Cuba*, by Che Guevara and Fidel Castro.

So far \$119,260 has been collected. The deadline for completing the fund is December 1. Please contribute as generously as possible.

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# Salt Lake NAACP endorses Curtis defense effort

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

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

Curtis' fight for justice also won support at the Utah state conference of the National Organization for Women and at the state's Hispanic conference.

Many members of the Utah state National Organization for Women were familiar with the case and 24 signed a petition protesting Iowa prison authorities' denial of non-En-

sought to unify workers in a fight for better conditions in a hazardous industry.

When thousands marched for abortion rights in cities across Canada last month, two Curtis supporters in Toronto gathered 99 signatures on petitions. Many people readily signed when it was explained that Curtis' fight to receive correspondence and publications in languages other than English was a prisoners' rights issue and that Curtis himself is a frame-up victim. Some unionists attending the action also signed.

Curtis supporters set up a literature table at a recent statewide abortion rights action in Trenton, New Jersey. The protest drew several thousand demonstrators. Eighteen abortion rights activists signed petitions protesting the non-English ban at Curtis' prison. A member of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador decided to become an endorser of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

At an earlier New Jersey state

NOW conference, eight participants signed the petition and many others stopped by a literature table to pick up defense committee materials.

The following message was received by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee in Des Moines: "At our meeting tonight, the branch decided to support the campaign for justice for Mark Curtis.

"Every struggle against injustice is a sign of hope for all people who suffer oppression and discrimination throughout the world.

"By supporting campaigns like Mark's, as well as defending our own union members, we hope to broaden our participation in the struggle for a better world.

"In solidarity, P. Holmes, branch president, and E.J. Cox, branch secretary."

The message came from the Sheffield, England, branch of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (Engineering Section).

An international campaign is being conducted by the Mark Cur-

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

You can help in this fight by sending a protest message of your own or from your organization to: John A. Thalacker, Warden, Iowa State Men's Reformatory, Anamosa, Iowa 52205.

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

Nancy Boyasko and Steve Warshell from Salt Lake City, Utah; Dave Hurst from Newark, New Jersey; and Lynda Little from Toronto contributed to this week's column.

## DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

help, write to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311; telephone (515) 246-1695.

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

The Executive Board of the Salt Lake National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has endorsed the Mark Curtis defense campaign. Lenoris Bush, a leader of the Utah NAACP branch, now plans a showing for NAACP members of the video produced by Nick Castle, Jr., *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis*.

English materials and correspondence to Curtis and other inmates. The petition also protested restrictions on prisoners' rights to share literature. Among the signers were NOW's Southwest Regional Director Luci Malin and National NOW Executive Vice-president Patricia Ireland.

About 18 people signed a similar petition at the Hispanic conference. At both conferences several members of the Utah Injured Workers Association, an organization aiding disabled workers affiliated with the AFL-CIO, signed the petition. They identified with Curtis because they learned he was a meat-packer who

# Judge admits complicity in 10 year harassment suit

Continued from front page  
the judge would have dismissed Gelfand's suit without a trial based on lack of evidence.)

"I believed at the time of the trial that I should have granted the motion for summary judgment," Pfaelzer said, "but I wanted to give the plaintiff [Gelfand] every opportunity to put on his case.

"But I want to get on the record that I never believed that the evidence presented by Mr. Gelfand raised true material facts."

### Harassment of SWP

Later in the hearing, Pfaelzer told the SWP's attorney David Epstein, "I have always believed that there is more to this case than just a lawsuit."

Gelfand's case, the judge said, "is groundless, and always was. A lot of it was simply harassment. There is evidence to back that up."

Pfaelzer told Epstein that she found this case "painful, because it cost your client so much money. All the trips [back and forth to Los Angeles for various legal proceedings] were a drain on the party treasury," she said.

"I allowed Mr. Gelfand to carry out extensive pretrial discovery procedures. I refused the defendant's motion for summary judgment."

Epstein replied, "That is correct. The aim of the suit was to harm a political party. And this motion before us today is an effort to abuse the court process in the same way as was done throughout the entire case."

After allowing the U.S. Justice Department attorney to make a brief statement, Pfaelzer declared Gelfand's motion denied.

### Workers League disruption effort

Gelfand's suit against the SWP has been supported and financed from the start by the

Workers League. This outfit has become known and increasingly despised for its disruptive activities in the labor movement — against striking copper miners, packinghouse workers, paper workers, coal miners, and others.

The Workers League is currently on a campaign to lend credence to the police frame-up of packinghouse worker, unionist, and political activist Mark Curtis. The group and its collaborators around the world actively seek to disrupt the Mark Curtis Defense Committee's work.

On Aug. 15, 1989, Pfaelzer issued written findings affirming her oral decision against Gelfand at the close of the 1983 trial. Pfaelzer's findings stated that Gelfand had no evidence to back up any of his accusations and that his motive 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." Pfaelzer concluded that Gelfand's "initiation of this litigation was not in good faith."

The final judgment by Pfaelzer was signed and filed on September 29. As part of the judgment, the SWP was awarded some of its court costs. A court administrator subsequently awarded the SWP more than \$5,000, despite objections filed by Gelfand's attorney. An immediate result of the November 13 victory is that the SWP and its attorneys can now begin efforts to collect the \$5,000 from Gelfand.

Earlier this year, another victory was registered by an out-of-court settlement in which the SWP recovered from Gelfand's previous lawyers part of the money the party has had to lay out for attorneys' fees since the suit was filed.

That settlement lessened the financial burden on the SWP. It also serves as a deterrent to other lawyers taking similar cases that have as their sole aim the harassment and disruption of a political organization.

### Repeats old slanders

Gelfand's proposed "amendment" to Pfaelzer's August findings would have gutted and reversed the court's decision.

The legal memorandum submitted by the SWP and its attorney for the November 13 hearing explains that Gelfand's motion presents no new evidence. It only repeats his and the Workers League's political slanders and attacks against the SWP.

In presenting the motion at the hearing, Gelfand's attorney reiterated the litany of smears that form the heart of the 10-year disruption campaign.

Norris, who is a political cothinker of the Workers League, slandered Joseph Hansen, a longtime central leader of the SWP who died in 1979. Parroting Gelfand's motion, Norris claimed that Hansen had infiltrated the SWP on behalf of both the Soviet and



November 13 hearing before federal Judge Mariana Pfaelzer in Los Angeles. In front left to right are Donald Norris, Gelfand's attorney; a U.S. Justice Department lawyer; and SWP attorney David Epstein.

U.S. secret police.

Jack Barnes, the SWP's current national secretary, was complicit with Hansen, Norris charged, and is also "an agent of the government."

Norris said that Gelfand's case was "compelling," and that Pfaelzer should reconsider her ruling. Short of that, however, he requested that she at least drop the characterization of Gelfand's suit as "frivolous" and having been filed in "bad faith."

The denial of Gelfand's motion opens the next stage in the fight against the Workers League disruption effort. Gelfand now has 60 days to appeal Pfaelzer's final judgment to the federal court of appeals.

As a statement by the SWP National Committee explained in September when Pfaelzer issued her findings, the Workers League's aim in pressing the appeal "will be to continue their harassment effort, and continue to force the SWP to devote considerable time and financial resources to pay for lawyers and the costs of defending themselves.

"All defenders of democratic rights, all opponents of the use of the courts by unscrupulous lawyers to bleed and divert the resources of working-class organizations, and all who have come to recognize the impor-

tance of pushing back the disruption operations of the Workers League, have a stake in speaking out against this ongoing violation of democratic rights."

### LOS ANGELES

## The Fight Against Antilabor Disruption

Victory scored against the 10-year harassment suit by Alan Gelfand targeting the Socialist Workers Party.

Speaker

**Joel Britton**

Socialist Workers Party  
National Committee

**Tues., Nov. 21, 7 p.m.**  
**2546 W. Pico Blvd.**

Donation: \$2. Sponsored by Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

## Funds needed to defend victory in Gelfand case

Thousands of dollars will be needed to ensure that the victories won so far against the Workers League disruption effort are not overturned by the federal court of appeals.

The Socialist Workers Party is asking that contributions be made to help meet the legal and defense costs that have already begun to be incurred in fighting the Workers League's anticipated appeal of the August decision in the Gelfand case. Since the call for contributions was issued in September, \$225 has been raised from *Militant* readers; thousands of dollars more are needed.

Tax-deductible contributions can be sent to the Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc., P.O. Box 761, Church Street Station, New York, N.Y. 10007. Copies of Pfaelzer's August findings can be obtained for \$5 from PRDF at the same address.



# Yakima farm workers organize meeting for Cuban painter

BY PETER THIERJUNG

"In Cuba there is no division between artists and workers. All are equal before the world," Cuban painter Aldo Soler told a meeting of farm workers in Granger, Washington. The meeting was organized by the United Farm Workers of Washington State at their Yakima Valley headquarters at the end of October.

Soler, who is touring several U.S. cities, showed slides of Cuban art and answered questions about the Cuban revolution. "Before the triumph of the revolution almost everyone was poor," he said. "We began to create the conditions for everyone to live as human beings," he continued, explaining the revolution's achievements.

UFWWS President Tomas Villanueva interviewed Soler for Radio KDNA, which is listened to by thousands of farm workers in the area.

His meetings with the farm workers were "an activity of profound human and revolutionary content," Soler said.

In Seattle Soler spoke to a gathering of 65 people at the 911 Contemporary Arts Center. Katalina Montero, a member of the Venceremos Brigade's National Committee, welcomed Soler to Seattle and encouraged those in attendance to travel to Cuba with the brigade. The meeting was cosponsored by the center and the Pathfinder Mural Project and raised more than \$1,000.

Washington State Congressman James McDermott sent a message to Soler welcoming him to Seattle. "I applaud your participation in the Pathfinder Mural Project," the message said. "This project will bring together the portraits, and the ideals, of many who have shaped the major social impulses of our time," McDermott wrote. "The ideas of those featured in the mural transcend national boundaries and political structures. This powerful work of art reflects the resistance to oppression and exploitation that is universal to us."

In October the Cuban artist painted por-

traits of Cuban President Fidel Castro and Karl Marx on the six-story mural on the side of the Pathfinder Building in New York. Artists and muralists from around the world participated in the project which has just been completed. A dedication and celebration are slated for November 19.

From Washington state, Soler went to Chicago for a three-day tour. There he spoke to more than 80 people at the Rafael Cincurón Ortiz Cultural Center at the University of Illinois. The meeting raised \$600.

WGCI radio host Cliff Terry interviewed Soler during his call-in talk show.

At an evening reception at the Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center in Chicago's Puerto Rican community, Juan Mendez of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party's Cultural Commission, representatives of the Ruiz Belvis and Juan Antiento Corrieter Cultural Centers, and the National Committee in Support of Puerto



Tomás Villanueva, president of the United Farm Workers of Washington State (left), welcomed Cuban painter Aldo Soler.

Rican Prisoners of War made special presentations to Soler. The evening was closed by Nikho Xaba of the African National Congress of South Africa who sang the South

African warriors' song.

Matt Herreshoff from Seattle and John Votava from Chicago contributed to this article.

## New video is an introduction to mural

BY GREG McCARTAN

A video program produced by the Pathfinder Mural Project is an enjoyable, educational, professional, and artistic promotional work. It gives the viewer an appreciation of the political and artistic achievement of the six-story mural painted on the wall of the Pathfinder publishing house in New York's Greenwich Village.

"The centerpiece of the mural is a giant printing press churning out sheets of paper and books adorned with the portraits of outstanding working-class and revolutionary leaders whose speeches and writings Pathfinder publishes and promotes," explains the narrator.

Mural coordinator Malcolm McAllister produced the video. He enlisted professional help to transcribe dozens of slides of the mural, Pathfinder book covers, artists who worked on the mural, and scenes of struggling people around the world onto the videotape.

Pathfinder Mural Project supporters Claudia Hommel, Selva Nebbia, and John Staggs narrate the 38-minute show. Background music from different countries and eras, coordinated with each portion of the video, effectively adds to the content of the presentation.

The video opens explaining, "Pathfinder has emerged over the last 30 years as a major publisher of the modern world's revolutionary leaders, presenting the ideas of Fidel Castro, Malcolm X, and the Sandinistas of Nicaragua in their own words. These books reach young fighters all around the world."

The program begins with slides of the civil rights movement; the fight against the U.S. war in Vietnam; scenes of the Cuban, Nicaraguan, and Grenadian revolutions; the struggle against the apartheid regime in South Africa; the fight for women's equality; and resistance to union-busting and other attacks on the rights and living standards of workers and working farmers in the United States and around the world.

'Possible and timely'

These "developments have fundamentally altered U.S. and world politics and make the Pathfinder mural both possible and timely," explains the narrator. These social struggles are also the reason for the expansion of Pathfinder's publishing program, and the receptivity to the books by fighters around the world.

The second portion of the program focuses on the major portraits on the mural — with a photo and description of the person depicted and the struggle he or she led, the Pathfinder books that contain their writings and speeches, and information on the artist who painted the portrait and samples of their other work.

For example, one segment explains, "Revolutionary Cuba's refusal to bend to the dictates of Washington has given it tremendous moral and political authority among fighters for national liberation and socialism the world over." The video shows the range of titles by Pathfinder on the Cuban revolution.

The respect Cuba has earned is also based on its advances and its unstinting internationalist actions, the narrator points out.

"This internationalist spirit was embodied by the Argentine-born leader of the Cuban revolution, Ernesto Che Guevara." The narrator briefly recounts Guevara's role in the guerrilla struggle against Fulgencio Batista's dictatorship in Cuba, his leadership of the revolutionary government, and his internationalism.

Pathfinder publishes two books that shed light on Guevara's approach on the building of socialism — *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution* and *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*.

The Pathfinder mural portrait of Guevara was painted by the well-known Argentine artist Ricardo Carpani, whose artistic and political background is described in the video.

Nelson Mandela

The video similarly describes African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, painted by ANC artist Dumile Feni; working-class and communist leaders James P. Cannon and Farrell Dobbs, who were both founders of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States, painted by Bob Allen; Nicaraguan revolutionary leaders Augusto César Sandino and Carlos Fonseca, painted by Arnaldo Guillén of Nicaragua; working-class leader and founder of scientific socialism Frederick Engels, painted by Iranian-born artist Marjan Hormozi; and the other major portraits on the mural.

The narration continues, "Fighting peoples of the world are another of the mural's themes. They represent the ordinary people fighting for social justice today and in years past."

## Turkish group hosts London meeting for Pathfinder Mural Project

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — Thirty-five Turkish workers saw the Pathfinder mural video at a showing hosted by the Turkish Education Group here November 12. A majority of the 35 had been in Britain just a few months and spoke little English. Most work in the garment industry or in Turkish restaurants; a few are students. A number are members of the Turkish political party, Revolutionary Path. There are more than 100,000 Turkish workers in London.

The video and the talk by London mural promoter Denny Fitzpatrick that followed were translated into Turkish.

There was an enthusiastic welcome for Fitzpatrick's argument that the mural, and the popularity of books and pamphlets published by Pathfinder, give the lie to the claim of the British government and others that socialist ideas are dead. "In the world that's developing, socialist ideas will have greater meaning and be more relevant," she said.

The portraits and short biographical information on some of the scores of leaders depicted in the crowd scene are then reviewed.

50 artists from 15 countries

At the end of the video, Sam Manuel, the mural project's director, points out the work "is one of the broadest political and artistic projects of this type ever attempted. Nearly 50 artists from 15 countries have made it a truly international effort. When complete, it will be one of the largest, multifaceted political murals in the world."

Dumile Feni describes the conversations he has had with groups of people who have given an enthusiastic response to the mural and Pathfinder books. He says discussions are provoked "about the people in the struggle for a better world" who are depicted in the mural. "This is truly an effort that all of us should participate in and support," he urges.

To complete the mural "your support and generous donations are needed," mural fund director Mark Severs explains. Financed almost entirely by individual contributions, every donation helps, he points out.

The video is an excellent introduction to the mural and to the books Pathfinder publishes. A history lesson in itself, this professionally assembled promotional piece for the mural and Pathfinder can be used by supporters of the mural project and the "fighting people" of today who want to learn about the history of struggle for the emancipation of humanity.

To order the video send \$25 to Pathfinder Mural Project, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

In a lively discussion that followed, several people asked why there were no Turkish or Kurdish fighters in the mural. One mural supporter replied that this was not meant as a slight to workers and farmers in Turkey or Kurdistan, but stemmed from the organizers' lack of knowledge about the struggles in these countries. This prompted a member of the Turkish group to say that it was the responsibility of people from the area themselves to bring the names and faces of such fighters to the attention of the mural organizers.

