

Socialists win final victory in disruption lawsuit

A final victory has been scored in a decade-long legal battle that threatened the constitutional rights to political association and to engage in political activities free of government interference.

On January 11 Alan Gelfand, the plaintiff in a 10-year disruption and harassment lawsuit against the Socialist Workers Party, announced that he would not appeal the "decision or the judgments and findings" issued against him by a Los Angeles federal judge in August. His statement was carried in the January 12 *Bulletin*, the newspaper of the Workers League, the antilabor outfit that prepared, financed, and organized the lawsuit.

The decision by Gelfand and the Workers League lets stand a ruling by U.S. District

EDITORIAL

Court Judge Mariana Pfaelzer, which categorically found that "there is no evidence" to back up any of Gelfand's accusations and that his motivation in bringing the lawsuit was "to disrupt the SWP."

Gelfand, a lawyer employed by Los Angeles County, had charged that the SWP is run by FBI agents and demanded that the courts overturn his expulsion from the party and remove the party's elected leadership from office. The suit was based on Gelfand's claim that his constitutional rights were violated because "FBI agents" in the party's leadership engineered his expulsion.

Pfaelzer ruled that Gelfand's litigation was "not in good faith." Moreover the judge concluded that years of "pretrial discovery" — including the taking of hundreds of hours of sworn depositions from SWP members and supporters by lawyers whose large fees were paid by the Workers League — were "abusive, harassing, and in large part directed to matters" which would have no value to the lawsuit. "The discovery was not conducted for the purpose of discovering

Continued on Page 14

Anger in coalfields at killing of UMWWA miner

BY MAGGIE McCRAW

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — Coal miners in West Virginia, Kentucky, and Virginia are angry and discussing how to respond as news spreads of the shooting death of union miner John McCoy. McCoy was killed and Darrell Morgan and Steve Morgan were wounded and hospitalized on January 16 while they were picketing a mine in southern West Virginia.

"There's a good chance there will be marches and rallies," said one member of the United Mine Workers of America in Kentucky who is on strike against Pittston Coal Group. "We should get all UMW miners to go to West Virginia and get the facts, show our support, and put the blame where it belongs," he explained.

"We must make the coal companies take notice that we won't stand by and let them kill our brothers."

A union miner in Boone County, in southern West Virginia, reported that miners are angry and concerned. Discussions are taking place about "taking a day" to go down to McDowell County, the site of the murder.

A funeral for McCoy will be held January 19 in Welch, West Virginia, and many members of the UMW, families, and friends are planning to attend. A Pittston striker from Virginia reported that a large caravan of strikers are heading up to West Virginia. "And the response is not over yet," he added.

McCoy and the two others were ambushed from a hillside near the nonunion Rolfe Mining Co. No. 6 mine in Worth, just north of the Virginia border, where union miners have been picketing for more than a year. Darrell



Militant/Kathleen Mitchell

Miners and supporters from UMW District 29 at June 1989 march in Charleston, West Virginia, in solidarity with Eastern and Pittston strikers. John McCoy, UMW District 29 miner killed January 16 while picketing a nonunion mine in Worth, West Virginia, was active supporter of mine union's strike against Pittston Coal Group.

Morgan underwent surgery from the gunshot wound. He and Steve Morgan remain hospitalized in stable condition.

Mine union President Richard Trumka issued a statement condemning the attack. "We are outraged that, once again, members of

the United Mine Workers of America have become tragic victims of violence," Trumka said. "All three were shot from behind. This is the ultimate violence, not just to these individuals, their families, and the union, but

Continued on Page 13

Eastern strikers join King Day events

BY SUSAN LaMONT

Striking Eastern Machinists are moving out in a new drive to win support for their fight against Texas Air Corp. Chairman Frank Lorenzo and to solidarize with other fighters for social justice. In mid-January strikers from New York to Miami organized special picket lines and turned out for other events honoring slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. After a long struggle, King's birthday — January 15 — is now a national holiday.

"In 1968 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was

in Memphis, Tennessee, to join trade unionists and others in support of striking sanitation workers," said the lead item in the Eastern strikers' daily bulletin January 12. "But the day he was to lead a march in solidarity with the strikers, he was assassinated."

"In commemoration of Dr. King's birthday, over the next several days thousands across the country will be celebrating his life and work at marches and rallies. We encourage all our members to contact their strike coordinators and central labor councils to find out when events will be taking place in their communities," the bulletin urged. The bulletin, which is faxed every weekday to all strike coordinators, is put out at International Association of Machinists District 100's Miami headquarters. District 100 represents Eastern strikers in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Canada.

The King Day events were the first round of activities organized by the Machinists in response to the new situation in the strike,

which has picked up momentum in recent weeks as reports of the failure of Lorenzo's "reorganization" plan for the airline have increased. Tours, rallies, expanded speaking and fund-raising activities, and other outreach efforts are being planned by Machinists in many cities. Many strikers also have their eye on March 4 — the one year anniversary of the strike — as a special target date for labor solidarity actions.

Some 70 Eastern strikers and supporters from other unions and airlines gathered at New York's La Guardia Airport January 16 for a special picket line organized by IAM Local 1018 to pay tribute to King. They were joined by IAM International President George Kourpias, IAM District 100 General Chairman Leroy Washington, and IAM airline coordinator Bill Scheri. In recent weeks, Kourpias and other IAM officials have visited strikers in Boston, Atlanta, Miami, Detroit, Seattle, Cleveland, and other cities, "to

Continued on Page 6

Curtis defense leader tours South



The Greene County Democrat

(Above) Kate Kaku, now touring the South for the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, won new support for Curtis' fight from farmers in Epes, Alabama. Kaku, Curtis' wife, spoke at a farmers' cooperative meeting there. Curtis, a unionist and political activist, is imprisoned in Iowa on a frame-up conviction of rape and burglary. See story on page 4.

Salvadoran army officers arrested in murder of six Jesuit priests

BY GREG McCARTAN

Four officers and four soldiers of the Salvadoran army were arrested on January 13 for the assassination of six Jesuit priests, their cook, and her daughter.

The previous day, Héctor Oqueli Colindres, deputy secretary general of the National Revolutionary Movement and a leading Salvadoran opposition figure, and Gilda Flores, a woman who was driving him, were abducted while on the way to the Guatemala City airport. They were both found dead the following day about 100 miles east of the city.

The assassination of Oqueli caused the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) to announce it was reconsidering a proposal made earlier in the week to begin negotiations with the government.

Witnesses to the killing of the six priests had earlier said it was carried out by 30 men in military uniforms. The priests were dragged out of their house in the middle of the night of November 16 under cover of a government-imposed curfew and shot, execution style. The events took place on the campus of the University of Central America

Continued on Page 9

Pamphlet tells of Panama's fight for sovereignty

Panama: The Truth About the U.S. Invasion, by Cindy Jaquith, Don Rojas, Nils Castro, and Fidel Castro. Pathfinder. 44 pp. \$2.50

BY SELVA NEBBIA

This collection of articles and speeches seeks to "arm working people, students, political activists, and other fighters with facts needed to answer Washington's lies," explains *Militant* staff writer Susan LaMont in the introduction to the pamphlet.

Out just four weeks after U.S. forces invaded Panama, this pamphlet includes an account of the first hours of the inva-

strengthen U.S. domination throughout the region, explains LaMont.