One participant said, "If this video showing had happened a couple of months ago, there would have been such people in the mural and we could have organized people from Turkey or Kurdistan to paint them."

A collection was held and £18.50 (US\$30) was raised for the mural project. There was much activity around the Pathfinder Bookshop stall too and £21 worth of literature was purchased.

## CELEBRATE THE COMPLETION OF THE PATHFINDER MURAL



SUNDAY, NOV. 19

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**DEDICATION AT MURAL SITE: 1:30PM PATHFINDER BUILDING, CORNER OF CHARLES AND WEST STREETS, MANHATTAN**  
With folk singer **PETE SEEGER** / **PAUL O'DWYER** former N.Y. City Council president / **CHRISTINE VOGEL**, Newark Arts Council

**BENEFIT PROGRAM: 3:00PM AT WESTBETH GALLERY, 55 BETHUNE ST. (3 BLOCKS NORTH OF MURAL)** Program: **ALDO SOLER**, Cuban artist / performance by **WOMEN OF THE CALABASH** / mural project director **SAM MANUEL** / **SANDY BOYER**, Irish Arts Center / **TEBOGO MAFOLE**, chief representative of ANC mission to UN.  
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# Portland Boeing strikers lend Eastern fight a hand

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

## SUPPORT EASTERN STRIKERS!

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

Since July Eastern has been trying to restart operations. By November 1 it was scheduling 775 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.

Boeing strikers and members of the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers (AWPPW) joined other unionists at a picket of two hiring sessions set up by Eastern to recruit scab mechanics in Portland November 9. Pickets far outnumbered would-be applicants.

"We're trying to remind people they would be hired to replace workers on strike," explained Jack Elliott,

a striking Eastern flight attendant. Local newspapers and television and radio stations covered the protest.

Ten members of IAM Local 63, on strike at Boeing's parts plant in Portland, helped distribute leaflets about the Eastern strike. Mechanics from United Airlines also joined the picket, along with meat-packers, garment workers, rail workers,

postal workers, and others.

More than 20 members of the AWPPW joined the afternoon picket line during a break in a meeting to discuss upcoming contracts with Boise Cascade and Weyerhaeuser forest products companies. They represented 10 locals in Oregon and Washington. One paperworker was from Everett, Washington, where one of the biggest Boeing plants now

on strike is located. The need for solidarity among all unions was a major topic of discussion on the picket line, and AWPPW members took leaflets for the Boeing strikers' Hardship Food Bank.

Boeing Machinists and AWPPW members at the picket signed messages of support for the Eastern and Pittston strikes. More than 50 other Boeing strikers added their names later that day when they gathered to collect their weekly strike benefits.

"Students... Flying home for the holidays? Please don't fly Eastern or Continental airlines." That's the headline of a leaflet issued by Frontlash AFL-CIO in Massachusetts urging the 200,000 students in that state to support the fight at Eastern. The leaflet explains the issues in the strike and why young people have a stake in defending unions. Frontlash is the youth affiliate of the AFL-CIO.

The appeal comes at a time when Eastern and Continental will be pushing low fares to attract students.

Eastern strikers and supporters began to get the word out on the student campaign by speaking at campuses in the Boston area, leafletting the many buses headed for the November 12 abortion rights rally in Washington, D.C., and contacting local media.

The North Shore Labor Council AFL-CIO is sponsoring three labor solidarity rallies in November to back workers on strike at Eastern, NYNEX telephone company, and Kraft Warehouse. The Kraft strikers

are in the Teamsters union. On November 17, unionists will rally in Lynn at the NYNEX telephone building; on November 20, at Kraft warehouse; and at Logan International Airport on November 22.

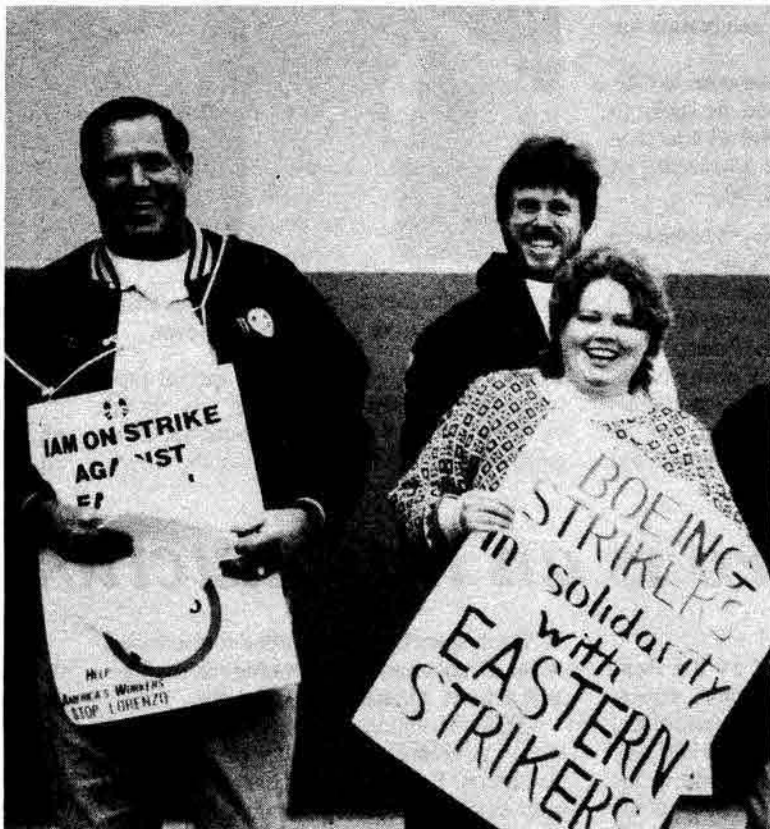
Some 45 unionists joined a November 1 picket line at Greater Cincinnati International Airport November 1 to protest the start-up of three flights by Continental Airlines. Both Eastern and Continental are owned by Texas Air Corp., headed by Frank Lorenzo.

The action was called on short notice by the Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council. Eastern has no flights into Cincinnati and Continental had discontinued flights several years ago.

Jerry Buty, Eastern strike coordinator from Columbus, was joined at the protest by other Machinists union members, auto workers, teachers, carpenters, hospital workers, and other unionists. They distributed leaflets urging people not to fly Continental.

Dan Radford, executive secretary-treasurer of the Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council, announced that the council will hold periodic airport protests and organize holiday fund-raising activities for Eastern and Pittston strikers.

Striking IAM Local 1726 member Maggie Pucci from Boston contributed to this column, along with Connie Allen from Portland and Val Libby from Cincinnati.



Unionists picket Eastern hiring session in Portland, Oregon.

# Florida unions organize solidarity rally in Miami

BY PETE SEIDMAN

MIAMI — The headquarters of International Association of Machinists Local 702, on strike at Eastern Airlines, is covered with signs that say, "They are coming."

"They" are the hundreds of supporters who will be coming to Miami November 19 to participate in a statewide march and rally in solidarity with the strikes at Eastern, Boeing,

and Pittston Coal company.

Members of Local 702's Outreach Committee have been building the action throughout Florida.

The Orlando Central Labor Council is sending a busload of striking Eastern workers and supporters. The council also donated \$500 after an appeal for help by Local 702 members.

In Titusville IAM Local 2383, which organizes workers at the McDonnell Douglas plant near Cape Canaveral, also voted funds to send a bus to the Miami march.

Machinists Local 971 at the large Pratt & Whitney plant in West Palm Beach gave \$600 and is chartering a bus. At a November 10 plant-gate collection to raise funds for the strike, Pratt & Whitney workers warmly wel-

comed a team of three Local 702 strike activists and donated more than \$200.

The IAM's Naval Air Local 1630 in Jacksonville reports that several carloads of Machinists plan to make the 11-hour drive to Miami for the march.

In Miami 25 Eastern strikers joined United Farm Workers union members in a "Walk for Justice" November 11. The next day strikers spoke to 2,000 participants at an American Postal Workers Union picnic.

Local 702 members have addressed some two dozen union and community meetings to urge support for the statewide march.

The Machinists local is sending out a 7,000-piece mailing to all its members and retirees, signed by IAM District 100 President Charles Bryan and Local 702 President Frank Ortis.

An October 23 demonstration of 1,500 Eastern strikers and supporters in Miami "was a tremendous success," the letter says, "and we must continue to build on that momentum."

The day before the demonstration, Local 702 is sponsoring a "Camp Solidarity — Miami" at its headquarters on NW 36th Street and Sheridan Drive. Plans for the day include expanded picket lines at Miami International Airport. A contingent of United Mine Workers members on strike at Pittston Coal will be coming down for the weekend's activities.

The November 18-19 activities are sponsored by the Florida State AFL-CIO; the South Florida AFL-CIO; Transport Workers Union Local 553, representing Eastern's striking flight attendants; and Air Line Pilots Association Local Executive Council 18.

The Miami march and rally come on the heels of several announcements confirming the continued impact of the eight-month-long strike on Eastern's attempts to rebuild as a nonunion carrier.

On November 7 Eastern informed the creditors committee that it is \$200 million short in its financial projections and will not emerge from bankruptcy until spring at the earliest, having requested bankruptcy court approval for a 60-day extension of its reorganization plan. Eastern filed for bankruptcy on March 9, five days after the strike began; its "reorganization" plan originally called for coming out of bankruptcy proceedings in December.

## Strikers counter Boeing drive against union

BY KAREN RAY

SEATTLE — On Monday mornings dozens of strike volunteers turn out to strengthen the picket lines at Boeing's plant gates.

The volunteers go to the gates through which they had driven to work before the strike started October 4. They watch to see if anyone they know has crossed the picket line. This doesn't happen often. When a striker does spot someone, shouts of "scab, go home" fill the air.

Since negotiations between the International Association of Machinists and Boeing broke off November 4, more strikers are concerned that scabbing will increase. Many fear that financial pressures will push some strikers to return to work.

As of now, IAM officials estimate that 1 percent of union members have crossed; the company says the figure is 4 percent. There are 43,000 IAM members on strike at Boeing plants in the Seattle area.

When talks broke off, the company — with the aid of the big-business media — launched a campaign calling on union members to demand a vote on the contract rejected by union negotiators. Boeing immediately took out full-page ads in eight papers in the Seattle area; Portland, Oregon; and Wichita, Kansas — the three centers of the strike.

"We believe your bargaining committee should give you the opportunity to vote on this contract," Boeing's ad said, referring to their November 4 offer.

While the latest offer included increased year-end bonuses, it cut the cost-of-living adjustment and medical benefits. It left the same general wage increase as in the proposal that was overwhelmingly rejected by Boeing workers October 3.

"The company is trying to undermine us," said IAM District 751 President Tom Baker,

in response to Boeing's call for a vote. "The company is making an effort to make our people crawl back to work."

"The company arrogantly came up with a revised offer that is essentially the same proposal as the October 3 one and that has, in fact, some takeaways," explained a letter from the IAM to union members.

### Some impact

The company ads had an impact on some union members, however. On November 7 a group of 43 workers went to the union hall in Everett, where one of Boeing's biggest plants is located, and demanded a vote. After a discussion with other union members, many left agreeing that the company's proposal to vote on their latest offer was a move to divide the union. Others said they were going to start a petition campaign to demand a vote on the November 4 proposal.

On November 8 a group of picket captains and volunteers organized a demonstration of 150 strikers at Boeing's corporate headquarters. They chanted, "It's union time, not overtime" and "Kingdome no, bargaining table yes." The Kingdome is the stadium where the contract votes are held.

Spirits were high at the rally. For many, it was their first strike activity outside their assigned picket duty. Some protesters said they planned to help on other strike activities.

The next day flyers were handed out by the union at the distribution centers where thousands of strikers come to pick up their strike benefit checks. Boeing wants "you back, but at the cheapest possible price," the flyer said. "We'll go back, but with dignity and a just offer!"

Another leaflet was handed out by union members organizing for a vote and a return

to work. "No one really wants to be a scab," their flyer said. "However, in coming weeks, many are going to be financially forced to make a very hard decision to hold out or go back — that's reality!"

The largest union meetings since the strike began took place November 8 and 9, with more than 1,200 members turning out. The meetings registered the solid determination of most strikers to resist the company's pressure campaign. Plans were made to continue the expanded picket lines on Mondays.

### Technical workers

In another challenge to the strike, Boeing has threatened to start laying off technical workers if they don't work some of the Machinists' jobs. Some 28,000 members of the Seattle Professional Engineering Employees Association are currently crossing picket lines to work, although many SPEEA members support the strike. SPEEA's contract with Boeing expires December 1; it is currently in negotiations.

SPEEA spokesman Dan Mahoney said the decision to do the struck work should be "controlled by the conscience of individual SPEEA members."

"Whereas we sincerely wish the IAM maximum success in its efforts and sacrifices, we are unable to conclude that we should urge our members on a course of action that would cause some of them to sacrifice their own salary and benefits."

IAM spokesman Jack Daniels denounced the threat of layoffs as "more pressure on us to make us worry."

Karen Ray is a member of IAM District 751, Local A, on strike at Boeing's plant in Everett, Washington.



# Boeing pickets on line in Everett look at their strike

BY SUSAN LaMONT

SEATTLE — "Boeing talks a lot about how we're supposed to be 'family,'" said one young striker as he stood around the burn barrel with other pickets trying to catch a little warmth. "We're 'family' alright — the family dog."

Out at Boeing's Everett plant, a little north of Seattle, some 19,000 workers usually work long hours assembling Boeing 747 and 767 commercial aircraft. On October 4 they and thousands of other Boeing workers in the Seattle area; Portland, Oregon; and Wichita, Kansas, went on strike. After six years of no wage increases, mounting forced overtime, and erosion of union strength, the workers — members of the International Association of Machinists — are fighting to gain some ground for the union at a time when Boeing is boasting record profits and orders.

I visited the picket line at the Everett plant November 6 with Boeing striker Karen Ray, who works there as a mechanic, and Ernest Mailhot. Mailhot is on strike against Eastern Airlines at New York's La Guardia Airport and was in Seattle for a few days visiting the Boeing strikers' union halls and picket lines.

It was cold and windy that morning, but the picket lines were larger than usual. More strikers had turned out to beef up the lines — a response to rumors circulated over the weekend that there would be more strikers crossing the picket line to return to work after the breakdown in negotiations November 4. The surge of scabs didn't materialize.

Although some strikers were disappointed that the talks had broken off, most agreed that the company's latest offer was unacceptable. "Since we've been out this long, we shouldn't go back until we get something," said one mechanic.

Some 60 percent of the workers at the Everett plant have worked at Boeing for two years or less. Many are young, and some have just come out of the military. During their entire time at Boeing they've had to work massive amounts of forced overtime — up to 200 hours in a three-month period, up to four weekends straight without a break. This amounts to 20 extra weeks of work per year.

## Workers discuss strike's prospects

Eastern striker Mailhot got a warm welcome on the picket line. One indication of the identification that many Boeing strikers have with the fight at Eastern is a sign on the "Overtime Inn," an abandoned tavern across from the picket site that union members have covered with strike slogans. "Eastern has Frank Lorenzo, Boeing has Frank Shrontz — Solidarity with the Eastern strike," says one sign. Lorenzo and Shrontz are the corporate chairmen.

Some workers were surprised to hear that the Eastern strikers had been out for more than eight months. How did they manage? Several asked. With the recent breakdown in negotiations at Boeing, many workers are beginning to realize that their strike may not be settled as quickly as they had thought.

Many Eastern strikers have had to get other jobs, Mailhot explained, although most remain part of the fight at Eastern. The broad support Eastern strikers have won from other unions, especially the Pittston Coal miners in Appalachia, has made it possible to last this long, he stressed, adding that the Boeing workers' decision to fight had been a boost for many Eastern strikers.

"We do need more solidarity, and for all the unions to get together," agreed one young Boeing striker.

## Flight line

A large group of pickets was also out at the flight line, where the planes are finished, checked, and tested for several hundred hours before being flown away by the customer.

A long line of unfinished aircraft — destined for every corner of the globe — stood on the field in silent testimony to the power of the strike.

Before the strike Boeing workers produced 27 aircraft a month. The company wants to boost that figure to 34.

"I voted to accept the contract," explained Tom, a young electrician who works on the

flight line. He got a job at Boeing after a stint in the air force. "I didn't appreciate going on strike, but now I feel like I have to support the union."

Another electrician, Greg, who came to Boeing from the navy, said he voted no on the contract. "The pay raises and bonuses were not sufficient," he said. "We want a decent raise and no mandatory overtime."

"My wife is for the strike," Greg added. "Boeing makes a lot of widows and orphans."

"Before the strike, people were so tired, they were falling off airplanes and having other accidents," he said. The company's latest offer proposes reduced mandatory overtime of 144 hours a quarter — after the company has made up for production lost in the strike.

Some workers have become discouraged by the strike, Greg added.

## 'Employee Appraisal'

Another gain workers at Boeing are fighting for is a change in how their job performance is evaluated — a process known as Employee Appraisal.

An older inspector explained how incompetent supervisors, who often don't know the job or employee they're "appraising," give EA ratings every six months.

This degrading procedure, which undermines union strength and pits workers against each other, plays a big part in determining whether a worker can transfer to another plant or get into a better-paying job.

"Dump EA system" was one of the signs workers brought to the Kingdome in Seattle October 3 for the meeting where the contract vote was taken.

"The union at Boeing does not have a strong seniority system," explained striker Karen Ray. "Seniority doesn't determine transfers, bidding into better-paying jobs, what shift you work, nothing — it's all up to the company, based largely on your EA. The company even has a right to lay off 10 percent of the workers affected out of seniority."

One worker at the Everett picket line said simply he didn't have anything good to say about Boeing. He had started there 10 years ago as a janitor and has had to fight the



Militant/Karen Ray

Boeing workers are coming to grips with the prospect that their strike may not end quickly. On November 6 workers at the Everett plant talked with Eastern striker Ernest Mailhot (in union jacket) about how Eastern workers have maintained their strike for eight months.

company every time he tried to get into a better-paying job.

The latest contract offer proposes setting up a joint company-union committee to come up with a new evaluation system.

Another step that has weakened the union was the introduction of a 45-day probationary period, instituted by a letter of agreement between the company and union after the 1986 contract had been approved.

## 'Strike, strike'

Another common sign at the October 3 Kingdome meeting was for "Upgrades" — a demand that certain jobs be moved up into higher pay job classifications.

Pay at Boeing now ranges from \$8.88 to \$18 an hour, and it takes five years to reach top pay in a given job. There are 12 job classifications.

Striker Eric Simpson explained that several months before the walkout, some workers in the Everett plant began a campaign to get their jobs upgraded in the new contract. Simpson is an electrician at Everett.

Among the most active in the campaign were workers from the wire shop, where the complicated wire harnesses and bundles for

aircraft electrical systems are assembled. "The wire shop is like a ghetto inside the Everett facility," Simpson explained. Most of the workers there are women, and they're kept at the lowest pay grades. That's also where many of the Black workers are, and many of the immigrant workers who came to the Seattle area from Vietnam and other Asian countries. The shop is crowded, there's little ventilation, and the workers spend most of the workday — frequently 12 hours — on their feet. Sexual harassment by supervisors is also a problem.

During the week before the walkout started, Simpson said, some workers at the Everett plant began campaigning for a strike. Workers stood on the upper levels of the "jigs" — the large metal frames that hold the aircraft as they're assembled — and banged tools, chanting "Strike, strike." Several workers unfurled a banner with "Strike" written on it from the fourth story of one jig. There were repeated lunchtime rallies and one lunchtime march by a couple hundred workers that went through the plant to the corporate cafeteria. These actions strengthened workers' confidence going into the contract vote, Simpson said.

# Venceremos Brigade banquet celebrates 20 years of solidarity with Cuba

BY GREG McCARTAN

NEW YORK — Chants of "Cuba sí! Yankee no!" and "Cuba sí! Bloqueo no!" punctuated the opening of the Venceremos Brigade's 20th Anniversary Awards Banquet.

The November 11 event drew 300 brigade members and supporters, activists from other Cuba solidarity groups, and representatives of the Cuban government. The meeting celebrated 20 years of the Venceremos Brigade's work, protested the U.S. blockade of Cuba, raised funds for the organization, and launched the 21st contingent of the brigade.

The first contingent of 300 brigadistas left for Cuba in November 1969. They started a tradition of building solidarity with the Cuban revolution through which 5,000 people have defied travel restrictions and gone to Cuba with the brigade.

These exchanges have helped bring the truth about the Cuban revolution to millions of North Americans. The brigade has also brought Cubans to the United States to speak and tour.

The meeting, co-chaired by brigade members Rosemary Mealy and Cathy Sedwick, opened with the reading of a message from Cuban President Fidel Castro. The Cuban leader extended his "cordial congratulations and best wishes for the continuing success of the beautiful task of solidarity with the Cuban people."

The message expressed the "thanks of our people for the fruitful labor done in these 20 years by the Venceremos Brigade," especially for maintaining "the line of communication between the people of Cuba and the people of the United States."

Kenneth Jones, a leader of the brigade, said, "Cuba's uncompromising and consistent support for struggles internationally has been a light for us."

He explained that the Cuban revolution's support for independence for Puerto Rico, its defense of Angolan sovereignty, including the defeat of South African military forces in 1988, and the extensive support for Nicaragua have "given us a much better understanding of what internationalism is."

Jones said the brigade would "take on the task of ending travel restrictions" to Cuba. "There is another wall we have to tear down," he said, "and that is the criminal U.S. blockade of Cuba."

He urged everyone in the audience "to join us on the 21st contingent, and join with us to end the blockade and travel restrictions." The 21st contingent will visit Cuba in April 1990.

Nearly one-fourth of the audience had been on a brigade to Cuba, including nine who were on the first brigade.

Some of those present had participated in the 1989 contingent. "It changed my life," said a woman from Albany. "The truth about Cuba is so different from what we hear in the United States." She was especially impressed with the attention paid to the health and education of children in Cuba.

Cuban poet Pedro Pérez Sarduy, who won a visa to study at Columbia University in New York, read one of his poems. The Sechaba Singers of the African National Congress of South Africa and Women of the Calabash both performed during the program.

Rosemary Mealy introduced Cuban artist

Aldo Soler, who is in the United States for two months speaking on Cuban art and who painted Fidel Castro on the Pathfinder mural. The mural, Mealy said, "has become a wall of heroes and heroines."

The chief representative of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C., José Abresú, said, "Cubans consider this a significant date in the history of the solidarity with the revolution."

"In midst of efforts by the U.S. government to isolate Cuba," he explained "the Venceremos Brigade appeared as a challenge by finding ways and means to travel to Cuba, thereby allowing the Cuban reality to reach the people of the United States."

The Cuban people are determined "to maintain socialism and a society without exploiters and exploited. One of our principal achievements is our dignity and sovereignty and we do not see relations as a favor the U.S. grants us," he explained.

The Cuban Institute for Solidarity with the Peoples, the brigade's host in Cuba, sent greetings to the meeting as well.

An award was given to the mother of Sandy Pollack, a national leader of the brigade who lost her life in a 1985 plane crash while traveling between Cuba and Nicaragua.

Five special awards were given to "organizations and individuals who have made a significant contribution toward a better understanding between the U.S. and Cuban people, and worked for an end to the blockade." Casa de Las Américas, the Center for Cuban Studies, the Antonio Maceo Brigade, the National Lawyers Guild, and musician Dizzy Gillespie all received awards.



# East German crisis shatters country's Communist Party

Continued from front page

years and an opponent of Gorbachev's policies, was replaced by Egon Krenz on October 24.

Krenz immediately made concessions, loosening travel restrictions and dismissing other party leaders. He traveled to Moscow for a meeting with Gorbachev. Afterward Krenz said he was ready to put Gorbachev's "vanguard experience to use" in East Germany. He later traveled to Poland to meet with leaders of the Solidarity-led government there.

Despite these steps, demonstrations continued and protestors began calling for open elections. By November 9 the entire Politbureau had resigned and the government was forced to open the border to West Germany. Sections of the Berlin Wall, built in 1961, were dismantled, and more than 30 border crossings have been created so far.

Hans Modrow, a popular party leader from the city of Dresden who is known as a vigorous supporter of perestroika and glasnost-type policies, was elected the new prime minister November 13.

At a special session of the party's Central Committee Krenz made further concessions favoring the legalization of opposition groups and mandating open elections.

## A minority party

"We have to think about becoming a minority party," a CP member told the Central Committee. "If events were to provoke the dissolving of the parliament now and free elections were held immediately, the communists would be swept away," another official said.

Under pressure from the party's membership, Krenz has called a special party congress for December 15 to put "really radical reforms" into place as quickly as possible. The congress will have the authority to elect a new policy-making Central Committee. Diplomats in East Germany said it was not inconceivable that Krenz himself could be replaced at the congress by a more popular leader.

Moscow praised the steps taken by the East German leaders. The leadership changes were a "positive" part of a "renewal of socialism" in East Germany and a "movement toward perestroika on their own terms," Gennadi Gerasimov, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, said.

Having taken hold in Poland, Hungary, and East Germany, it is apparent that the policies of perestroika and glasnost are certain to sweep all of Eastern Europe.

Bulgaria's entrenched leader Todor Zhivkov was toppled at the beginning of November just days after more than 4,000

Bulgarians assembled for the first mass protest in four decades. They shouted "glasnost!" and "democracy!"

The new Bulgarian Communist Party leader Petar Mladenov embraced demands of the fledgling opposition movement and pledged economic changes and political reforms. He invited opposition figures who were expelled from the party to rejoin and promised to "radicalize the press," lifting some restrictions.

The *Washington Post* reported that Mladenov's supporters have encouraged the opposition to bring out a large crowd at a demonstration November 18 to support moves by the new Bulgarian leader to "cut out all the Zhivkov puppets in the Politburo."

## The last straw

"The events in East Germany were the straw that broke Zhivkov's back," according to a West European diplomat quoted by the *Washington Post*. "An apparently strong regime, like that one, came apart overnight. This really got to the Bulgarians."

In Czechoslovakia, where cops dispersed thousands of demonstrators with clubs only a few weeks ago, the government announced November 14 that major restrictions on travel to the West would be lifted.

The swift changes in East Germany and now Bulgaria mirror developments in Poland and Hungary since the beginning of the year.

In Poland, the Solidarity trade union organization outlawed in 1981 was legalized this year and successfully contended in open elections. It established a Solidarity-led coalition government, the first government not dominated by the Polish United Workers Party (Communist Party) in more than 40 years. Their credibility destroyed by the inability to stem the growing economic crisis and by previous efforts to suppress the Solidarity trade unions, Communist Party leaders recently announced their organization would be revamped and dressed up with a new name and program. "The Polish United Workers Party has used up its time," the party's 173 parliamentary deputies said in an October 28 declaration.

In Hungary, pro-Gorbachev officials ousted longtime leader Janos Kadar last year. Their policies include opening Hungary's borders, establishing a stock market, and proclaiming Hungary a republic where "bourgeois democracy and socialist democracy are expressed equally," and setting multiparty elections for January. The Hungarian government recently signed military cooperation accords with Belgium, the first such agreement between a Warsaw Pact country and a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Marking its disintegration, the Communist Party repudiated even the pretense of being Marxist-Leninist and changed its name to Hungarian Socialist Party. The 720,000 members of the CP were asked to sign up with the new party. Almost four weeks later party officials had to admit that at most 30,000 have joined. Within the first week some 4,000 members had registered in Budapest's Fifth District where most government functionaries work, while in the rest of Hungary fewer than that had signed up.

## Bureaucracy's solution

The perestroika and glasnost-type policies now taking hold in Eastern Europe are the Soviet leadership's answer to the crisis the privileged bureaucratic strata throughout Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union face today, without exception.

Underlying the crisis in these states, where capitalist rule has been overturned and state property forms have been established, are low labor productivity, inefficiency, low economic growth, and declining living standards.

Perestroika, which means "restructuring," is Gorbachev's proposal to ameliorate this situation by using capitalist market methods to organize and motivate working people to produce. It involves giving government planners less say over organizing relations between different enterprises and sectors of the



Hundreds of thousands have demonstrated across East Germany. Members of New Forum, an opposition group, march in Leipzig.

economy and allowing plant managers more leeway to make decisions along the lines of profitability.

If managers of a steel plant, for example, are permitted greater freedom to organize production to get more units of steel per hour of labor than other steel plants, the plant will continue operating and the workers will likely get bonuses. Inefficient plants are to be closed and unemployment will result with wider social inequalities among workers.

The aim is to use the spur of the market, competition among workers, and the threat of unemployment to prod workers to work harder.

Moreover, the cost of introducing more high technology into industry is to be paid for in part by cuts in workers' social benefits, such as state-subsidized food and transportation prices and free health care.

Glasnost, which means "openness," includes elections where groups other than the dominant Communist Parties can also participate. Calls for glasnost use the promise of lifting dictatorial restraints on political activity to sugarcoat the bitter capitalist pill working people in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe are being asked to swallow and to attract more loans and investment from capitalist countries.

The real result of these measures is to create a strong executive authority or presidency that seemingly has a mandate from the people to more easily carry through anti-working-class economic proposals. Gorbachev, the Soviet president, has been

criticized even by his own supporters for assuming "absolute power."

The presidential elections in Hungary in January are intended to accomplish the same.

Far from improving the lives of working people and moving toward communism, the petty-bourgeois bureaucracies' measures only accelerate and deepen the current crisis.

Poland's plight begins to expose what working people in these countries will face. With cuts in government subsidies, prices have increased 107 percent in the third quarter of 1989. Prices on food staples — meat, sugar, flour, and bread — rise almost daily. Production in the crucial food-processing industry dropped in August by 23 percent.

Pensioners and workers with low fixed incomes are finding it impossible to make ends meet. Unemployed workers from unprofitable enterprises are finding themselves without incomes and ineligible for welfare. The Polish Red Cross which had previously operated one soup kitchen in Warsaw, now operates eight. It has set up 21 kitchens in the southern industrial region of Katowice and plans to have 50 more going by the end of this year.

Labor Minister Jacek Kuron, a prominent leader of Solidarity, has set up an "SOS" charity fund and has appeared on television to appeal for contributions for the growing number of needy who will require help this winter.

In the midst of this growing poverty, a layer of wealthy speculators and entrepreneurs has made great profits supplying scarce goods.

## The creation of two Germanys

When the German government unconditionally surrendered on May 8, 1945, bringing World War II to an end in Europe, Germany was occupied by U.S., British, and Soviet military forces and divided into three zones.

The three military commanders exercised authority in their respective zones and sat together in the Allied Control Council, acting by unanimous vote on questions affecting Germany as a whole. France subsequently joined the ACC and was given a separate zone of occupation.

Berlin, Germany's principal city, was geographically situated in the Soviet zone. But it was administered as a separate area, which was divided into four zones under control of the occupation powers.

In the immediate postwar years, Moscow stripped its sector of Germany of factories and rail and rolling stock, as well as industrial goods and livestock, which were transported to the Soviet Union. The plants, mines, and so on that remained were made into state property, and a planned economy was established.

In 1948 the British, French, and U.S. governments united their zones of Germany into a single capitalist economic unit and instituted a currency reform in what would become West Germany and West Berlin. The Soviet government then withdrew from the ACC and imposed a blockade of the western sectors of Berlin.

The three imperialist powers carried out an 11-month airlift of food, fuel, and other necessities into West Berlin, breaking the blockade.

In September 1949 the British, French, and U.S. governments set up the Federal Republic of Germany — West Germany — in their zones. A few weeks later, the Soviet occupa-

tion authorities established the German Democratic Republic — East Germany.

In 1951 the three imperialist powers formally terminated the state of war with Germany. The Soviet Union followed suit in 1955.

On May 5, 1955, the British, French, and U.S. governments revoked the occupation statutes and established the sovereignty of the FRG.

Management of West Berlin was turned over to local governing bodies, and the city was given nonvoting representation in the FRG parliament.

In 1955 the FRG was also permitted to form its own military forces and joined the imperialist military alliance, North Atlantic Treaty Organization. East Germany became a member of the Soviet-dominated Warsaw Pact.

The lower standard of living and the totalitarian police-state rule in East Germany spurred 2 million Germans to emigrate to West Germany through Berlin by 1961.

The unpopularity of the Stalinist regime in the GDR among working people had been exposed and deepened when it called on Moscow to use Soviet troops and tanks to crush a massive working-class revolt throughout East Germany in June 1953.

In August 1961 the Soviet and East German governments sealed the border between East and West Berlin with a wall of concrete and barbed wire stretching for nearly 30 miles.

In the early 1970s the GDR and the FRG concluded a number of trade and transit agreements, and in 1974 exchanged permanent diplomatic representatives. In 1973 both countries were admitted to the United Nations with separate seats.

## Sharp rise in number of elderly held in U.S. prisons

Longer and mandatory sentences are a major force behind an increase in the number of elderly in U.S. prisons, according to a report in the summer issue of the *Journal of the National Prison Project*.