Bordered on the north by Costa Rica and on the south by Colombia, Panama is the southernmost of the Central American countries. The Panama Canal "bisects the isthmus connecting North and South America at its narrowest and lowest point," explains Rojas, "allowing passage between the Caribbean and the Pacific Ocean."

As a result of Washington's victory over Spain in the war of 1898, the U.S. government "won absolute control of Puerto Rico and the Philippines and established a 'protectorate' over Cuba," explains Rojas. Washington now became "an imperialist power with colonies in two oceans, and so both desired and needed a canal to shorten the travel time to its colonies, as well as to facilitate trade between the East and West coasts of the United States itself."

In 1903 the U.S. government reached an agreement to buy the rights to the canal from the French company that had begun to build the waterway years earlier, but the Colombian congress — Panama at this time was part of Colombia — did not accept the terms of the agreement.

"The U.S. rulers then shifted tactics," Rojas pointed out, "by promising the Panamanian independence forces diplomatic and military support to carry out a 'revolt' against Colombia."

Washington drew up a treaty giving the U.S. government rights to the canal "in perpetuity." This was done without the participation of a single Panamanian official. Shortly afterward Panama was given independence.

The canal treaty allowed for the intervention of the U.S. army into Panamanian territory beyond the Canal Zone if required to maintain "order."

Since 1903, the central feature of Panama's history has been the struggle against U.S. occupation of the canal and against economic oppression.

"The 1977 canal treaties," Nils Castro points out in his article, "were a result of this history."

Signed by then U.S. president James Carter and Gen. Omar Torrijos of Panama, the 1977 treaties reflect important gains won by the Panamanian people in their struggle for sovereignty. The Torrijos-Carter treaties stipulated that by the year 2000 total control of the canal and administration of the zone would revert to Panama and the U.S. military bases would be dismantled.

"The treaties clearly establish that U.S. forces remain in Panama for the time being exclusively to provide protection and defense of the canal," explains Nils Castro in the pam-

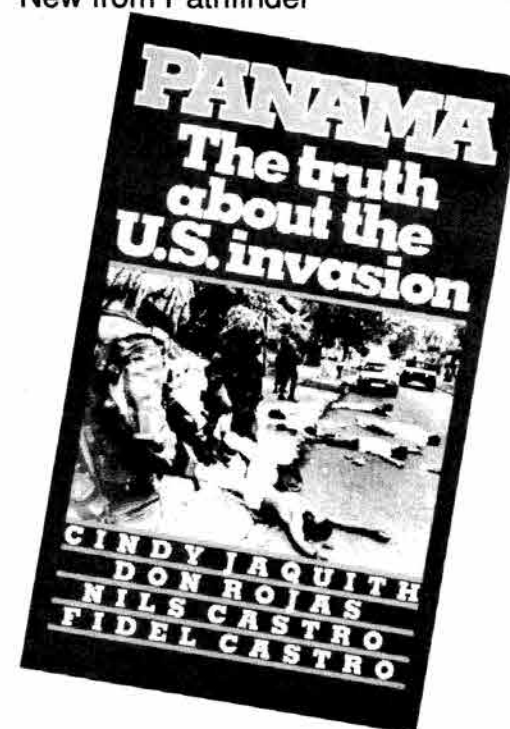
phlet.

But far from limiting its forces to the "defense of the canal," the U.S. has built up a huge military complex in Panama, not only to keep the Panamanian people in check but to police all of Latin America as well.

The December 20 U.S. invasion of Panama attests to this fact. Thousands of U.S. troops were sent in to supplement those already occupying Panama, killing and wounding thousands of Panamanian working people. Washington is using the invasion to escalate its provocations against Cuba and Nicaragua as well.

This pamphlet, with an attractive cover design by Toni Gorton, is an invaluable tool for those who seek to understand and explain Washington's invasion and its continuing presence in Panama.

New from Pathfinder



44 pp., \$2.50. Order from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include 75 cents for postage and handling.

IN REVIEW

sion given in a speech by Cuban President Fidel Castro on December 21, the day after the invasion.

Castro explains how, in a matter of hours, U.S. forces "brought death and destruction" to Panama, shedding the "blood of thousands of Panamanians." He points to the Pentagon's use of aerial bombings and heavy artillery against working-class neighborhoods in Panama's urban centers, wherever the U.S. troops encountered any resistance.

"They didn't attack fearlessly, that is, fearless of the death of imperialism's own mercenary soldiers," said Castro. "Quite the contrary. They killed as many persons as necessary to avoid their own losses."

The pamphlet also contains an article by Cindy Jaquith, "Why the Panamanian People are Fighting for National Dignity." This article appeared in a special *Militant* issue on Panama that came out following the invasion. Jaquith has been to Panama several times, including shortly before the invasion.

An article by Don Rojas, "Panama's Fight for Sovereignty: A History," based on articles that appeared in the *Militant*, and a 1988 speech by Panamanian leader Nils Castro, "Panama's Only Sin Is Refusing to Go Down on Its Knees," round out the pamphlet's contents. Rojas is the editor of the Pathfinder book *One People, One Destiny: The Caribbean and Central America Today*.

The pamphlet answers the question: Why did Washington stage this massive assault against the people of Panama?

Using the biggest U.S. invading force since Vietnam, Washington was attempting to undermine the Panama Canal treaties, secure the U.S. military bases in the country, and

Jury acquits three activists on sedition charges

BY RUSSELL DAVIS

BOSTON — Three political activists charged with "seditious conspiracy" to overthrow the U.S. government were acquitted by a jury in Springfield, Massachusetts, in November.

Raymond Levasseur, Patricia Gros Levasseur, and Richard Williams were part of a group of political activists known as the "Ohio Seven" — after the state in which they were arrested. They also faced other conspiracy charges and charges of racketeering. The jury was not able to agree on whether the three were guilty of these charges.

A federal district judge declared a mistrial on November 29, opening the possibility of a new trial on the lesser charges. The acquit-

tal, however, means the defendants cannot be tried again on the charge of seditious conspiracy.

The government has lost "the longest sedition trial in the history of the United States," declared Raymond Levasseur in a prepared statement released after the acquittal. "The jury has spoken. They have refused to convict."

The sedition charges were based on the Sedition Act of 1918, an amended version of the Espionage Act of 1917. The U.S. government has only used the statute a few times against political opponents. It was used against draft protesters in World War I and to prosecute Puerto Rican nationalists after

an assassination attempt against President Harry Truman in 1950.

The Ohio Seven defendants, who had been active in anti-apartheid, Central America solidarity, and antiracist causes, were indicted in 1986 and charged with the bombings of U.S. military and recruiting offices, South African government offices, and various corporate facilities and with numerous bank robberies in New York and New England from 1976 to 1984. Responsibility for the bombings was claimed by a group called the United Freedom Front.

Raymond Levasseur, an antiwar Vietnam veteran, and Williams are already serving 45-year prison terms for their alleged participation in the bombings. Patricia Levasseur

is free on bail after serving three and a half years for "harboring a fugitive," her husband Raymond.

The other defendants in the Ohio Seven case are Thomas Manning and Jaan Carl Laaman, also serving 45-year sentences; and Carol Manning and Barbara Curzi-Laaman, both serving 15-year sentences.

The trial against the three began in March 1988 and received widespread publicity in Massachusetts. From the beginning the government took extreme "security" measures — including the use of armored cars and U.S. marshals with automatic weapons posted on rooftops — in an effort to portray the defendants as dangerous criminals and justify violations of their constitutional rights.

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Editor: DOUG JENNESS

Circulation Director: RONI McCANN

Nicaragua Bureau Director: LARRY SEIGLE

Business Manager: JIM WHITE

Editorial Staff: Susan Apstein (Nicaragua), Seth Galinsky (Nicaragua), Yvonne Hayes, Arthur Hughes, Susan LaMont, Roni McCann, Greg McCartan, Selva Nebbia, Peter Thierjung.

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Azerbaijanis on Soviet and Iranian sides of border shout to each other across the Araks river. Kremlin uses conflict between Armenians and Azerbaijanis as pretext to move in troops in attempt to beat back growing struggle for united, independent Azerbaijan.

What's behind Soviet crackdown in Azerbaijan

BY SAMAD SHARIF

In the sharpest crackdown against Soviet citizens since he assumed office five years ago, President Mikhail Gorbachev signed a decree declaring a state of emergency in most of Azerbaijan and ordered army, navy, and secret police forces to contain what has been described as "ethnic hostilities" between Azerbaijanis and Armenians. This action was followed by airlifting 11,000 army and Interior Ministry troops to areas of Azerbaijan that authorities say are on the verge of civil war. These troops join more than 5,000 Interior Ministry troops that have been stationed in western Azerbaijan since last year.

The martial law order empowers the authorities to disband organizations, ban meetings, impose curfews, censor the press, conduct searches, and make administrative arrests. Reporters are barred from Azerbaijan.

The U.S. government immediately endorsed President Gorbachev's action, according to the January 17 *New York Times*. State

Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said, "We understand the need to establish order where both Armenians and Azerbaijanis are being killed. We would hope that the restoration of order can be achieved with as little use of force as possible."

When Tutwiler was asked whether the United States supported independence and self-determination for Soviet Armenians and Azerbaijanis, as it does for Latvians, Lithuanians, and Estonians, she declined to comment. The republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan are two of 15 republics in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Much of the fighting between Armenians and Azerbaijanis is taking place in and around Nagorno-Karabakh. This is an enclave inside the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic of some 160,000 people, the majority of whom are Armenians. The territory has been administered by the Azerbaijan Republic since 1923, but in recent years the Armenian Republic has laid claims to it. The Soviet government has refused to recognize those claims, and the dispute has not been solved peacefully.

Within the last two years there have been intermittent clashes between the peoples of the two republics over the disputed territory. Hundreds of thousands of Armenians and Azerbaijanis have fled each other's republics. No Azerbaijanis are left in Armenia, and the only Armenians remaining in the Azerbaijan Republic are those living in the city of Baku and Nagorno-Karabakh, according to press reports.

The Armenian legislature enraged Azerbaijanis recently by approving a measure to treat Nagorno-Karabakh as if it were part of Armenia. This started a new stage of fighting between the peoples of the two republics. The Armenians have appealed for military intervention from Moscow, but Azerbaijanis have vehemently opposed it. The Azerbaijani Popular Front, which has recently gained a mass following, warned that if Soviet troops came a "new Afghanistan" would be created.

The fighting between Azerbaijanis and Armenians is not confined to the Nagorno-Karabakh area. Further south in Nakhichevan, where demonstrations for opening the border between Soviet and Iranian Azerbaijan took place earlier, 3,000 Armenians attacked the village of Kerko and five houses were set on fire before troops restored order, the Soviet daily *Izvestia* reported.

Continued on Page 13

Anti-Turk protests flare in Bulgaria

BY PETER THIERJUNG

A decision to grant long-denied rights to ethnic Turks by the new leadership of Bulgaria's Communist Party has been met with resistance from sections of the country's majority Slavic population.

Early January demonstrations of several thousand in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, and strikes in the southeastern towns of Kurdzhali and Khaskovo, opposed the CP's December 29 announcement.

"Turks to Turkey!" and "The Central Committee sold out Bulgaria!" were chants of the Slavic protesters. In Kurdzhali counter-demonstrating Turks answered with: "Give us our names back! We want our rights."

The previous anti-Turk policy had been implemented for six years by CP boss Todor Zhivkov, who was ousted in November. Under his rule ethnic Turks, many of whom are peasants primarily inhabiting rural areas in north and southeastern Bulgaria, were required to take Slavic names. Mosques were closed in some areas. Speaking native languages and wearing traditional dress were prohibited. A ban on male circumcision, an Islamic religious rite, was enforced by doctors compelled by the government to carry out regular examinations of Muslim boys.

Bulgaria is situated on the Black Sea in the eastern part of the Balkan peninsula and shares a border with Turkey to the southeast. Ethnic Turks are 9 percent of the country's nine million population; 88 percent is Slavic.

Hundreds of Turks were killed and thousands jailed for resisting the government's drive to wipe out their ethnic identity. In an attempt to escape the government-organized pogrom, more than 300,000 Turks left Bulgaria last summer for Turkey. The departures caused an international outcry against the government's policies and hastened the toppling of Zhivkov.

Similar forced assimilation campaigns had been carried out by the Stalinist regime in the 1950s, '60s, and '70s against other oppressed minorities — Macedonians, Pomaks, and Gypsies — which comprise 3 percent of the population.

Agriculture crippled by exodus

The exodus by Turks has created severe economic difficulties. Agriculture, where Turks were responsible for more than a third of the country's output, has been particularly hard hit. Tobacco, a leading cash crop, was almost exclusively in the hands of Turks. Many have not bothered to plant or tend the crop this year. Factories in key industries and mining where Turks are an important component of the work force have also suffered.

The Zhivkov regime responded in July by organizing a forced mobilization of women between the ages of 17 and 50 and men

between the ages of 18 and 60 into labor battalions to work collective farms left idle by the emigration.

Some 90,000 Turks have returned to Bulgaria since the new regime took over in November, and the London *Economist* reported that Bulgarians who benefitted from the emigration fear the Turks' return. The magazine reported that Bulgarians bought goods, cars, and apartments at bargain prices from the departing Turks.

The anti-Turk protests began when local CP officials in Kurdzhali, believed to be loyal to Zhivkov, defied orders from Sofia to restore full civil rights to Turks. A January 1 two-hour protest strike there rapidly spread to other towns. Demonstrations followed in what the *New York Times* correspondent in Sofia called a "well orchestrated" campaign that could not have been organized without help from regional CP bosses.

Echoing chauvinist sentiment

The new CP regime headed by Petar Mladenov, pressed by growing demands and protests for democratic rights, continued to favor granting Turks their rights. It was also concerned that ongoing human rights violations would sidetrack relations with capitalist

Europe. Government spokespeople, however, echoed Slavic chauvinist sentiment. "In Bulgaria, there will be only the Bulgarian flag, and the official language of Bulgaria is Bulgarian," said Stanko Todorov, the president of Bulgaria's parliament.

The CP daily *Rabotnicheskoto Delo* carried an article by Strashimir Dimitrov, a leading academic, lashing out both at Slav protesters and Muslim Turks. He criticized the central government for taking no action against those who "are continuing to fan up nationalist feelings among Bulgarian Muslims."