In 1985, 10,563 persons over 55 were incarcerated in state and federal prisons. Three years later that number rose to 12,878.

In 1987 Florida confined 1,350 prisoners aged 50 and over. Projections put that number at 3,094 by the year 2000. The number of inmates aged 56 to 65 in Florida grew by 56 percent between 1981 and 1987. The general prison population increased by 25 percent.

In 1982, 42,451 people convicted of crimes in 42 states and the federal system were sentenced to 20 or more years in prison. By 1988 the figure had risen to 71,848 in 45 states, including 8,569 inmates sentenced to life imprisonment.

In 1988 prisoners serving 20 or more years totaled almost half the prisoner population in the states of Virginia, Tennessee, and Alabama. In New Jersey in 1979, 51 of the state's inmates were sentenced to 10 or more years. By 1985, that figure had jumped to 1,645.



# Mass outpouring for abortion rights

Continued from front page

The rallying masses are sending a message to the politicians and the courts, said Yard, which is, "Do not overturn *Roe v. Wade* and stop dismantling access to abortion!"

Yard was referring to the 1973 Supreme Court ruling legalizing abortion. She warned of the danger in being pushed back to the days when abortion was illegal.

"Before 1973 it was the leading cause of maternal death in this country," said Yard, "and today around the world 200,000 women

## Washington, D.C., rally overwhelmingly young.

die every year from illegal, botched abortions." The NOW president promised continued action to defend abortion rights.

The tens of thousands gathered at the rally were overwhelmingly young — college- and high school-age women. Hundreds of banners identified the 400 college contingents from 38 states, from the University of California at Berkeley to Georgia Southern.

More than 300 students came from Wesleyan University in Connecticut, two busloads from Michigan State University, and 500 from Wellesley in Massachusetts. For many it was their first demonstration — or second — having been to April 9, the last national abortion rights march.

"I care a lot about this issue and decided to get involved," said one student from Ohio Wesleyan who was getting her sign ready for the rally. This was her first demonstration, and she came with 56 fellow students.

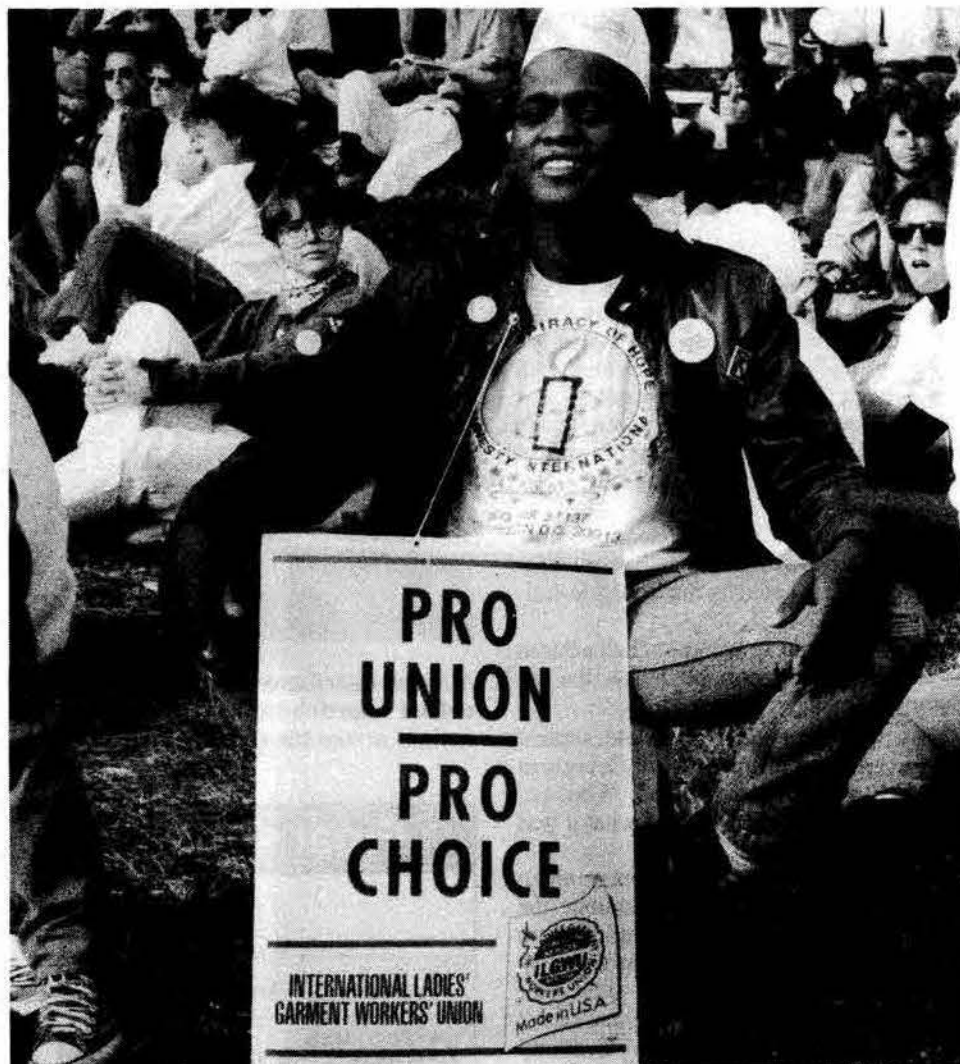
### Student efforts blocked

Organizations of students working with prochoice groups on campuses helped build the rally. However, at a few schools in Washington, D.C., authorities blocked efforts to educate and organize for the action. Catholic University canceled a slated talk by Yard, and Georgetown University campus officials forbade editors of the *Hoya* from running an ad for the November 12 rally. In response, the editors suspended publication.

At the rally Georgetown students said the other student newspaper on campus, the *Voice* also suspended publication in protest. Students say the two papers will stay shut down until campus officials back off.

High school students from as far away as Minnesota attended the rally. Special emphasis was placed on getting high school students to the action from Chicago said Jan, an activist with the Emergency Clinic Defense Coalition there. "We told people that a lot of teenagers wanted to come and asked them to give money to help."

In all, 15 high school students from Chicago made the trip, and 21 students came from Lake Forest College. Eight to 10 buses from Chicago made it to the rally.



Member of garment workers' union at Washington, D.C., abortion rights rally. Along with the ILGWU, teachers' and miners' unions were among those endorsing. Striking Eastern Airlines workers from three cities staffed an information table during action.

A busload of prochoice activists from Toronto, along with a handful from Montréal, came down for the action.

Participants carried hand-lettered signs declaring "Abortion rights for rich and poor," "My body, my choice," and "President Bush — you mind your body and I'll mind mine." Thousands wore prochoice buttons, T-shirts, and sweatshirts. NOW volunteers staffed tables with abortion rights materials.

### Union backing

Some 150 members of the National Education Association made up one of the largest union contingents present. NEA member Will Luna works with the union's Human and Civil Rights Division, which organized the participation. "Sixty-seven percent of our union is made up of women and we have all got to take a stand for their right to choose," he said. Luna helped organize NEA participation in the October march in support of housing for the homeless and the National Association for Colored People's march in August to demand affirmative action.

The NEA was a national endorser of November 12, along with some 15 other trade unions including the United Mine Workers

of America, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and Communications Workers of America District 1.

Six members of the International Association of Machinists on strike against Boeing came from Portland, Oregon, and Seattle. "You know what we say — No money, no planes!" said two strikers carrying union signs.

Machinists on strike against Eastern Airlines set up a table at the rally and handed out literature on their fight. Strikers were present from New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C.

"Many people have come by and we've sold a lot of buttons," said Arnold, who is on strike at New York's La Guardia Airport. He explained many didn't know about the Eastern strike or that it was still on. Arnold was also at the April 9 abortion rights rally.

A handful of striking UMW coal miners were present too.

Jeff, a worker in a Virginia power plant, decided to come to Washington, D.C., after attending a local prochoice rally. "It's really violence against women to not have the right to abortion," he said. This was the first big demonstration he had been to.

The Washington, D.C., action, organized by more than 130 abortion rights groups, was called by NOW immediately following the July 3 *Webster* decision by the U.S. Supreme Court upholding restrictions on abortion rights imposed by the state of Missouri.

### July call to battle

Prochoice supporters took the July court ruling as a battle call and began to mobilize to defend abortion rights. Organizations such as NOW, National Abortion Rights Action League, and prochoice coalitions throughout the country won increasing support as hundreds of thousands decided to take action to keep abortion safe and legal.

Prochoice demonstrators were enthusiastic and confident at the November 12 action, having won some victories since July.

Many government officials, or those seeking to be elected to office, took note of the overwhelming sentiment in support of abortion rights. In several states where officials promised new antiabortion measures after the July ruling, state legislatures defeated initiatives or decided not to hear arguments for restrictions at all. Some candidates gauged the mood and adjusted their positions accordingly taking a stronger stand on abortion rights — and were elected.

### Speakers reflect recent elections

This was reflected on the speakers platform, which included mayor-elect David Dinkins and comptroller-elect Elizabeth Holtzman of New York as well as some 20 other elected officials, Democrats as well as Republicans.

A roar of approval greeted Ron Silver, a representative of the Hollywood Women's Political Committee, when he said, "A woman's body belongs to her alone — not to the United States of America or any government on the face of this earth."

As thousands demonstrated in Washington, D.C., supporters of abortion rights held marches and rallies in cities around the country.

- Some 2,000 prochoice supporters held a dawn candlelight vigil at a church a few miles from President George Bush's summer home in Kennebunkport.

- In Milwaukee more than 100 supporters of abortion rights held a "back alley" protest drawing attention to unsafe conditions that were the norm when abortion was illegal.

- Some 5,000 gathered in Jefferson City, Missouri, on the steps of the state capitol. Speakers pledged to fight the restrictions on abortion imposed when the Supreme Court upheld the *Webster* case.

- Spirits were high in Los Angeles as 30,000 demonstrators squeezed shoulder to shoulder at a Rancho Park rally. The crowd was predominantly young, and speakers included a host of Hollywood celebrities and Democratic Party politicians. Richard Dreyfuss and Barbara Streisand joined Jesse Jackson and numerous state government officials. High school student Sonia Slutsky spoke on behalf of the Los Angeles Student Coalition.

- Some 3,000 marched and rallied in Portland, Oregon, organized by a local prochoice coalition. Elsewhere in Oregon 1,000 rallied in Ashland, 500 in Salem, and 500 in Eugene.

- Abortion rights supporters numbering 6,000 rallied at the University of Washington in Seattle. Mayor-elect Norman Rice spoke along with former New York congresswoman Bella Abzug.

- A Texas rally for choice drew some 20,000 to Austin, the state capital. Six buses from Houston rolled in along with more than 10 from Dallas and cars from every corner of the state. Faye Wattleton, president of Planned Parenthood, spoke along with politicians and celebrities.

November 12 was marked by rallies defending a woman's right to abortion around the world, reported Maria Jose Ragab, director of NOW's International Affairs Department, in a telephone interview.

For the first time, an action for abortion rights was held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as 200 picketed in front of the capitol.

Major cities in Australia, including Sydney and Melbourne; Tel Aviv, Israel; Warsaw, Poland; Paris; Stockholm, Sweden; Wellington, New Zealand; and São Paulo, Brazil, were all sites of abortion rights actions. All were organized in solidarity with the U.S. mobilization, but many also included demands aimed at the governments in their own countries for the right to abortion.

## Young socialist open house draws crowd



Militant/Yvonne Hayes  
YSA National Secretary Heather Randle welcomed activists to discussion after Washington, D.C., rally.

BY MEG HALL

WASHINGTON, D.C. — An enthusiastic crowd of more than 200 people from around the country attended an open house sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance here November 12. The event was held at George Washington University as the abortion rights rally at the Lincoln Memorial was winding down.

YSA National Secretary Heather Randle welcomed everyone and opened the informal program.

In the fight to defend and extend abortion rights, Randle said, young people and other prochoice activists can depend only on themselves. Abortion rights supporters need to explain that the issue is a political one that goes to the heart of the fight for women to participate fully and equally in every aspect of society.

The struggle for abortion rights has been led largely by youth, Randle stressed, adding that unions are playing an increasingly important role in the fight.

Two Machinists union members — Mario Zayas, on strike at Eastern Airlines in New York, and striker Antoinette Gainer from Boeing in Portland, Oregon, explained why

they supported the November 12 action.

Dick McBride, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from West Virginia, also spoke. He pointed out that attacks on the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion are part of the offensive by the capitalist rulers against the rights and living standards of all working people.

Union battles have begun heating up, McBride said, indicating that more workers are willing to fight against concessions and other attacks, including those on abortion rights. His coworkers at the Krogers Supermarket in Morgantown were pleased with his decision to run against Sen. John D. Rockefeller, he said.

Other speakers were Nan Bailey from the Mark Curtis Defense Committee in Des Moines, Iowa, and Beverly Bernardo from Montréal. Bernardo, an activist in the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, reported that a busload of abortion rights supporters had come down from Canada to participate in the November 12 mobilization.

A young student from the Washington, D.C., area decided to join the YSA at the open house.



# Sales at abortion rights actions take drive over the top

BY JON HILLSON

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Spurred by sales of nearly 500 subscriptions to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and other socialist periodicals at abortion rights rallies across the United States, the international circulation drive to win 9,000 new readers went over the top November 12, capping a nine-week effort.

In Washington, D.C., a college student who participated in the abortion rights mobilization walked up to one of the 20 portable Pathfinder literature tables that dotted the protest site. "My girlfriend couldn't come, but she'd really like that," he said, pointing to the likeness of Cuban revolutionary leader Ernesto Che Guevara that adorned the T-shirt, "and a subscription to that newspaper," the *Militant*.

"He bought two shirts and a couple of subscriptions," explained Joanne Kuniarsky, who was staffing the table. The incident was not unusual. Altogether, the team from Pittsburgh sold 16 subscriptions, most of them as part of an offer that included the shirts. But, she said, "people got the subs because they wanted them."

## Bought copies at April 9 action

Many of those who bought 31 subscriptions from the Detroit Pathfinder table had "already seen the *Militant*," Mark Friedman noted. "A lot of them said they'd bought single copies on April 9," at the massive abortion rights march and rally in Washington, D.C., last spring, "and hadn't seen it since then and wanted to buy subs."

Distributors at the two big main tables sold 120 subscriptions and over \$600 in literature to a steady flow of demonstrators. Many were attracted by a prominent display of the six-story mural of heroes and leaders of the international revolutionary movement that covers the south wall of the Pathfinder Building in New York City.

"I was surprised by how many people knew about the mural," said Shirley Peña, who staffed one of the displays. Young activists took leaflets describing the mural, said they'd been following its progress, and bought \$80 worth of photos of various figures on the wall. The most popular photo was of Nicaraguan national hero Augusto César Sandino.

Hundreds of the youthful demonstrators took home a copy of the attractive new brochure being distributed by the Young Socialist Alliance.

Distributors sold an average of half a dozen subscriptions at the portable tables, the big majority to marchers under 21.

They were like the 18-year-old student who came from the University of Georgia in a van because, as she explained, "I believe in pro-choice and wanted to see what it was all about."

These youth wanted to learn more about the independence struggle in Namibia, the shake-up in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and what's happening in Cuba. A distributor noted that one new subscriber "wanted to know why the *Militant* didn't have anything this week on East Germany and got a sub when I explained that the *Militant* has had coverage and will have more coverage on events there."

Jaimé, a new member of the Young Socialist Alliance from New York, had never been to a national demonstration before. He donned an apron, and, working the crowd, sold 15 buttons and several copies of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. "It was a beautiful experience," he said.

Altogether, distributors sold 394 subscriptions to the *Militant*, nine to *Perspectiva Mundial*, one to *Lutte ouvrière* and 14 copies of *New Internationalist* at the Washington rally. Dozens more were sold at prochoice demonstrations across the country.

## Subscription team in coalfields wins readers at western mines

BY STEVE MARSHALL

HAYDEN, Colo. — For the next three months some 62 houses, trailers, union halls, and cafes across two vast western coalfields will receive the *Militant* each week. In late October, for two weeks and 4,000 miles, a "western coal subscription team" hit the road with the socialist newspaper. They discussed politics with some of the workers who dig millions of tons of coal each year from the deep underground pits and enormous surface mines west of the Rocky Mountains.

Beside the shimmering heat of a New Mexico desert highway, in the predawn frost of an Arizona mesa, and among the snow-covered rocks of Colorado mountainsides, dozens of coal miners looked through the *Militant* and signed up for 12-week subscriptions.

They liked the paper's support of strikes at Pittston, Eastern, and Boeing — and welcomed its linkage of these fights with other struggles of working people.