Newly formed opposition groups were shaken by the protests. Many opponents of the former Zhivkov regime had placed a priority on changing the anti-Turk policies. With open parliamentary elections approaching in April, leaders of opposition groups are worried that their stance has hurt their popularity. "It will of course not be an asset for us if these nationalist meetings continue," said Chavdar Kiuranov, a leader of the Independent Discussion Club for Glasnost and Perestroika.

On January 19 the Bulgarian parliament will decide on a bill granting amnesty to Turks jailed for opposition to Zhivkov's policies.

Civil rights TV sequel opens with Malcolm X

Eyes on the Prize II. Produced by Henry Hampton for Blackside. Eight one-hour segments to air on PBS, Mondays at 9:00 p.m. EST and again on Sundays at 2:00 p.m. EST. Check local listings for differences from this schedule.

BY YVONNE HAYES

"It's time for you and me to stand up for ourselves, think for ourselves, ... see for ourselves, ... hear for ourselves. And it's time for you and me to fight for ourselves."

With these words, spoken on a street corner in Harlem, we are introduced to Malcolm X in "The Time Has Come: 1964-66," the first segment in the series "Eyes on the Prize II,"

IN REVIEW

being aired on public television. The current series follows the six hour-long specials covering the civil rights movement from 1954-65, first televised in 1987.

A few short film clips of Malcolm X, from interviews and speeches, give a flavor for the contribution made by the Black revolutionary and the power of his ideas. Malcolm explains to his audience that Blacks are the victims of the system of exploitation, that there is a need for self-defense in the face of violence, and that there

is justice in Blacks fighting for their rights "by any means necessary."

And the viewer gets a glimpse of Malcolm's internationalism from footage of his trips to Africa; a debate in Oxford, England; and his efforts to take the plight of Blacks in the United States before the United Nations and the world.

The film only hints that something more lies behind the February 1965 assassination of Malcolm X than simply his break with the Nation of Islam. But there is no ambiguity about the impact that Malcolm had on the struggle for Black rights and the blow that was dealt by his death.

The second half hour of the program deals with the effect of Malcolm's ideas on the civil rights movement in the South, particularly among youth, including those in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Many gravitated toward the need to organize independently, which was captured in the call for "Black power." Growing out of the experience in fighting for voter registration of Blacks, the Lowndes County Freedom Organization was set up in Alabama in 1965 and 1966. An interview with John Hulett — a leader of the Lowndes County organization, which took the black panther as its symbol — and film footage of the door-to-door effort in this rural southern county are the windows through which we view Black sharecroppers forming their own political instrument for the

first time since the defeat of Reconstruction.

The debate over tactics and the movement for Black power emerge full-blown through the footage on the June 1966 march from Memphis, Tennessee, to Jackson, Mississippi, begun by James Meredith and completed by massive numbers of civil rights fighters from around the country after Meredith was ambushed and shot by racists on a county highway.

The mood of excitement and the power of the mass movement is clear in the film footage, as marchers, on the one hand, confront groups of racists and the power of the state authorities and, on the other, are joined by Black townspeople and farmers as they march toward Jackson.

The influence of Malcolm X's speeches is illustrated through an interview with a member of the self-defense teams, the Deacons for Defense and Justice, and the scenes of young people fanning out in the countryside to preach self-reliance and independent political action.

Indications from the opening film sequence are that the series will take us from the mid-1960s up through the Boston desegregation struggle, the fight to overturn the Bakke decision attacking affirmative action, and recent struggles up to the mid-1980s. This is a series that is definitely worth watching and one that should whet our appetites to read and study more.

Paris human rights group, 'Lift non-English ban!'

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who is serving a 25-year prison term in the state penitentiary in Anamosa on frame-up charges of rape and burglary.

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

you rapidly remove the restrictions, such as the ban on receiving materials in Spanish and other languages; the prohibitions on prisoners sharing among themselves magazines, books, etc. We further demand that these rights be extended to all prisoners."

Prison authorities have denied Curtis and other prisoners non-English materials and letters, claiming

ney 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.

Jonathan Narcisse, publisher of the *Des Moines Citizen Weekly*, wrote a commentary for the paper's December 15 issue about Curtis' fight. The newspaper is circulated widely in that city's Black community. Below are excerpts.

"While freedom abroad is becoming an exciting reality, at home there are some disturbing trends. One that I have recently been made aware of involves a highly political individual, Mark Curtis. . . .

"After talking to persons involved in the case on both sides there are a lot of issues which remain unanswered. Do I believe he is innocent? Yes. But even more importantly he was denied simple legal rights others take for granted.

"Now he is in jail serving a 25-year term. He is denied access to communications and certain basic rights. Not because of his crime, but because of his politics. It's not right.

"He has become a symbol of oppression."

Columnist Julie Gammack of the

Des Moines Register, the big-business daily in that city, which gave back-handed support to Curtis' frame-up, headlined her December 27 column "Hollywood director produces pro-Curtis videotape."

"Director Nick Castle's belief in Curtis never wavered from the time he first heard of the arrest," Gammack wrote. "Castle, whose film credits include *The Boy Who Could Fly*, has produced a video" for the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and "unveiled it at his Hollywood home on December 3 for 150 friends, Curtis' wife Kate Kaku, and Des Moines lawyers Mark Pennington and William Kutmus."

"Castle says he expects the video, *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis*, to set off a new wave of support for Curtis, whose case is on appeal.

"Most who saw the video that night were outraged by the case," said Castle. The director says he's considering a trip to Des Moines for a showing in January."

Copies of the video are available from the Mark Curtis Defense Committee in Des Moines.

Curtis defense activists in Canada won support for Curtis' fight at the New Democratic Party federal convention in Winnipeg at the beginning of December. The NDP is a union-based party.

Many delegates responded to an invitation signed by five prominent

NDP leaders to drop by a Mark Curtis Defense Committee information table, which was staffed by defense committee leader Hazel Zimmerman. Signers were Dan Heap and Margaret Mitchell, both members of Parliament in Ottawa; Ed Sutherland, the recording secretary of United Steelworkers of America Local 1005; Hilda Thomas of the NDP Women's Rights Committee; and Judy Rebeck, a leader of the abortion rights struggle in Canada.

Some already knew about the defense effort. One delegate learned about it at the International Association of Machinists convention in Atlanta in 1988. Another heard about Curtis' frame-up at the National Farmers Union convention in Ottawa last May.

More than 125 people signed a petition to the prison warden protesting the prison authorities' restrictions on Curtis and other prisoners receiving and sharing non-English materials. Nine people became endorsers of the defense committee. Contributions totaling more than \$100 were received.

Curtis supporters also attended the Ontario Federation of Labour Convention in Toronto where 65 people signed petitions for Curtis.

Carole Caron from Montréal and Lynda Little from Toronto contributed to this week's column.

DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

Des Moines, Iowa 50311; telephone (515) 246-1695.

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

The following protest message from Paris, France, was sent to the prison warden in Anamosa in December. It was signed by Michel Birou on behalf of the prestigious Committee to Defend Freedom and Human Rights in France and the World.

The committee "vigorously protests the various restrictions imposed on Mr. Mark Curtis, a unionist and political activist, who is serving a term of 25 years in prison at the penitentiary that you direct."

"We demand, Mr. Thalacker, that

they are a "security" problem. The real aim of prison authorities is to isolate and demoralize Curtis and other prisoners by cutting off their contact with the outside world.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is on an international campaign 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.

Thousands have sent messages or have signed petitions to prison officials demanding these restrictions be dropped. 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: Attor-

Curtis' wife tours Mississippi, wins new support

JACKSON, Miss. — New support for Mark Curtis was won during a trip to Mississippi by Kate Kaku, a leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and Curtis' wife. Kaku toured Mississippi January 6-13.

The tour was sponsored by Hollis Watkins, a longtime civil rights activist and board member of the Foundation for Children and Youth of Jackson; Eddie Carthan, the former mayor of Tchula and victim of a racist frame-up; and other civil rights activists.

Mark Curtis is a packinghouse worker, unionist, and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa. He was framed up and convicted on rape and burglary charges in 1988 and is now serving a 25-year jail term at the Iowa state prison in Anamosa. His frame-up by Des Moines police stemmed from his activities in defense of Latino workers who had been victimized by the Immigration and Naturalization Service at the Swift meat-packing plant where Curtis worked.

In Jackson, Mississippi, Watkins introduced Kaku to leaders of the Black community. She was also interviewed by the *Advocate*, the largest Black newspaper in the state.

In Greenwood, Carthan and Kaku spoke to more than 50 people at a meeting of the League of Voters, many of whose members participated in a historic 1963 voter registration battle in the town.

Carthan introduced Kaku to the meeting. He spoke of his own frame-up at the hands of racists after being elected mayor of Tchula in 1977. Carthan tried to implement programs to help poor people and tried to raise the town's standard of living. Tchula's population is primarily Black.

A plantation owner who sits on the city council, along with others, organized to get Carthan out of local government. In 1981 and 1982 Carthan was convicted on frame-up charges, including murder, and spent time in state and federal prisons. He was released after a public defense campaign on his behalf.

Carthan also told of Curtis' involvement in defending immigrant workers at Swift in Des Moines. He noted how similar the two cases were.

Kaku was well received by the group and many signed a petition calling on prison authorities at the Iowa State Men's Reforma-

tory to stop denying Curtis non-English literature and letters.

Greenwood City Councilman David Jordan, the president of the League of Voters, pledged support and financial backing for the defense effort.

Kaku and Carthan were invited to address Oxford Legal Services in northern Mississippi's Lafayette County. Administrator Leonard McClellon pledged his support and volunteered to sponsor a showing of *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis*, a video produced by Hollywood director Nick Castle.

In Okolona, Kaku and Carthan met with civil rights leaders of six counties in northeastern Mississippi. There leaders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the League of Voters heard Kaku and Carthan explain the issues in the frame-up of Curtis.

Dr. Howard Gun, a prominent community leader, hosted the meeting. In the early 1980s

as a school administrator, he was framed on fraud charges in connection with a federal grant. Even though the judge acknowledged Gun's innocence during sentencing, he was still given a two-year term. He served 18 months at the Maxwell air force facility in Montgomery, Alabama.

The Mississippi Conference of Black Mayors held a meeting in Tchula. Kaku was a special guest and spoke about Curtis' fight. The mayors unanimously passed a resolution in support of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Jessie Banks, the current mayor of Tchula, gave Kaku a resolution from his city in support of Curtis. It was decided at the meeting that each city would do likewise.

Carthan will be speaking at Curtis defense rallies in Des Moines on January 27 and in Birmingham, Alabama, on January 28.

Eddie Carthan and Kate Kaku provided the material for this article.

Kaku speaks at King celebrations in Alabama

BY JOAN LEVITT

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Kate Kaku, a leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, was a guest at two Martin Luther King Day celebrations in this state. Kaku is the wife of Mark Curtis.

The first event was a January 14 church service in Greensboro, Alabama. An overflowing crowd packed the church to honor King's life and contributions. Bobby Singleton, a well-known youth activist, introduced Kaku. He and Curtis had worked together on various social issues when Curtis lived in Alabama. Singleton noted that Curtis had supported the efforts of catfish processing workers to organize a union in Greensboro. Last week the plant was shut down and 200 workers lost their jobs.

On January 15 Kaku joined a breakfast celebration and march sponsored by the Greene County Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Eutaw, Alabama.

More than 100 people attended the breakfast at the Eutaw Activity Center, including members of the United Mine Workers of America. Spiver Gordon, president of the Greene County SCLC and a member of Eutaw's city council, recognized the unionists.

One of the first speakers was a high school student who read an open letter composed by King in 1963 when he was jailed in Birmingham. Gordon then spoke about Mark Curtis'

fight and introduced Kaku.

Kaku explained that her husband is the secretary of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Organization at the prison in Anamosa, Iowa. She described Curtis' efforts to unify workers who had been divided by race and nationality, which led to his frame-up by Des Moines police. She also paid tribute to fighters around the world, like those on the front lines of the struggle in South Africa and in the prisons across the United States.

Following the breakfast a spirited crowd of 200 marched from the center to City Hall. Kaku was invited to help lead the march. Chants of "Fired up, fed up!" rang through the streets. When they assembled at City Hall, the marchers listened to a panel of speakers, many of them veterans of the civil rights struggle.

Throughout the ceremony the crowd was conscious that the City Hall doors remained open despite the King holiday and despite Greene County's majority Black population. The city council blocked closing Eutaw's institutions for the holiday.

Numerous other injustices were described by the speakers. It was noted that Thomas Reed, state president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, is currently in prison because of a frame-up. Reed is well known for his attempts, along with others, to remove the Confederate flag from the state house.

More recently, Black elected officials have been the target of an FBI sting operation in which Black legislators were accused of taking bribes. Rep. James Thomas reminded the crowd that the FBI, led by J. Edgar Hoover, had used similar tactics to try to discredit King and the entire civil rights movement.

Speakers condemned attempts by state officials to remove the food stamp office from Eutaw and the efforts by some Eutaw elected officials to block desperately needed low-cost housing.

It was announced that students will boycott Selma schools for one day on January 17. This boycott is one of a series of actions planned in response to the firing of the city's first Black school superintendent by the majority white Board of Education.

'Militant' Prisoner Fund

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



Militant/Greg Nelson
Eddie Carthan, Mississippi activist and supporter of Curtis' fight.

Why 'Militant' sales increase to unionists, workers

BY RONI McCANN

More trade unionists and other workers are regularly reading the *Militant* today than in many years. Sales of the paper at picket lines, plant gates, rail yards, and mine portals are higher. More workers who subscribe to the paper renew their subscriptions. And the number of workers who look to the *Militant* as their paper and find it a useful and necessary tool in their battles is growing.

This heightened receptivity to the paper from workers in the past year is the most significant change noticed in recent efforts to boost circulation.

During the nine-week subscription drive that ended November 12, some 8,900 workers, unionists, students, and political activists around the world decided to subscribe to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, or *Lutte ouvrière*. Included in this figure is a substantial number of workers in the United States, many of whom are unionists involved in struggles against the employers.

Preparing for battles

As these struggles keep going — from the strikers battling Eastern Airlines with renewed confidence, to coal miners throughout Appalachia inspired and active in the fight against Pittston — workers continue purchasing subscriptions and single copies to the *Militant*. This includes some from a growing layer of workers preparing for battles they see coming their way — from auto workers to western coal miners.

This openness is one reflection of the new pattern of labor struggles that emerged with the Machinists' union strike against Eastern and with the miners' resistance.

In the mid-1980s, militant strikes by meat-packers, cannery workers, and paperworkers broke the pattern of workers agreeing to concession contracts without a fight. While many of these strikes did not win, they helped prepare a climate of resistance and set an example for other unionists.