United Mine Workers of America members fought rough contract battles across the western coalfields three years ago.

They are now preparing for the expiration of those agreements in 1990 and 1991. Most expect the coal companies to demand concessions; some anticipate union-busting assaults, especially at the mines where the UMWA is weakest.

"Naalnishí 'aseezi binaaltsoos . . . union." That's close to "a working-class, pronoun newspaper" — in Navajo, a language that has no words for concepts of property ownership.

Some 900 miners — several dozen whites and Hopis, the rest Navajos — dig coal at three mines on the Navajo Nation, which covers parts of four states.

Chevron Oil owns the open-pit McKinley Mine near Gallup, New Mexico. Of the 360 miners who work there, 15 subscribed and nearly 100 bought single copies

Three hours west near Kayenta, Arizona, stretches Black Mesa — named for the dark bituminous coal under its surface of dust and shrubs. Peabody Coal's Black Mesa Complex includes the Kayenta and Black Mesa strip mines.

The *Militant* subscription team got a friendly welcome, some lessons in Navajo, and 15 subscriptions from miners at the Peabody complex. Quite a few signed up at the Yumbo Kitchen cafe and an adjacent trailer park at the foot of the mesa.

At the headquarters of three UMWA locals in Kayenta stands a big "Solidarity" bulletin board with news and pictures from the Pittston miners' strike.

## Colorado miners

On the western slope of the Rocky Mountains, 800 miles away, Colorado UMWA members know the Navajo coal miners. "They won our strike for us," was a comment the *Militant* team heard several times.

Nineteen UMWA members in three large Colorado mines took out subscriptions, as did a couple of cafes in mining towns.

Miners at Peabody's Seneca mine near Hayden bought seven subscriptions, including one for a year. Three drivers for Western Coal Hauling, who move coal from the mine to a nearby power plant and are members of the same UMWA local, signed up as well.

A couple of miners wouldn't subscribe because they "read it every week in the bathhouse." Every week? Had they mistaken the *Militant* for another publication? "No, that's the one — the socialist paper."

Five miners at Cypress' Empire Mine near Craig signed up, but one got a refund because he had mistakenly thought the *Militant* team was raising money for the Pittston miners. And four miners at Deseret's Deserado Mine near Rangeley — a big surface and underground operation — subscribed.



Militant/Arthur Hughes

*Militant* distributors sold more than 400 subscriptions to participants in the rally to defend abortion rights November 12 in Washington, D.C. Dozens more were sold at actions across the country.

## Final subscription drive scoreboard

Areas	DRIVE GOALS			Militant subscriptions		New Int'l single copies		Perspectiva Mundial subscriptions		Lutte ouvrière subscriptions	
	Goal	Total Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
<b>UNITED STATES</b>											
Austin, Minn.*	102	169	166%	75	133	10	17	15	17	2	2
Detroit*	260	357	137%	207	303	30	29	18	21	5	4
Cleveland	105	141	134%	75	109	18	20	10	10	2	2
Kansas City	117	154	132%	80	116	20	20	15	15	2	3
St. Louis*	200	259	129%	165	217	25	31	7	8	3	3
Greensboro, NC*	120	147	123%	95	113	15	22	8	10	2	2
Milwaukee	123	147	120%	85	119	15	14	20	12	3	2
Price, Utah	52	62	119%	35	40	8	13	8	8	1	1
Salt Lake City	137	162	118%	100	108	20	33	15	20	2	1
Miami	300	337	112%	180	183	40	62	50	51	30	41
Los Angeles	510	571	112%	285	332	90	95	130	143	5	1
Houston	227	254	112%	150	186	30	27	45	37	2	4
Pittsburgh*	200	223	111%	155	176	30	35	10	10	5	2
Portland, Ore.	195	217	111%	150	175	20	21	20	18	5	3
Omaha, Neb.*	137	152	111%	100	113	20	22	15	16	2	1
Newark, NJ	490	543	111%	250	308	95	136	95	75	50	24
Baltimore*	205	225	110%	165	176	25	30	10	14	5	5
Washington, DC*	205	225	110%	140	157	25	27	35	36	5	5
Morgantown, WV	137	150	109%	100	125	25	22	10	3	2	0
Brooklyn	410	448	109%	260	261	60	76	65	80	25	31
Phoenix	77	84	109%	45	55	15	14	15	15	2	0
Birmingham, Ala.	177	190	107%	140	166	25	19	10	4	2	1
Seattle	138	148	107%	95	104	20	21	20	23	3	0
Boston	250	268	107%	160	177	35	35	40	40	15	16
Des Moines, Iowa	225	240	107%	170	178	25	26	25	31	5	5
Chicago	360	382	106%	225	261	50	57	75	58	10	6
San Francisco	240	253	105%	165	180	35	32	35	41	5	0
Oakland, Calif.	200	208	104%	125	137	30	31	40	36	5	4
Twin Cities, Minn.	320	326	102%	250	260	35	40	30	23	5	3
New York	665	674	101%	330	382	150	125	150	150	35	17
Philadelphia	225	228	101%	155	159	30	30	35	38	5	1
Charleston, WV	112	113	101%	90	90	15	16	5	7	2	0
Atlanta	210	211	100%	155	143	30	42	20	21	5	5
National teams	-	96	-	-	96	-	-	-	-	-	-
Binghamton, NY*	45	46	102%	36	41	3	2	4	2	2	1
Cincinnati	10	13	130%	10	12	-	-	-	1	-	-
Denver	20	22	110%	10	12	-	-	10	10	-	-
Louisville, Ky.	8	8	100%	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other U.S.	50	63	126%	40	54	5	2	5	7	-	-
<b>U.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>7,564</b>	<b>8,516</b>	<b>113%</b>	<b>5,061</b>	<b>5,965</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>1,244</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>1,111</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>196</b>
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>											
South Wales	62	80	129%	40	56	10	17	10	4	2	3
London	165	202	122%	105	117	30	53	25	30	5	2
South Yorks	107	119	111%	70	72	25	32	10	12	2	3
Manchester	74	81	109%	50	53	18	20	5	6	1	2
Other Britain	-	30	-	-	26	-	-	-	4	-	-
<b>BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>125%</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>CANADA</b>											
Vancouver	145	156	108%	100	102	20	21	20	26	5	7
Montreal	230	234	102%	90	77	40	47	40	59	60	51
Toronto*	290	281	97%	180	180	40	41	55	48	15	12
Other Canada	-	14	-	-	12	-	-	-	1	-	1
<b>CANADA TOTAL</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>103%</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>FRANCE</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>150%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>ICELAND*</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>113%</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>											
Wellington	86	116	135%	70	88	12	25	3	2	1	1
Christchurch	77	89	116%	60	67	10	16	5	5	2	1
Auckland	162	175	108%	120	132	30	31	10	11	2	1
<b>N. Z. TOTAL</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>117%</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SWEDEN</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>111%</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PUERTO RICO</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
Int'l teams	205	128	62%	100	95	25	14	75	15	5	4
Other int'l	-	34	-	-	16	-	-	-	18	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,400</b>	<b>10,501</b>	<b>112%</b>	<b>6,153</b>	<b>7,163</b>	<b>1,405</b>	<b>1,589</b>	<b>1,458</b>	<b>1,440</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>309</b>
<b>DRIVE GOALS</b>	<b>9,000</b>			<b>5,800</b>		<b>1,400</b>		<b>1,400</b>		<b>400</b>	

\*Raised goal during drive



# 2,000 welcome Guildford Four to Ireland

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — More than 2,000 people rallied outside the General Post Office in Dublin November 4 to welcome the Guildford Four home to Ireland. On the platform were two of the four — Paul Hill and Gerard Conlon — Hill's uncle, Erol Smalley, and British Labour Member of Parliament Jeremy Corbyn. While in Dublin, Hill and Conlon met with Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey.

The Guildford Four were released in October after serving 14 years on a frame-up charge of bombing a pub frequented by British soldiers in the town of Guildford, England. The four, supporters of the struggle for Irish freedom, were convicted in 1975 on the basis of forced confessions extracted by the police. A massive international campaign over many years led to a government decision in October to overturn their convictions.

Each of the speakers at the Dublin celebration called for the release of the Birmingham Six, the main theme of the rally, and argued that by campaigning their freedom could be won.

The demand for freeing the Birmingham Six has been fueled by the Guildford decision. In an interview with the London magazine *City Limits*, Paul Hill said, "We hope we have breached the wall and that the Birmingham Six will come through the hole. At the moment, it's damage control [by the British government] — it's everybody's duty to ensure that they don't shore up the hole in the wall, so we can ensure that the Birmingham Six will eventually emerge. Then, perhaps, we can finally smash the wall once and for all."

Convicted in August 1975 of bombing a pub in the city of Birmingham, the six Irish nationalists — Patrick Hill, Hugh Callaghan, John Walker, Richard McKelvey, Gerard Hunter and Billy Power — were, like the Guildford Four, sentenced to life imprisonment. Demands that their case be reopened have been mounting.

## Forced confessions

The six were convicted on the basis of forced confessions while in police custody and on the evidence of a forensic scientist who was subsequently fired for incompetence. The forensic tests that allegedly revealed that the six had been handling explosives would have given the same results if they'd been playing cards or using matches.

The October 29 *Sunday Correspondent* carried an article in which the arresting officer of five of the six said that the six are innocent. Fred Willoughby, now retired, said that he was satisfied of this at the time of the original arrests. Speaking of Patrick Hill, Willoughby said, "Any question I had, he answered me. He did not seem to have anything to hide." Willoughby added that the confessions concern him because of contradictions between the confessions and what the forensic experts told the court. Further confirmation about the forced character of the confessions came in the October 25 *Guardian*, which reported that

a prison officer "who was one of 14 acquitted in 1976 of beating up the Birmingham Six has admitted his guilt for the first time."

The unnamed officer explained that he saw five of the six men naked soon after their arrival on remand at Winson Green jail in Birmingham. "As he joined a renewed assault, he saw that they bore marks of earlier injuries, sustained in the custody of the police to whom they had confessed. . . . He first spoke about the men's previous injuries to an internal prison inquiry in 1974. He repeated his allegation in a statement to Devon and Cornwall police during inquiries initiated by [British Home Secretary Douglas] Hurd before the 1987 appeal." The timing of the injuries is important because it confirms that they were inflicted by police engaged in questioning, in addition to subsequent beatings by prison wardens.

The unnamed officer's admission confirms evidence that was presented in court in the original 1974 trial that the injuries predated their arrival in Winson Green; and that of the senior forensic consultant at the trial of the 14 officers in 1976.

## Impact of Guildford Four release

The revelations concerning the Birmingham Six are the most spectacular of the consequences following the Guildford Four release.

Not a day has passed here since the release of the four without some newspaper or media program reporting on miscarriages of British justice or commenting on the implications of the case. The director of public prosecutions has asked the High Court to reopen a case against police officers accused of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice during the printers' strike against media billionaire Rupert Murdoch's Wapping plant in London. A senior appeal court judge, Lord Justice Woolf, has raised doubts about contradictions between English law and the European Convention on Human Rights. A Black prison warden has suffered such racial harassment from other wardens that he was transferred to another jail from Durham. These cases give a flavor of the degree to which the authority of the judicial system and police agencies has been undermined.

On October 19 protests marked the first anniversary of the British government's broadcasting ban, which targets the Irish republican organization Sinn Féin and its supporters. Demonstrations took place in six cities in Britain.

A petition backed by three national trade unions and the National Council for Civil Liberties called for an end to the ban and was handed into 10 Downing Street, the prime minister's residence.

## Films and songs banned

Films and pop songs have been victims of the broadcasting ban as well as news reports. One song by an Irish group, the Pogues, was banned because it took up the cause of the Guildford Four and Birmingham Six: "There

were six men in Birmingham, in Guildford there's four, that were picked up and tortured and framed by the law. And the filth got promotion, but they're still doing time, for being Irish in the wrong place and at the wrong time."

These verses were quoted by Labour MP

Paul Boateng on the TV program "Question Time" screened on the day of the anniversary. Boateng challenged government minister Linda Chalker on the same program if she thought that a government ban that censored this song should be maintained in the light of the release of the Guildford Four.



## PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

GREG McCARTAN

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

**Pathfinder bookstores are located in 44 cities in seven countries. The addresses of the bookstores are listed on page 12.**

Meetings this season to discuss books recently published by Pathfinder are taking place around the world.

Pathfinder bookstores are sponsoring events such as the one held in Oakland, California, October 22. Sixty people attended the meeting to hear a panel presentation and hold a discussion on *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches*, reports Margaret Jayko.

One panelist, Cecelia Arrington, the chair of the Ethnic Studies Department at Merritt College in Oakland, said, "I have learned so much from these last speeches." The book, she explained, is "excellent" for "getting into the old Malcolm X as well as the evolved Malcolm X."

The book contains six previously unpublished speeches and interviews of Malcolm X. The book includes the last speech of Malcolm's to appear in print. It is the first new material by the revolutionary leader to come out in 18 years.

Keryl McCord, a director of the Oakland Ensemble Theatre, spoke about the evolution of Malcolm's views on the civil rights movement and the role of women in society.

"Malcolm X gave expression to the thoughts of millions of people," McCord said.

A dramatic reading from the book was performed by Piri Thomas, poet and author of *Down These Mean Streets*.

"Malcolm X was one of the greatest leaders of the 20th century. People knew that he wasn't going to sell them out," Todd Twymann noted at a meeting of 50 in Morgantown, West Virginia.

Twymann is a law student at West Virginia University and a founder of the Black Action Committee on the WVU campus. He was joined on the speakers platform by Phil Carter, the president of the Huntington, West Virginia, chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Carter is also a professor at Marshall University there.

Carter said he found in the Pathfinder book how "Malcolm lived by a vision." He taught us "to understand how our problems have to be understood globally. He helped us understand how the system operates. Once you understand the global," Carter emphasized, "you can handle the local."

A professor of Afro-American studies at WVU, Wilbert Jenkins, also spoke at the meeting. Carter and Jenkins, reports Bernie Senter, both plan to use the book in their college courses next semester.

Another meeting on the book was held at Howard University in Washington, D.C. The meeting was cosponsored by a number of student organizations and drew 200.

The Philadelphia Pathfinder bookstore hosted a discussion on *In Defense of Socialism*. The book contains four speeches given by Cuban President Fidel Castro in December of 1988 and January of 1989 on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Cuban revolution.

The meeting heard Jill Kobelssi from the Venceremos Brigade and Bob Stanton from the Pathfinder bookstore.

The October 11 New Zealand magazine *National Midweek* briefly reviewed *In Defense of Socialism*, reports Russell Johnson from Auckland. The reviewer notes that Castro, in defending socialism as the only road forward for the oppressed, emphasizes the economic and social gains won by the Cuban people through their revolution, "particularly in the fields of health care and education, where its achievements have made it a world model."

Johnson recently returned from the Philippines after making arrangements for Pathfinder's participation in the annual Manila International Bookfair.

He reports that in addition to two established Pathfinder outlets in the country, Popular Bookstore and Great Books Trading, three university outlets have been established this year. All three stock a wide range of Pathfinder books and pamphlets. They are now available from the Sociology Department of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. At Diliman campus of the University of the Philippines Pathfinder titles can be obtained from the Third World Studies Center and the campus bookstore.

## 'Militant' makes staff changes

Susan Apstein has joined the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* bureau in Managua, Nicaragua, in one of several changes in our staff. She will be replacing Judy White.

Apstein has been a copyeditor and translator for the *Militant* for the past four years. She joins Seth Galinsky and Larry Seigle, the other two *Militant* staff members currently assigned in Nicaragua.

The *Militant* has been bringing readers on-the-scene reports from Nicaragua since August 1979, just weeks after the revolution triumphed there.

The coverage for over 10 years has provided *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* readers with the most timely, accurate, and direct reports available in the English-language press.

The bureau's reports over the next several months on the election campaign and the continued efforts by the Nicaraguan government to force the demobilization of the U.S.-backed contras will be an important source of news on the political developments in the country.

White has been part of the reporting team in the country since the spring of 1988. Her articles included co-authoring a special four-part series on the peace and autonomy pro-

cess on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast. White plans to get reinvolved in socialist activity and the labor movement in the United States. Before going to Managua she had worked as an aircraft assembler and was a member of the United Auto Workers.

A textile worker from Greensboro, North Carolina, Yvonne Hayes, will take Apstein's place on the *Militant* staff.

A member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, Hayes was the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Greensboro in the November 7 election.

Staff writer Sam Manuel will be moving to Washington, D.C., following the November 19 event in New York to celebrate the completion of the Pathfinder mural.