Last year two national union struggles lasted long enough for a genuine convergence and mutual reinforcement to occur for the first time in many years. This is what happened when Eastern Airlines workers struck in March and coal miners throughout Appalachia walked off their jobs in June and July in solidarity with miners who had struck Pittston Coal in April. Eastern strikers and coal miners solidarized with each other and drew strength from each others' battles. This boosted their confidence and advanced their fights.

The Eastern and Pittston strikers inspired other unionists under attack, including hospital and telephone workers who could see that there was a changed atmosphere — one of resistance — that helped their decision to fight.

Need the facts

Through these struggles many workers met the *Militant* newspaper for the first time at airport picket lines, labor rallies, the miners' Camp Solidarity, or at plant gates. As militant unionists, many purchased the paper because of its coverage of the labor struggles they were part of or supported.

In the recent subscription drive, 1,357 people who identified themselves as trade unionists signed up for the *Militant*, with workers in the International Association of Machinists and United Mine Workers of America purchasing close to 400 of those. More than 100 workers in each of three unions organizing steelworkers, meat-packers, and auto workers subscribed to the *Militant* or *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Especially important is the small layer of IAM members on strike against Eastern who subscribe to the *Militant* and look to it for help in the battle against Frank Lorenzo. There is no other newspaper with this kind of information on the Eastern strike from around the country and internationally. *Militant* reporters are workers, activists in the strike, and supporters who present the facts that rank-and-file unionists want to know and need to know to help advance their struggle.

In the coming weeks the *Militant* will play an even more important role as the strikers fight to expand and deepen solidarity within the labor movement for their strike — solidarity that can help deal further blows to Lorenzo's sinking operations and directly influence the outcome of the battle. Eastern strikers and other workers who understand the stakes involved in the Eastern strike will want to begin or continue to get the needed coverage featured in the *Militant*.

Developing consciousness

An increasing number of workers who subscribe to and read the *Militant* look to the paper as their own and seek direction from it. They are primarily drawn to coverage on the labor battles, and many, as they continue to read the paper, are attracted to broader politics. Some begin to see themselves as part of a class of workers, not just as airline workers, auto workers, or miners, and they start to become a little more interested in what



Militant/Mark Wyatt

'Militant' sales team members at one of Valley Camp of Utah's Belina mines near Helper. Coal teams in Utah visited every union mine portal in the state.

socialist workers are saying about other political questions and developments in the world.

Deepening battles and big victories by workers in this country and internationally will lead to more workers joining the socialist movement. But the pace at which working-class fighters come to conclusions that lead them to become part of the socialist movement will depend on winning battles and on the speed with which big working-class struggles emerge in this country and internationally.

It's the battles that lie ahead that put a premium on what is done today — introducing the *Militant* to the fighters gaining experience in struggle now, and urging those who already read the paper to continue to do so. The coverage on important labor battles, as well as broader news and analysis of working-class struggles internationally, are crucial today and will be even more so as we proceed into the 1990s.

Champions of the 'Militant'

While there are workers who don't agree with everything in the *Militant*, and some have questions about socialism, many remain interested and more and more are finding the *Militant* to be a valuable and needed source of information. A big majority of these subscribers are becoming real champions of the paper who read it and tell their co-fighters about it.

This is especially true among a layer of political activists and fighters worldwide who

have thrown themselves into the struggle to defend framed-up trade unionist Mark Curtis, now serving time in Iowa convicted on false charges. The *Militant* is the only newspaper to consistently devote pages of its paper to the growing defense effort. In the true spirit of the working-class adage that "An injury to one is an injury to all," hardworking defenders of Curtis understand the importance of getting his story out as widely as possible to fighters from Sharkey County, Mississippi, to Manila in the Philippines.

The four-week renewal campaign set to begin January 27 gives supporters of the *Militant* an opportunity to discuss politics with unionists and other workers and fighters, winning them to becoming long-term readers. By doing this we can establish an ongoing relationship with unionists and other workers through our press.

The new decade promises new struggles for working people in the United States and workers around the world, from South Africa to Central America and the Caribbean. Fighters will want to follow the continuing democratic protests in Eastern Europe as repressive regimes are toppled and workers fight for elbow-room in which to organize politically.

Many will want to learn more about Cuba and the kind of steps being taken there to mobilize the working class to defend the country from attack and become more involved in the economic and political life of the country, a process they call rectification.

The circulation efforts carried out by *Militant* supporters now are an important part of preparing ourselves and others as class-struggle fighters.

New column

To highlight these efforts the *Militant* will begin a new circulation column next week as a regular feature of our paper. This will enable us to report on and help give direction to the distribution and promotion of the publication — from experiences at plant gates and mine portals, to a wide range of protest actions and political meetings.

We already have stories piling up from the rich experiences had by *Militant* supporters traveling through the U.S. coalfields. Since we launched the drive in mid-December to increase the circulation of the paper among miners and their friends and families in coal communities, 10 sales teams have hit the road.

Volunteers have traveled to north and south West Virginia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Wyoming, Alabama, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia, and Utah. The two teams in Utah visited every union-organized mine portal in the state. Altogether, 111 *Militant* subscriptions and 873 single copies were purchased by miners and others in the U.S. mining regions, the big majority at mine portals. This week more teams are getting started.

From the results so far of the coalfield sales teams, it's clear we're in for a productive renewal drive. These circulation efforts combined with a weekly sales column can help us maximize the opportunities we have in the coming months in distributing our press.

Renewal campaign to begin Jan. 27

BY RONI McCANN

The *Militant* urges readers whose subscriptions are about to expire to resubscribe and help kick off a four-week renewal campaign set to begin January 27.

Supporters of the socialist press around the world will be participating in the renewal effort that will run through February 24. They will be calling and visiting subscribers in their areas during the one-month drive to discuss

the *Militant* with them and urge them to continue getting it.

Many current readers received introductory subscriptions during the nine-week subscription drive that ended in November. The renewal campaign is aimed at winning as many of these readers as possible to become long-term subscribers to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *Lutte ouvrière*.

A significant number of the current sub-

scribers to the *Militant* are trade unionists and other workers. Among these are workers involved in struggles, like Eastern Airlines strikers, union coal miners, and hospital and telephone workers.

The renewal campaign comes at a time when the Machinists' strike at Eastern has reached a new stage. Many workers and union fighters see this battle as their own. To get weekly news about the strike, as well as ideas for advancing it, many will want to become long-term readers of the *Militant*.

For the duration of the renewal effort, we will be running a special offer for readers who resubscribe for six months or longer. They will be entitled to \$1 off the cover price of *New International*. The magazines now have attractive new covers.

New International is an invaluable weapon for working-class fighters. Articles in the magazine take up some of the big battles working people have waged around the world in this century, including the 30-year struggle of the Cuban people to build socialism.

Every week we plan to report on the progress made in our worldwide renewal campaign. We would especially like readers to drop us a note on experiences in their area or write us telling us why they decided to renew.

New circulation director for 'Militant'

We are pleased to announce that Roni McCann is the new circulation director of the *Militant*.

Since joining the *Militant* staff last June, McCann has written extensively for the paper on developments in southern Africa and on the growing struggles by union coal miners in the United States.

Before coming to New York, McCann was the organizer for the Socialist Workers Party branch in Los Angeles and a well-known anti-apartheid activist in that area. Earlier, she was a refinery worker and member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union.