Manuel joined the staff in the spring of 1987 and has done several extensive reporting trips in Africa and the Pacific since then.

For the past year and a half Manuel has devoted a great deal of time to the Pathfinder Mural Project. As project director he organized the work of the dozens of artists and supporters who helped make the completion of the six-story landmark mural possible.

In Washington, Manuel will become active in working-class struggles and continue to carry out socialist activity.



Militant/Russell Johnson  
Students from the Sociological Society at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Manila staff a Pathfinder table during the college's anniversary celebrations in October.



## 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.

## IOWA

### Des Moines

**Celebrate the publication of *In Defense of Socialism* by Fidel Castro.** Speakers: Adelheid Butkus, South West Africa People's Organisation; Edna Griffin, Des Moines civil rights activist; Héctor Marroquín, Pathfinder Bookstore. Sat., Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (515) 246-8249.

## MARYLAND

### Baltimore

**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 Pathfinder's *In Defense of Socialism* by Fidel Castro.** Speakers: David Carey

and Mary Joe Doyle, members of the 20th Venceremos Brigade to Cuba; Charles Katjivirue, 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. 407½ 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 Labor 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 Labor Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

## MISSOURI

### St. Louis

**The New Rise in Labor Militancy.** Panel discussion on the Eastern Airlines, Pittston Coal, and Boeing strikes. Speakers: Lee Beckley, Eastern striker in St. Louis; Lew Moye, co-chair National New Directions Movement; Larry Ross, United Steelworkers of America Local 67, Granite City Steel, staff writer for *Union Voice*; David Yard, United Mine Workers of America Local 1969, Virdin, Illinois; Mary Zins, UMW Local 2295, Albers, Illinois. 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.

## NEBRASKA

### Omaha

**Introducing the Pathfinder Mural.** Featuring the new mural video, speakers, poetry. Sat., Nov. 18, 7 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

## NEW JERSEY

### Newark

**The Roots 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.

# Namibians celebrate election victory

Continued from Page 13

and Ahtisaari "immediately correct the situation against victimizations, harassment, smear campaigns, and dismissals of workers" plaguing the voting process.

The November 10 issue of the *Namibian* reported that "workers are being sacked for taking time off of their jobs to go and vote." Some 15 workers were fired from their jobs in the Windhoek area.

In the northern part of the country leaflets defaming SWAPO were dropped by helicopters. Ahtisaari said UNTAG would investigate.

At a rally held before the elections began, SWAPO President Sam Nujoma spoke about the responsibilities of the new government

after the elections which will "put an end to the last 106 years of colonialism, imperialism, and foreign domination and exploitation of Namibia."

He paid tribute to all those who died fighting for the liberation of Namibia and pledged continuing support for the fight against South African apartheid. "Our freedom would be meaningless unless linked up with the rest of independent African nations including South Africa."

SWAPO leaders elected to the constituent assembly include Nujoma, Toivo ja Toivo, Gurirab, Moses Garoëb, administrative secretary of SWAPO's political bureau, Hage Geingob, and Hidipo Hamutenya, secretary of information and publicity.

## 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.

**Exhibit of Cuban Paintings.** View 40 paintings by Cuban artist Aldo Soler and others. Fri., Nov. 17; Mon., Nov. 20; Tues., Nov. 21, 5 p.m.-8 p.m. and Sat., Nov. 18, 1 p.m.-7 p.m. Westbeth Gallery, 55 Bethune St. Sponsor: Pathfinder Mural Project. For more information, call (212) 675-6740.

**Palestine: Healing the Wounds of Occupation.** Benefit concert for Palestinian medical aid. Music by Roy Brown, Human Condition, Toshi Reagon, Al-Watan. Wed., Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m. The Triplex, Theatre 1, Borough of Manhattan Community College, 199 Chambers St. Donation: \$10 to \$50. Sponsor: Palestine Solidarity Committee, Arab Club of BMCC. For more information call (212) 964-7299.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Greensboro

**Celebrate the Pathfinder Mural.** See new mural video, meet local artists, and hear from participants in mural dedication in New York City. Sun., Dec. 3, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (919) 272-2958.

## UTAH

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**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

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**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.

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**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

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**After the Guildford Four Victory.** Speakers: Paul May, Birmingham Six Campaign; Tony Hunt, member Amalgamated Engineering Union, supporter Mark Curtis Defence Campaign; representative of Winchester Three Campaign. Fri., Nov. 24, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forums. For more information call 01-928-7947.

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# Defend Mark Curtis! International Rally for Justice

Hear fighters from around the world speak out on behalf of Mark Curtis, a union packinghouse worker framed up on rape and burglary charges last year in Des Moines, Iowa. He is now in the state prison at Anamosa, Iowa.

**Sat., Nov. 25 7:30 p.m.**  
**Sheraton-St. Louis Hotel**  
**West Ballroom**  
**910 N. 7th Street**  
(next to Convention Center)

Donation: \$5.00. For more information call Mark Curtis Defense Committee in Des Moines (515) 246-1695. In St. Louis call (618) 452-0089 or (314) 361-0250.

## Sheffield

**Crisis in Eastern Europe.** Wed., Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m. 2A Waverley House, 10 Joiner St. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forums. For more information call (0742) 729469.

**Rally to Celebrate Publication of *In Defense of Socialism* by Fidel Castro.** Speakers: Roberto de Armas, first secretary of Embassy of the Republic of Cuba; representatives of African National Congress of South Africa, South West Africa People's Organisation, and Britain-Cuba Resource Centre. Sat., Dec. 9, 2 p.m. SADACCA, 48 The Wicker. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Sheffield Pathfinder Bookcentre. For more information call (0742) 729469.

## CANADA

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**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.

**Response to the South African Escalation.** Showing of Cuban-made documentary video on the defeat of South African troops in Angola. Sat., Nov. 25, 7 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

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**Celebrate Opening of Pathfinder Books.** Speaker: Michel Prairie, editor of *Lutte ouvrière*. Video presentation on the Pathfinder Mural Project. Sat., Nov. 18, 3 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Pathfinder Books. For more information call (604) 872-8343.

## SWEDEN

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**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.

**Meeting to Present *In Defense of Socialism* by Fidel Castro.** Speakers: Cuban Ambassador Dennys Guzmán Pérez, Bengt Hallberg, Daniel Håkansson, others. Sun., Dec. 3, 3:00 p.m. Lilla Horskälen, Medborgarhuset (T-bana Medborgarplatsen). Sponsors: Pathfinder, Sweden-Cuba Friendship Association.

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Oh — "We believe in reduction of carbon dioxide. But we're not prepared to say by what time and by what level." — William Reilly, U.S. environment official on why



Harry Ring

Washington said no to a world pact to slow down the greenhouse effect.

Un-British — "The right to strike conflicts with our national tra-

ditions since 1906 when there has been no right to strike in Britain but a limited immunity, under certain conditions, for those who organize strikes." — Employment Secretary Norman Fowler, castigating a proposed European Community favoring the right to strike and other rights for workers.

Class care — Some of San Francisco's snazziest hotels offered free rooms to earthquake victims — but only to those who live in the prosperous Marina district, which was hit by fire. Even though it was on the house, credit cards were required.

American mea\$ure — With five sailors injured in the navy's fifth

accident in four days, a spokesman said there had been 64 major accidents this year. A major accident was defined as a death or accident in which there was more than \$1 million damage.

Beg your royal pardon — A note in the British paper the *Guardian* advised: "A picture caption which appeared on page 2 of the *Guardian* on November 3 should have referred to the Royal Bank of Scotland, not the Bank of Scotland."

Law 'n order, Israeli style — Israeli cops cracked down on performers who sing Palestinian national songs at weddings inside Israel's pre-1967 borders, where

Palestinians assertedly enjoy the rights of citizenship. The cops said the songs inflame nationalist passions.

Image-makers — Looking to brush up the image of its paramilitary cops, the Hungarian government invited in French Interior Minister Pierre Joxe. He'll provide French instructors on the right way to handle truncheons, tear gas, etc., as performed by the odious French security riot police.

Semper fidelis — A platoon of marine recruits at Parris Island marched behind several posters, including one that showed a naked woman and a second with a skull and crossbones and the words,

"Kill, rape, pillage, burn." A protesting U.S. senator said it was contrary to the corps' "high standards."

How liberal can you get — "In my view, people with homosexual tendencies could be enlisted so long as they did not engage in homosexual acts." — Prof. Michael Noone, former air force judge advocate.

Face lift — Your Rolex looking dull? A New Jersey jeweler will paste some diamonds on the dial. \$495 to \$775. Same day service.

Thought for the week — "Everybody has to make a living." — Bush on Reagan's \$2 million Japanese honoraria.

## Salvadoran aircraft strafe, bomb civilian areas

Continued from front page

another meeting in Caracas, Venezuela, in November.

The FMLN proposals to the government during the talks included a mutual cease-fire, the formation of a single army, reforms in the constitution, and an end to the erosion of a land reform program initiated under the previous regime of José Napoleón Duarte.

As a step toward ending the war, the FMLN also proposed the dismissal of 18 senior commanders of the 57,000-man armed forces.

In the October meeting the government demanded the "FMLN and all its support organizations" end all actions "that affect national life in the political, economic, social, and military areas."

Such sweeping demands amounted to a call for surrender, the rebels pointed out. They told the government they would intensify the war if it did "not take the dialogue process seriously."

The FMLN stressed that without progress on human rights abuses by the government, and if "the assassins and corrupt members of the Armed Forces are not purged, there is no possibility of democracy."

### Union offices bombed

On October 31 the headquarters of the National Federation of Salvadoran Workers' Unions (FENASTRAS) was bombed.

Ten members and leaders of FENASTRAS were killed in the attack, and 30 more seriously wounded. On November 2 the FMLN announced that because of the attack on FENASTRAS it would not attend the Caracas meeting and suspended the negotiations.

The FMLN leadership stated, "We must not allow our presence in the dialogue to be used to cover up the government's responsibility for that massacre."

A communiqué read over the rebels' Radio Venceremos November 14 said the FMLN had raised "realistic peace perspectives" in the negotiations.

The government's response, it stated, "was one of an escalation of the repression through tortures and assassinations that culminated in the massacre of the FENASTRAS workers."

Guillermo Rojas, a leader of the trade union federation National Unity of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS), called the suspension of negotiations "logical" given that the government has "declared war on the Salvadoran people by ordering attacks on labor union headquarters."

### Civilian casualties high

By Monday, November 13, officials at the main hospitals in San Salvador reported a total of 363 wounded civilians. Most of the wounded appeared to have been hit by the military's aerial attacks.

This figure was far higher than those cited by U.S. Ambassador Walker. Citing the military's figures, Walker put the number of wounded civilians at 88.

The government statistics were so low that a *New York Times* reporter admitted the figures "are widely dismissed by independent observers." They put the civilian and army casualty figures at three or four times official levels.

"There is no way to remove [the guerrillas] without major civilian casualties," a military source told the *Washington Post*.

Although Cristiani claimed on Sunday, November 12, that the "troops will soon have definitive control of the situation," the rebels maintained control of large areas of the city throughout the week.

On Tuesday the government extended the curfew to 24 hours a day in six heavily populated areas of the city. The curfew includes permission for the army to shoot any-

one who ventures out.

The government stepped up the use of helicopter gunships and aircraft in an attempt to dislodge the guerrillas, shooting rockets into neighborhoods.

The death toll continued to mount, with at least 700 civilians wounded, 200 of them children, by Tuesday, November 14. The army said 101 soldiers and 299 rebels had died in the fighting.

In response to the rising number of civilian wounded, the FMLN held a news conference in a community housing complex in the capital and proposed a temporary cease-fire to allow relief groups to bring food, water, and medicine to the population.

A dispatch from El Salvador in the Nicaraguan daily *Barricada* November 15 quotes two guerrilla commanders in the working-class neighborhood of Zacamil in San Salvador who appealed "to the international community to intervene immediately to permit wounded civilians to receive medical attention."

The army, which has not permitted Red Cross units to care for the civilians, rejected the proposal as a propaganda ploy and an effort to resupply rebel forces.

The November 14 Radio Venceremos communiqué urged the guerrilla forces to "increase fighting to secure total control of the country."

It also called on the country's "working people to cease their activities as a form of the generalization of the struggle."

## —10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

### THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Nov. 23, 1979

(Four Puerto Rican nationalists imprisoned for armed attacks on a presidential residence and Congress in 1950 and '54 were released Sept. 10, 1979. They were the longest-held political prisoners in U.S. history. The following is from a Militant reprint of an interview with the four that appeared in the *Granma Weekly Review*. It was conducted in Puerto Rico following their freedom.)

How did you learn of the victory of the Cuban revolution?

Rafael Cancel Miranda. I was in Alcatraz prison in January 1959 when the revolution triumphed. But we already knew about what had happened on July 26 [1953] with the attack on the Moncada garrison. We were aware of the existence of Fidel and the other revolutionaries involved in the struggle.

In time it became clear that the pro-imperialist Batista regime would be overthrown. Batista jailed me in Cuba, too. I was charged with conspiracy in 1952. I had had to leave Puerto Rico and I went to Cuba and lived there 14 months.

On March 10, 1952, when Batista took power I was working on the Almendares tunnel, which links Marianao and Havana. That's where I learned of the March 10 coup, and in time I offered to fight, but I made the offer to a politician who proved to be an opportunist. I didn't know of Fidel's existence at that time.

What happened was that my wife and I were duly visited by the Cuban FBI, the Cuban police working on the FBI's behalf. I

was jailed at the Tiscornia camp near Havana. Five days later I was deported; Batista handed me over to the U.S. officials in Puerto Rico.

### THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

Nov. 23, 1964

Pedro Albizu Campus, the ailing 73-year-old Puerto Rican nationalist leader who has been in prison since 1950, was pardoned November 15 by the governor of Puerto Rico, Luis Muñoz Marín.

Albizu was sentenced to 50 years imprisonment after a revolt broke out in Puerto Rico and after world attention was focused on an assassination attempt against President Truman on November 1, 1950.

The Nationalist Party, which Albizu led, was the principal organization for Puerto Rican independence at the time. It issued a statement that the revolt was an action of self-defense against a Washington move to eliminate the Nationalist Party leaders.

After the revolt was crushed, an estimated 1,000 to 2,500 Puerto Ricans were arrested. Though most were released, many were given long jail terms. About 100 are still in prison in Puerto Rico and the United States.

Albizu was pardoned in 1953 by Muñoz Marín. But six months later the pardon was revoked, after Puerto Rican nationalists shot up the U.S. House of Representatives, injuring five congressmen.

No effort was ever made to show that Albizu was involved in the attack on Congress.

## Namibian election victory

Continued from back page

Members of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and students from Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa, drove 300 vans provided for SWAPO by the South African solidarity movement to help transport voters. International observers present included delegations from OXFAM, the National Association of Democratic Lawyers of South Africa, and an observer mission from the Frontline States.

Also present were representatives from the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, various members of the European Parliament, observers from the Organization of African Unity, Pan African Women's Organization based in Angola, World Federation of Trade Unions, and religious organizations. In addition, well over 100 journalists were present during the polling.

Observer missions came from Cuba, the Soviet Union, and the United States. The U.S. delegation arrived on November 9 after most people had voted. The delegation was headed by former U.S. senator Edmund Muskie.

Shortly after the voting concluded November 11, UN Special Representative Martti Ahtisaari declared the elections had been "free and fair." This assessment was echoed by Administrator General Pienaar. A day later South African Foreign Affairs Minister

Roelof Botha stated that his government stood ready to recognize the elections as certified by the UN Special Representative.

Theo-Ben Gurirab, SWAPO secretary of foreign affairs, announced at a November 13 press conference that while the elections might be termed "free" as there were no reports of violence at the polling stations, "the elections had not been fair."

He cited the broad misinformation campaign and acts of violence against SWAPO leading up to the elections. Gurirab also noted the "bad amendments in key provisions" of the election laws.

According to the election laws, South African citizens with some loose ties to Namibia through relatives or jobs were allowed to cross the southern Namibian border and cast ballots. Buses and planes brought loads of white South Africans into Namibia, waited while they voted, and returned them to South Africa.

Members of the South African lawyers group also reported that Angolans were being abducted at gunpoint across the Okavango river that borders Namibia and Angola and forced to vote for the DTA.

In a statement issued midway through the election process, the National Union of Namibian Workers demanded that Pienaar

Continued on Page 12



## Blood on Washington's hands

"The army's got the guns to end it all in a couple of hours. The question is what is an acceptable number of civilian casualties," a senior U.S. advisor to the Salvadoran armed forces said this week.

William Walker, U.S. Ambassador to the country, gave the go-ahead to escalate government violence by saying, "I am confident the army can establish order throughout the city and inflict a nasty defeat" on the rebel movement.

These statements underscore Washington's immediate backing for the savage measures taken by the Salvadoran government this past week in combating liberation fighters led by the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front.

The U.S.-backed regime has bombarded and machine-gunned the civilian population in San Salvador, instituted a 24-hour curfew in large sections of the city, and declared a nationwide state of emergency. At least 700 civilians have been wounded, 200 of them children.

These measures now add to the bloody toll of successive regimes which have attempted to stamp out a deep-rooted revolt over the past 10 years: 70,000 killed; 1 million driven into refugee camps or exile; and countless others maimed, tortured, "disappeared," or jailed.

Behind this struggle lies the gigantic gulf between the impoverished working people of El Salvador and a tiny oligarchy of capitalists and landlords that, together with U.S. big businessmen and bankers, dominate the economy.

Some 2 percent of the population controls 60 percent of the land. About half of the infants born in El Salvador die before their first birthday. Illiteracy runs up to 40 percent in the cities, and 60 percent in the countryside.

It is to stop the struggle against these conditions, that the U.S. ruling families bankroll the repressive regime in El Salvador and would like to "inflict a nasty defeat" this time around. Their only concern for the number of civilian deaths is the political costs involved in the murders.

The U.S. government has provided \$4 billion dollars since 1980, mostly in military aid, to keep the regime

afloat. The CIA has provided training and intelligence to security forces directly involved in death-squad activity. A request for more arms and ammunition after five days of fighting this week was immediately filled by Washington.

The helicopters and airplanes that spew death on working-class neighborhoods in San Salvador are paid for by the U.S. government. The fact that the U.S. Embassy gives briefings every day in San Salvador underscores Washington's extensive involvement in Salvadoran affairs.

While President George Bush denounces Cuba, Nicaragua, and the FMLN for reverting "to senseless bloodshed" and violating "agreements reached to promote peace in Central America," it is the U.S. government that has been pursuing war policies in the region.

Congress continues to approve funding for the contra mercenary forces against the Nicaraguan government. Attacks by these forces have killed 736 and injured 1,153 Nicaraguans during a unilateral cease-fire by the Nicaraguan government between March 1988 and October 1989.

Washington has continually used its military, political, and economic might to try to force the removal of the government of Panama. In a brazen violation of the right to sovereignty, U.S. officials were involved in a military coup attempt in that country last month.

The U.S. government has consistently tried to block every peace proposal in the region. This includes a series of proposals presented by the FMLN prior to the Salvadoran elections last winter and again this fall.

Unions, antiwar organizations, and other democratic-minded people everywhere have an obligation to demand that Washington cease all backing for the Salvadoran regime and its bloody repression. The state of emergency should be lifted immediately and the FMLN's proposal to the Organization of American States that it immediately organize a cease-fire should be backed.

## Victory in 10-year disruption case

Courts and judges have a long history of victimizing workers' organizations. But only rarely are they forced to admit it.

That is just what happened in a Los Angeles courtroom November 13. Federal Judge Mariana Pfaelzer acknowledged that she has allowed an antilabor outfit called the Workers League to pursue a 10-year harassment lawsuit against the Socialist Workers Party.

The suit was filed in 1979 by Alan Gelfand, a Los Angeles County lawyer associated with the Workers League. Pfaelzer now admits that she should have dismissed Gelfand's case for lack of evidence before it went to trial in 1983.

This acknowledgment is cause for celebration by supporters of democratic rights. The victory must now be used to turn back the Workers League's ongoing disruptive activities and prepare the labor movement to recognize and combat such antilabor outfits in the future.

The aim of Gelfand's suit is to bolster the Workers League's slander that the SWP is run by FBI agents. The suit demands that the court remove the "FBI agents" from the SWP's elected leadership bodies and overturn Gelfand's expulsion from the party.

Gelfand hired a prominent Los Angeles-area law firm to represent him. Paid well for its efforts, this firm joined in the harassment of the SWP. (Earlier this year, the SWP won an out-of-court settlement enabling it to recover from Gelfand's lawyers some of the attorneys' fees it had to pay during the case. This will help deter unscrupulous lawyers from seeking to profit off other disruption suits in the future.)

Pfaelzer, too, got into the act. The judge routinely granted Gelfand's requests for "pretrial discovery" and refused SWP motions to dismiss the case. After ruling in favor of the SWP at the trial, she let the case drag on six more years before issuing a final judgment in August 1989.

The federal judge now admits this was "a bad mistake." Gelfand's case "is groundless and always was," she said at the November 13 hearing.

Pfaelzer also denied a motion by Gelfand that would have gutted the August ruling. He now has 60 days to file an appeal.

As a result of Pfaelzer's refusal to throw out the suit at the start, substantial harm was done to the SWP. The party had to divert enormous leadership time and resources, as well as tens of thousands of dollars, to defending itself.

As Pfaelzer acknowledged, the court's actions "drained the party treasury."

Pfaelzer's admissions underline the stakes in continuing to mobilize broad opposition to this disruption effort.

Gelfand's suit poses a threat to the right of privacy and freedom of association. The Workers League is calling on the courts to reach in and change the membership decisions and elected leadership of a voluntary organization. For 10 years, Pfaelzer took up this call and subjected the

SWP to unjustified and damaging interference.

That precedent endangers unions, Black rights organizations, women's rights groups, and political associations of many kinds. It is an assault on the elbowroom needed to carry out union and working-class political activity free from government intervention.

That is why so many individuals in the labor movement and other organizations signed up as supporters of the SWP's fight — and welcomed the victory against Gelfand in August.

The new pattern of working-class resistance in the United States — especially the nationwide struggles this year by Eastern airlines workers, coal miners, telephone workers, Boeing employees — creates a political atmosphere in which further blows can be dealt to the antilabor activities of the Workers League.

Despite its socialist pretensions and claims to back workers' battles, the Workers League's actions are convincing growing numbers of working people that its sole aim is to disrupt strikes and other struggles for union rights and social justice.

Today, for example, the Workers League is actively supporting the government frame-up of packinghouse worker and political activist Mark Curtis, who is currently serving a 25-year sentence on trumped-up rape and burglary charges in Iowa. As thousands of unionists and others have learned about this frame-up and joined in the international defense effort, they have had to confront and reject slanders spread by the Workers League.

At the same time, experiences many workers have had with the Workers League's disruptive and provocative actions in strikes and other struggles have helped them better understand why to defend Mark Curtis.

Organized political and physical disruption of the labor movement will mount in the 1990s, as workers continue to resist attacks on their living standards and job conditions. The courts will be used to tie up and bleed workers' organizations. Antilabor outfits — forerunners of future fascist movements — will seek to confuse and divide workers, resorting to violence, agent-baiting, and provocations.

The most far-sighted workers need to prepare themselves and other workers to recognize and combat disruption by the government and outfits such as the Workers League.

Public meetings can help do this. In Los Angeles, for example, supporters of the defense effort are holding an emergency meeting November 21 to celebrate the latest victory in Pfaelzer's court and to publicize the stakes in this fight.

Funds are badly needed as well. The Socialist Workers Party must raise thousands of dollars to fight the appeal that Gelfand and the Workers League will soon file.

To get more information and make a contribution, see the article on page 4.

## Socialism: what is it and where to learn about it

BY DOUG JENNESS

In the past 10 weeks we have signed up more than 7,000 new readers of the *Militant*. Some are attracted by our coverage of the Eastern Airlines strike, miners' resistance, and other labor battles. Others want to read what we have to say about the struggles in southern Africa, the revolutionary changes in Cuba, the civil war in El Salvador, and significant political developments in other parts of the world.

Most readers are not only curious about how a socialist newspaper sizes up the political situation in the world today, but they also want to learn what socialism is.

It's an obvious question in a world where many prominent socialist figures hail the virtues of capitalism, from François Mitterand, head of state in imperialist France, to

## LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. If these defenders of privilege, who praise the "efficiency" of the capitalist market and oppose working-class struggles, are socialists, then why would any militant worker, who wants to fight for a better world, want to become a socialist?

The *Militant* gives a totally different perspective about socialism. We denounce all forms of privilege and exploitation and unambiguously state that capitalism can't be fixed up to work in the interests of working people.

To the contrary, we anticipate that the capitalist system will be racked by ever more severe crises that will drastically worsen conditions for working people and lead to revolutionary mobilizations.

Generally, when someone first becomes interested in learning more about socialism, they want to know the name of a book or pamphlet that will explain what it is. But there is no such single work. It can only be learned by studying many writings by socialist activists and by direct experience in working-class struggles through participation in a communist party.

Saying this, however, doesn't mean that useful suggestions for introductory materials to read can't be made. I will recommend three.

First, is the *Communist Manifesto* drafted by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels in 1847-48 on behalf of the Communist League, an international association of workers to which they belonged. This pamphlet, available from Pathfinder for \$1.50, describes where the modern working class came from and its irrepressible conflict with the capitalist exploiters.

The *Manifesto* explains, "The modern labourer . . . instead of rising with the progress of industry, sinks deeper and deeper below the conditions of existence of his own class. He becomes a pauper, and pauperism develops more rapidly than population and wealth." The capitalist class becomes "unfit to rule because it is incompetent to assure an existence" to working people.

This rings true today as millions are devastated in Third World countries by the consequences of the massive debt owed to imperialist bankers, and as the proportion of those living in poverty increases in many advanced capitalist countries, including the United States. And it will become even more clear with the next big international depression.

The result, Marx and Engels wrote, will be that the "veiled civil war, raging within existing society" will develop to the point where it will break out "into open revolution." The capitalists will be overturned and the working class will become the new ruling class.

This perspective was quite different than that held by most "socialists" at the time. In a preface to the *Manifesto*, written more than 40 years later, Engels said, "The section of the working class . . . which demanded a radical reconstruction of society, then called itself *Communist*."

Socialism, he noted, "signified a bourgeois movement, communism a working-class movement. Socialism was . . . quite respectable, whereas communism was the very opposite. And since we were very decidedly of the opinion as early as then that 'the emancipation of the workers must be the act of the working class itself,' we could have no hesitations which of the two names we should choose. Nor has it ever occurred to us since to repudiate it."

A similar counterposition exists today between pro-capitalist socialists who attempt to make capitalism work better and put off to the Greek calends any prospect of moving toward socialism, and the socialists like Marx and Engels who prefer to be called communists and "who have no interests separate and apart from those of the proletariat as a whole," "support every revolutionary movement against the existing social and political order of things," and recognize that the "emancipation of the workers must be the working class itself."

For further reading I suggest *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific*, by Frederick Engels (Pathfinder, \$1.95), which has recently been reprinted in an attractive new edition; and *Socialism on Trial*, by James P. Cannon (Pathfinder, \$6.95.) The latter is Cannon's courtroom testimony in the 1941 Smith Act trial of 18 Minneapolis Teamster and Socialist Workers Party leaders.



# Missouri auto workers say no to 10-hour day idea

BY JOE ALLOR

ST. LOUIS — On November 1 workers at Chrysler's No. 2 Plant in nearby Fenton voted 2,340 to 300 to reject a company proposal to change our work schedule in order to boost production of the popular minivan that is built here. The proposed scheduling change would have resulted in union members working 10-hour days, four days a week,

## UNION TALK

on a rotating schedule that would allow a third production shift to be added.

Workers at the plant, who are members of United Auto Workers Local 110, had voted in August to reopen the national contract so the company and UAW officials could discuss the idea.

The proposal the company finally came up with called for union members to work without overtime pay after eight hours and to be paid only time-and-a-quarter for Saturdays — not time-and-a-half as currently specified in the contract. The proposal also left open the option of working 10½ or 11 hours a day.

Workers at the Fenton plant, as at many other Chrysler plants, have been on an overtime schedule of nine hours a day and two or three Saturdays a month since 1984. Although they are tired of the long working days and six-day weeks, this proposal was seen by most union members as a demand for further concessions by Chrysler.

Chrysler's proposal was aimed at running the plant 120 hours a week, up from 108, in order to turn out as many minivans as possible before other auto manufacturers cut more deeply into their market share with similar models and before the downturn in auto sales gets sharper.

Had Chrysler been able to implement this proposal, it would have set a precedent for the auto industry in North America.

The extended workday has already been instituted in a few auto plants in Europe. In Antwerp, Belgium, there used to be two General Motors assembly plants side-by-side. In order to increase production and cut costs, GM closed one plant and moved some of the workers into the other facility. They then rescheduled the remaining plant to work on two 10-hour shifts per day, with three teams rotating to keep the plant working 110 hours a week. Now, GM "is getting the same output from one plant that it used to get from two," the *Wall Street Journal* noted.

The summary of Chrysler's proposal that was given to Local 110 members sparked a lot of discussion in the plant.

The company and union officials said the new proposal would create 100 to 1,300 added jobs in our plant. With a major downturn in the auto industry looming, the question of layoffs is on many auto workers' minds. But most workers were not convinced that this proposal would result in any new jobs in the long run.

Several leaflets were distributed in the plant explaining the need to vote no on the proposal. One, signed by Concerned Members of UAW Local 110, said, "The mask they hide behind is that [the new schedule] will create more jobs. Since when does the same corporation which closed Kenosha and 20 other plants during the 1980s care about creating jobs? This is the same corporation which refused to adopt the 35 hour workweek for 40 hours' pay, which would have created thousands of jobs."

After the proposed schedule change was rejected, Chrysler announced that Plant No. 1, which is next door, will be shutting down its second shift in early January 1990 and permanently laying off 1,900 workers.

The company and big-business media in St. Louis are waging a campaign to blame these layoffs on workers at Plant No. 2. "Chrysler contract rejected, union denies more jobs," read one headline in the *St. Louis Sun*.

Many Local 110 members see this campaign as a move to pit one group of auto workers against another, and workers at both plants have been discussing how to respond. Several union members have written letters to the editors of the *Sun* and *Post-Dispatch* explaining why it was right to vote no.

Most workers at Plant No. 2 see the resounding no vote as a victory in what promises to be the next round in Chrysler's war against the work force.

The October 1987 stock market crash, followed by the October 1989 market dive, indicate a serious economic downturn is on the way — something many Chrysler workers are aware of.

With a slump already hitting the auto industry — as shown by recent plant closings and the beginnings of large-scale layoffs — we can expect further moves by the auto bosses against the union, as they try to squeeze more profits from the workers.

As layoffs mount, auto workers will need to join with other workers to build a movement to demand a shorter workweek with no loss of pay, in order to create jobs for the millions out of work.

Auto workers and other unionists will also need to deepen the fight for affirmative action for workers who are Black, Latino, Asian, and women — those already hit hardest by the mounting economic crisis. Such a movement will help strengthen the position of the whole working class by unifying in a fight to overcome the unequal treatment capitalism metes out to millions of fellow workers.

Joe Allor is a member of United Auto Workers Local 110 and works at Chrysler Plant No. 2 in Fenton.

## LETTERS

### East Germany

Greg McCartan's article [November 3 *Militant*] on the East Germans' current crisis states that the exodus of citizens of the German Democratic Republic to the West was a "reflection of the stagnation of the East German economy." Further, that many of the younger workers who left were attracted by West Germany's current economic upswing and seeking a higher standard of living.

This explanation has also been forwarded by a number of the traditional apologists for the GDR bureaucracy. They claim that had workers in the GDR not been seduced by the West's economic boom no one would have left.

This explanation is inadequate. It is true that the pursuit of a higher standard of living represented by West Germany's current boom economy was a factor in the exodus of GDR workers. However, a host of other problems not related to West Germany's consumer economy or any temporary slide in the GDR economy helped to convince many to leave.

Interviews with those who left bear this out. Many have made it clear they were motivated by factors such as the growing social inequality in the supposedly "socialist" GDR and the hypocrisy that accompanies it.

To cite one example, medical care is a basic right enjoyed by all GDR citizens. However, it exists far more on paper than in practice. The bureaucracy reserves the best medical facilities and doctors for itself, leaving the average GDR citizen on long waiting lists for inadequate treatment.

The same could be applied to every social service in East Germany, from recreational facilities to cultural events. The bureaucracy's monopoly on social services has existed even under the best of economic times in the GDR.

Other factors also prompted the exodus. They can be summed up as a fear of a suffocating bureaucratic state that is overly militarized (well out of proportion to the threat presented by imperialism) and that allows only the most conservative political, cultural, and intellectual expressions.

To ignore these factors and to simply present the exodus as a re-

sponse to a poor economic situation reduces the working class to the lowest common denominator. It also fails to fully grasp the situation in the GDR in the long term. Illusions about life in the West have deluded many who have left the GDR, but the reality of life in East Germany is something they are fully acquainted with.