McCann will remain on the editorial staff of the *Militant* as well. Having a staff member as circulation director will aid the promotion of the *Militant*, the organization and coverage of circulation campaigns and sales teams, and communication with readers about how to improve the paper and its distribution.

Norton Sandler, who has been the *Militant* circulation director since October 1987, recently became director of business and promotions for Pathfinder. He is responsible for leading the organization of Pathfinder's growing international sales and distribution operation.

Swedish unionists pledge support on Miami visit

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.

tion in the airline industry, Eastern's plan to rebuild as a non-union carrier is faltering.

The Eastern workers' fight has won broad support from working people in the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, Sweden, and elsewhere in the world. Readers — especially Eastern strikers — are encouraged to send news of strike solidarity activities to this column.

Confederation. After meeting with the IAM, the Swedish unionists held a news conference to publicize the resolution recently passed by the Nordic Transport Workers Federation in support of the Eastern Machinists.

The resolution says that the transport unions in Scandinavia will work to pressure Scandinavian Airline System (SAS) and its president Jan Carlzon to help change Frank Lorenzo's antilabor policies and settle the Eastern strike in a fair and equitable way, or reevaluate and end SAS's relationship with Texas Air Corp. and Continental Airlines.

SAS acquired about 10 percent of Texas Air's stock in 1988 and also has a marketing agreement with Continental. Both Continental and Eastern are owned by Texas Air, headed by Lorenzo.

The Swedish unionists told the press they had switched the reservations their travel agent had made from SAS to Pan Am for their U.S. trip. They also reported that SAS pilots refuse to fly Continental in the United States out of concern for their safety.

Some 75 strikers were waiting for Lorenzo when he showed up at a Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Rotary Club luncheon January 10, reports IAM Local 702 striker Jeff Miller. The Texas Air chairman had to walk through a gauntlet of chanting, protesting Machinists.

The speaking engagement to local businesspeople — the first Lorenzo has made in South Florida in many months — had apparently been scheduled by Lorenzo to mollify some of the negative reaction he's received to the "new" — i.e., scab — Eastern's decision to move its hub from Miami to Atlanta and to sell its Latin American routes to American Airlines.

"The last year has been a very difficult one," said Lorenzo in an uncharacteristic admission. "There have been mistakes, and there have been a lot of things I know all parties would like to change."

The event attracted lots of reporters. However, when they tried to ask Lorenzo questions, he quickly ducked out. The strikers jammed all the entrances to the hotel, and chanted, "Choke, Frank, choke."

IAM Local 702 President Frank

Ortis, from Miami, had been invited by one of the Rotarians as a luncheon guest. The hotel denied him entrance, however, claiming he was a "security risk."

Strikers in IAM Local 1776 in Philadelphia recently got a call from an Eastern pilot in the Lehigh Valley area, near Allentown, Pennsylvania, where a small group of pilots and flight attendants had been active before their sympathy strikes were ended.

The pilot, who had helped organize the Journey for Justice strike caravan last August, told Local 1776 members that he was not going to go back to work at Eastern and that a number of the flight attendants he knew were not going to go back either.

"He also told Local 1776 members he was forwarding a donation to them — money the pilots and flight attendants had received from the Steelworkers union in the Lehigh Valley area.

Striker Josefina Otero from IAM Local 1776 in Philadelphia contributed to this column.



**SUPPORT
EASTERN
STRIKERS!**

Since July Eastern has been trying to restart operations and is currently scheduling roughly 800 daily flights.

In November the Air Line Pilots Association and Transport Workers Union, which represented striking Eastern flight attendants, ended their support for the strike.

The Machinists' walkout remains solid. Under the blows of the strike and stepped-up compe-

A 10-member delegation of trade union leaders from Sweden visited with officials and members of IAM District 100 and IAM Local 702 in Miami in December. They promised to build support for the Eastern strike when they returned home to Sweden. IAM District 100 represents Eastern strikers in the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico.

The delegation was led by Stig Carlsson of the Information Department of the Swedish Trade Union

Eastern strikers draw cheers at King Day actions

Continued from front page

show the support of the leadership for the members," he explained.

Held from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., when La Guardia was congested with passengers and traffic, the militant picket line was the center of attention at the airport. Strikers were posted at the doors to Eastern and Continental airlines' ticket counters, and a strike information table was also staffed inside the terminal. Strikers distributed leaflets explaining their fight against Lorenzo's union-busting drive and warning passengers about Eastern's deteriorating safety situation.

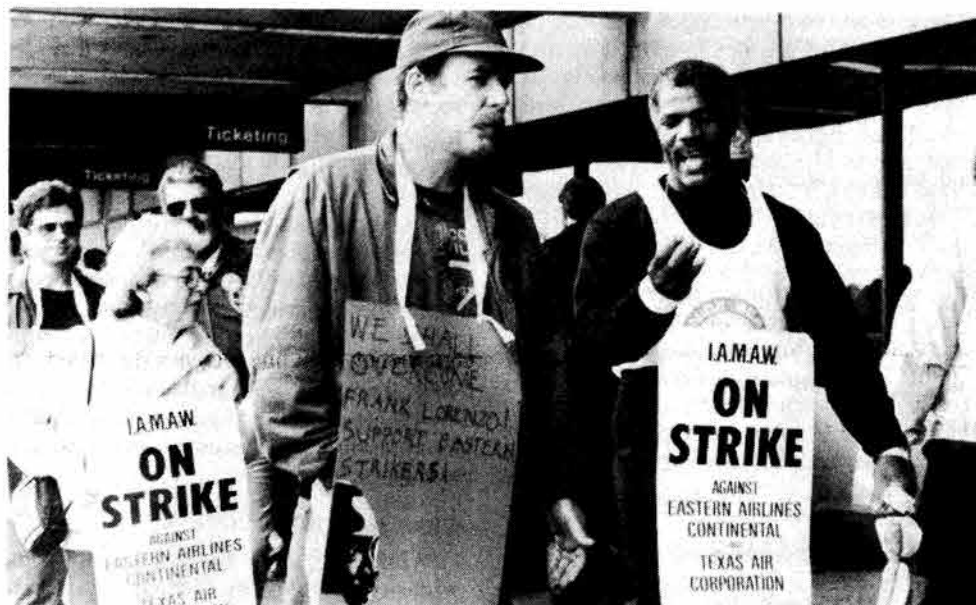
"The IAM plans to continue the strike," Kourpias stressed, "until justice is done, on the picket lines, in the courts, and in Congress. After nearly 11 months, morale is holding up fine." The union is urging Congress to override President George Bush's veto of the measure passed last fall that would have set up a "blue ribbon" panel to investigate and recommend solutions for ending the conflict at Eastern. An IAM legislative conference is set for January 22 in Washington, D.C., to discuss this and other matters.

Chatting with strikers inside the terminal at the information table, Kourpias explained how angered he was at the restrictions on picketing that have been placed on strikers by the bankruptcy court judge. At La Guardia, for example, strikers picketing at Eastern's doors must stand behind metal barricades. "In 40 years in the labor movement," Kourpias said, "I've never seen a situation where a judge has put people inside a cage to picket. I intend to tell people around the country about this — it's outrageous. It's as if the judge were saying, 'You have a right to strike, but not the right to win a strike.'" The IAM is appealing the restrictions, he added.