W. R. B.  
San Francisco, California

### Auto workers' strike

The 2,100 members of United Auto Workers Local 287 returned to work October 30, ending their 52-day strike against Borg-Warner.

The workers were forced out on strike September 6 when the company demanded a cut in medical benefits for retirees and that current employees pay for these benefits.

During the strike the company attempted to continue production with some 600 office workers, managers, and engineers. This action was met by mass picketing at the plant of up to 300 strikers until the company won a court injunction to limit pickets.

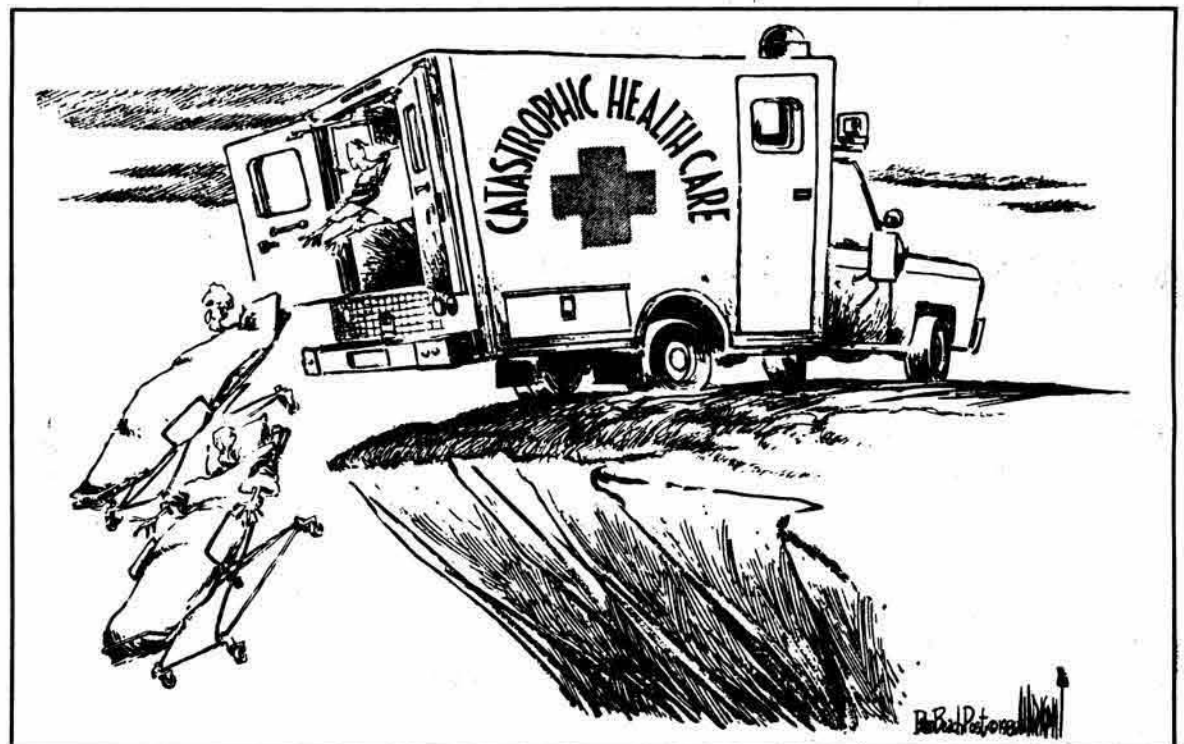
The strikers also organized a solidarity march and rally September 30 that drew 3,000 people. In addition to large contingents from area unions, there was also a delegation of United Mine Workers members on strike against Pittston Coal in Virginia.

Under the contract ratified by union members October 29, medical benefits for both retirees and current workers remained intact. The workers also received a one-time signing bonus of \$1,000, as well as a 45-cent-an-hour raise in the second year of the contract and a 40-cent raise in the third year.

Mike Copeland, financial secretary of the local, said the company threatened to send a letter to union members announcing plans to hire replacement workers, but backed off in the face of the unity of the strikers and the broad solidarity they had won from other unions.

Borg-Warner makes transmissions for Ford pick-up trucks and four-wheel drive vehicles. The strike forced a week-long shutdown at Ford's Wayne, Michigan, plant because of transmission shortages. It also led to an end to overtime at other Ford plants.

Andrea González  
St. Louis, Missouri



### Solidarity

The Precision Products Division of Northrop Corp. produces guidance systems for aircraft and missiles. Northrop employs 750 workers, members of United Auto Workers Local 1596, at several plants in Norwood, Massachusetts.

The Eastern and NYNEX strikes are a frequent topic of discussion, so members of the local decided to take up a collection at the entrances of the plants. Donations for the strikers were collected at five plants on three consecutive Fridays.

More than \$1,600 was raised, with most UAW members donating. Participating in taking the collections were members of the International Association of Machinists, Transport Workers Union, and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. A large banner was displayed that read, "Stop Frank Lorenzo."

Many workers stopped to express their support and encouragement. Comments like "Good luck" and "Hang in there" were frequent. But, workers most often said, "It might be us in March," referring to the likelihood of a strike at Northrop when the contract expires.

John Harris  
Brighton, Massachusetts

### Protest against Quayle

Twenty-one people peacefully protesting U.S. policy in Central America were arrested October 16

outside the Portland Hilton Hotel while Vice-president Quayle spoke inside.

Some 150 people, mostly college and high school students, tried to enter the hotel to attend Quayle's speech, but were blocked by hotel security guards. Within minutes, dozens of cops arrived, using squad cars and nightsticks to push the protesters away from the hotel entrance.

Some demonstrators who tried to approach the Hilton were grabbed by police and thrown to the ground. Others, particularly organizers of the protest, were singled out by cops as they stood on the sidewalk, and dragged across the street to a city bus that had been turned into a police wagon.

Most arrested were charged with riot, which is a felony. But the charges were later reduced to entering a restricted area, which is treated as a violation.

A week later 75 students marched to city hall demanding that city officials recognize the right to protest without repression and that the mayor condemn the excessive force used by police to break up their demonstration.

John Linder  
Portland, Oregon

### Literature for prisoners

The simple opportunity to read a book or write a letter supplies a vital link between prisoners and the outside world and nourishes the

prisoner's mind despite the bleakness of the environment.

Texas prisoners are not being allowed the opportunity to receive political literature. We are denied publications mailed from legitimate publishers because this system says these publishers are an unauthorized source.

In one instance of arbitrary application of the "publishers only" rule, the Director's Review Committee denied an anarchist publication as coming from an unauthorized source, even though six other publications had been approved from the same publisher 28 days earlier.

As oppressed people of this world we must stand strong against prison bureaucracies and those who hold power in this capitalist system. Please lend us your support and write to the DRC requesting it to stop arbitrary and unlawful application of the "publishers only" rule.

Write to Director's Review Committee, P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, Texas 77340.

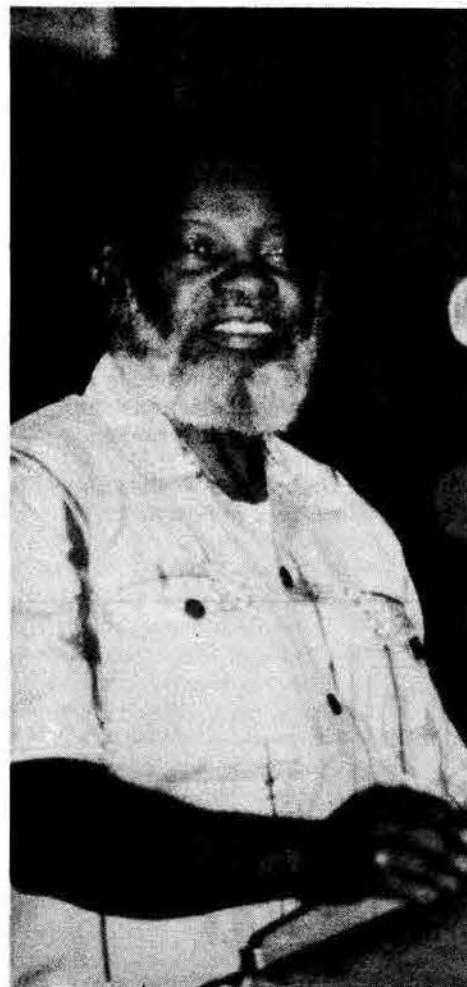
A prisoner  
Lovelady, Texas

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.



## Namibians celebrate victory

### Liberation group wins first elections in former colony



Militant/Sam Manuel  
SWAPO President Sam Nujoma was elected to new assembly.

BY SELVA NEBBIA

WINDHOEK, Namibia, Nov. 15 — Chants of "Viva SWAPO, Viva!" and "A luta continua!" echoed through the downtown area as people took to the streets celebrating the election victory scored by the South West Africa People's Organisation.

With raised fists, leaning out of windows of cars, trucks, and buses, honking horns, cheering and waving SWAPO blue, red, and green flags, and dancing in the streets, Namibians hailed the triumph.

Construction workers and restaurant, shop, and hotel workers in the area left their job sites and joined the cheering crowds as white shop owners looked on.

"Today we must celebrate our victory," said Andimba Toivo ja Toivo, SWAPO general secretary. He spoke to Namibians gathered outside the organization's headquarters shortly after the election results were made public. He led the group in chants of "Viva Sam Nujoma, president of SWAPO — Viva Sam Nujoma, president of the Namibian people."

"Say it loud so they can hear you in Pretoria," he urged.

Based on universal adult suffrage, Namibians went to the polls November 7-11 to elect a constituent assembly that will draft a constitution. SWAPO won more than 57 percent of the vote.

#### Colony of South Africa

Namibia, originally called South West Africa, has been under colonial domination for more than a century. First under German rule, the country was awarded to South Africa after

World War I. The apartheid regime has ruled ever since.

In 1966 the United Nations General Assembly terminated South Africa's mandate over Namibia. In 1978 the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 435 whose provisions called for a "United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG)," under the authority of the Security Council, "to ensure the early independence of Namibia through free and fair elections under the supervision and control of the United Nations."

It was not until December 1988, however, when a treaty was signed by Angola, Cuba, and South Africa, that Resolution 435 was set into motion. The treaty resulted from the military defeat of Pretoria by the combined forces of Angola, SWAPO combatants, and tens of thousands of Cuban internationalist volunteers early that year.

#### Election process begins

Ten political parties participated in the elections. Of these, seven received enough votes to have seats in the new assembly. No party received the two-thirds majority needed to adopt a constitution, a requirement set forth in UN Resolution 435.

SWAPO received a total of 41 seats in the constituent assembly, the South African-backed Democratic Turnhalle Alliance got 21 seats, and the United Democratic Front of Namibia received four seats. The Action Christian National party secured three seats. The Federal Convention of Namibia, the Namibia National Front, and the National Patriotic Front each secured one seat.

Out of an estimated population of 1.5

million, 670,830 Namibians voted. SWAPO won more than 90 percent of the vote in northern Ovambo where 248,000 people registered to vote. This area was the main battle zone during the 23-year war between SWAPO's People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) and South African troops. The area borders Angola and is Namibia's most populated region. It is the heartland of the Ovambo-speaking people, Namibia's largest ethnic group.

It is estimated that 50,000 whites voted in the elections, the majority for the DTA.

#### UN presence

UNTAG has some 4,300 military personnel in Namibia, a police force of 1,400, and a staff of 1,600 to monitor the elections. The elections themselves have been conducted under South Africa's colonial governor, Administrator General Louis Pienaar.

Each polling station was under the direction of an AG representative working with the UNTAG staff. Interpreters were on hand in most places to translate for the voters, most of whom spoke neither English — spoken by most UNTAG personnel — nor Afrikaans, the official language of Namibia.

On November 7 thousands of people lined up to vote, many arriving as early as 4 a.m. Polls were scheduled to open at 7 a.m., but in the Ovambo region most did not open until after 7:30 a.m. Hundreds of Namibians waited all day under the scorching sun before they were able to cast a ballot. SWAPO mobilized its forces during the voting period to transport voters to the polling stations.

Continued on Page 13

## Unionists framed in West Virginia mine bombing

BY JIM ALTENBERG

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Nine union miners facing charges ranging from conspiracy to bombing mine property pleaded innocent to all charges in a federal court in Bluefield, West Virginia, on November 3.

Two weeks earlier federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (BATF) agents and state police arrested the nine, all members of the United Mine Workers of America, at their homes in Fayette County, West Virginia.

Billie Lafferty, Jesse Harvey, Michael Woodson, Darrell Ray Sharp, Alan Ray Sharp, Raymond Thomas, Russell Delung, and Julian Bryant Wriston were charged with conspiracy in connection with the destruction of a bridge, ventilation system, and coal tippie belonging to Milburn Colliery Co. last summer.

The eight men could get up to five years in prison and \$250,000 in fines if convicted of the charges.

The ninth miner, Larry Massey, faces up to 10 years if convicted on charges of bombing mine property. On October 27 two more miners, Danny Fout and Douglas Stover, were charged with aiding in the bombings.

The miners were also charged with counts of making, receiving, and possessing "destructive devices." If convicted on all the charges related to these "devices," they could each be jailed for as long as 55 to 80 years and be fined as much as \$2.25 million.

#### Milburn strike

UMWA Local 5948 struck Milburn Colliery in October 1984 after the company refused to sign the national coal contract. The local has remained on strike since then. In June this year Milburn leased the property to Mountain Minerals, Inc., which began to reopen the mine with nonunion workers.

Michael Brooks, president of Mountain Minerals, claimed to have found a bomb consisting of 51 sticks of dynamite and detonating equipment attached to a power pole

near the mine's electrical transformers.

The arrests come at a time when scores of federal marshals, state troopers, and local police are stationed throughout the Appalachia coalfields near the mine portals, union halls, and picket lines of Pittston strikers.

Some 1,700 UMWA miners have been on strike against Pittston Coal Group since April 5 in Virginia and West Virginia. Pittston miners in Kentucky joined the strike a couple of weeks later. Since the strike began more than 2,000 miners and supporters have been arrested. Union officials and strikers have been thrown in jail. And more than \$30 million in fines have been levied against the union.

## May be 6 years before parole, Curtis told

BY KATE KAKU

ANAMOSA, Iowa — In his first parole hearing since he was jailed last year, a three-member board here reviewed Mark Curtis' records, but made no motion to parole him.

"The average parole on a 25-year sentence is around six years," one of the board members told Curtis when he asked about parole.

When Curtis then asked if he would get out before six years, board member Walter Saur stated, "Everything is pointing well for you, but after the first year we would be loath to make any move."

Curtis, a packinghouse worker, was sentenced on Nov. 14, 1988, to 25 years for first-degree burglary and 10 years for third-degree sexual assault. He is serving them concurrently and has been in prison since his conviction on Sept. 14, 1988.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee, which is organizing support for the jailed unionist, charges that Curtis was framed up.

Parole board member Jo Anne Lorence said that the board had received a "great deal

of correspondence on your behalf, all very supportive." She also cited Curtis' good record.

The defense committee had asked a few prominent endorsers to write to the board to ask for Curtis' parole. Those sending letters included: Robert Verdier, honorary president of the League of the Rights of Man in France, on behalf of the organization; Angela Sanbrano, executive director of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador; William Jewett, chief shop steward, United Food and Commercial Workers union Local 431 at Swift/Monfort, where Curtis worked; Dan Schmitt, president of American Agriculture Movement of Iowa; Edna Griffin, longtime civil rights activist; Annika Ahnberg, member of the Swedish parliament; Alfredo Alvarez, chairperson of the Des Moines Human Rights Commission; Ruth Morris, executive director of the John Howard Society of Metropolitan Toronto; and others.

Among the supporters of Curtis attending the hearing were John Tinker, prominent an-

tiwar activist; Berta Behrend, Curtis' grandmother; Bob and Nellie Berry, activists in the Curtis defense committee; and other supporters and members of the defense committee.

Curtis in his remarks to the board said, "I will continue to carry out activities and fight for workers' and minority rights and fight for democratic rights."

Keith and Denise Morris, parents of the alleged victim, addressed the parole board after Curtis left the hearing. Since the beginning of the frame-up, the Workers League, an antilabor outfit, has carried out an international disruption campaign against the Curtis defense committee in their paper, the *Bulletin*, by circulating a slanderous letter signed by Keith Morris that was produced following Curtis' conviction.

Curtis has recently been moved from Level IV to Level V, which gives him a few more privileges. This includes more visits, and, for the first time since he has been in prison, he can make some phone calls to approved persons outside the prison.