Passengers and airline workers stopped by the table to talk to strikers, get literature, and make donations. A flight attendant from United Airlines came by to tell strikers that her husband, a pilot, was not going back to work for Eastern. He disagreed with the pilot association leadership's decision to end their sympathy strike last November, she explained. Now he's looking for another job.

Two United Mine Workers of America members, Dan Ross and Jim Lamont, were out on the Eastern strikers' picket line January 16, as they have been many times before. They're stationed in New York by the UMWA to build support for the union's strike against Pittston Coal. "I'm out here to support the IAM's fight at Eastern," explained Lamont. "We're all one — we can't do anything without each other's help."

IAM District 100 General Chairman Washington works closely with the strikers in Local 1018. "Our resolve is strong," he said, trying hard to be heard above the chants and shouts of the pickets. "Since Christmas there's been a resurgence in the strike. We're in the process



Los Angeles picket line January 13 in tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. Eastern strikers, reaching out for new support, organized special picket lines and joined in other King Day events around the country.

of stepping up our activities and concerns for passengers, to remind them that Eastern is unsafe to fly." The union is also discussing plans for major activities around the country on March 4, he added.

Cheers for Atlanta strikers

Thunderous applause and cheers greeted the contingent of Eastern Machinists and their families as they marched through downtown Atlanta January 15 in the King Day parade, which drew an estimated 500,000 people.

Strikers from IAM Local 1690 marched behind banners that read, "We are still on strike" and "Dr. King spoke up for labor." An older striker carried a sign that read, "KKK and Lorenzo are both un-American."

Chuck Pieca and Robert Taylor, IAM District 100 representatives, were deputy grand marshals for the parade.

Local 1690 member Willie Payne explained he came to the march "to honor the memory of Dr. King. If he could lose his life helping a union struggle, it's no more than right that I be here today."

All along the march route people cheered and shouted encouragement to the strikers as they passed. "We're with you all — I'll never fly Eastern again," "Frank Lorenzo needs to go, I'm with you all," and "Don't stop it," people shouted.

"It has been a big boost to see the support we received from the people along the route," said IAM Local 1690 chief steward Michael Drake.

Machinists, miners in Miami

In Miami more than 150 Eastern strikers from IAM Local 702 marched in the King

Day Parade January 15. The parade went through the predominantly Black community of Liberty City.

Thousands of bystanders joined in chants of, "Hey, hey, ho, ho, Frank Lorenzo's got to go," as the Machinists' contingent marched past. Strikers wore new red T-shirts that say — in English on the front and Spanish in the back — "Machinists on strike. Please don't fly Eastern or Continental." Both airlines are owned by Texas Air Corp., which Lorenzo heads.

People reached out to shake the strikers' hands along the way. "We are the heart and spirit of this parade," said one striker.

Two striking Pittston coal miners from Clintwood, Virginia, along with the Eastern Machinists, led the South Florida Labor Contingent in the parade. Unionists marched behind banners that read "South Florida Labor Supports Dr. King's Dream." Other signs said, "We have a dream. Lorenzo has a nightmare," "Lorenzo violates human rights," and in Spanish, "Lorenzo, una tragedia humana." Many other unions were also part of the labor contingent.

On January 13 Local 702 members participated in a labor-community rally that was also part of the King Day events. Despite hardships the strikers have endured during the long walkout, Local 702 President Frank Ortis told the rally, "96 percent of our brothers and sisters will not cross the line."

James Holbrook, Mine Workers Local 3989 vice-president, also spoke at the rally. "We've formed a special bond with the Eastern strikers that will never be broken," he said.

The Pittston miners and members and of-

ficials from IAM Local 702 have been touring the Miami area, speaking to union meetings about the need for stepped-up solidarity with the Eastern strike.

'One day longer'

"How long? One day longer than Frank Lorenzo," chanted the 150 people at a solidarity picket line at Los Angeles International Airport January 13. Eastern strikers have organized such biweekly picket lines since July.

The Los Angeles Machinists put out a special leaflet to build this one, however. It was headlined "Eastern strikers pay tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." The leaflet explained King's support for union struggles. "We are kicking off 1990 with a renewed sense of fight," it continued. "We will fight for our dignity and our right to have a union."

A crew of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union members were on hand even before the 8:00 a.m. starting time for the picket. Eastern strike committee member Eddie Croft had spoken at two OCAW meetings earlier in the week.

Some 30 members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union also came out to show their support for the Eastern strikers. They have been waging a hard-fought strike at the La Mode du Golf Co. since July.

"All labor is under attack, but we're fighting back now," strike leader Joe Mos said, addressing a rally held after the picket. He stressed the importance of "La Mode and us and everyone sticking together."

At the open house at the IAM union hall after the picket, Croft pledged strikers' support to a coming demonstration planned by La Mode workers. "If you support us," Croft told the crowd, "support them. We're one and the same."

Those at the open house also heard from Sam Weinstein, regional director of the Utility Workers Union; coal miner Maurice Moorleghen, who is in Los Angeles building support for the Pittston strike; and Cecilia Rosselli, a Salvadoran worker and member of Comité El Salvador.

In Philadelphia strikers from IAM Local 1776 also issued a special leaflet urging passengers and other airline workers to wear red ribbons to show support for the Eastern workers and to honor King's birthday. Strikers report that workers from Arista service company, an entire flight crew from Midway, and many passengers — including one family who went on an Eastern flight, much to the consternation of airline management — bought the red ribbons.

Salm Kolis from Atlanta, Geoff Mirelowitz from Los Angeles, and Pete Seidman and Jeff Miller from Miami contributed to this article. Miller is a member of IAM Local 702, on strike at Eastern in Miami.

Interest in Pathfinder Mural grows as damage is repaired

BY PETER THIERJUNG

NEW YORK — As restoration work on the Pathfinder Mural and fund-raising continue, the six-story artwork has begun to gather national and international press.

At the end of December the mural, which is painted on the side of the Pathfinder Building in Manhattan, was splattered with paint thrown by vandals. The attack occurred as two major dailies, the *New York Post* and *Daily News*, mounted an editorial campaign decrying the mural's existence. The *Post* provocatively called for its removal.

The Detroit *Metro Times* ran a major article on the controversy stirred by the press attacks and vandalism. A photo of Nicaraguan artist Arnaldo Guillén painting a portrait of Carlos Fonseca, the founder of the Sandinista National Liberation Front of Nicaragua, accompanied the report.

Publishers Weekly, a major book-trade journal distributed to publishers, libraries, and retail bookstores across the United States, reported the vandalism and quoted New York Mayor David Dinkins' denunciation of the attack.

The prestigious national art magazine *Art in America* ran a photo of the mural with a caption describing the project in its January issue.

The December 29 issue of *Claridad* — the major proindependence newspaper in Puerto Rico, which reflects the views of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party — carried an article and photo describing the mural and the November 19 unveiling ceremony.

Puerto Rico's heroes noted

"Of particular interest to Puerto Rico, is the inclusion of portraits of Don Pedro Albizu Campos and Lolita Lebrón in the Pathfinder Mural," the paper said. It noted that these portraits were painted by Puerto Rican artists Félix Cordero and Robert Coane. Campos and Lebrón have figured prominently in the island's independence movement. The article was headlined, "Pathfinder Mural, a monument to working people."

Haiti Progrès, a Haitian weekly based in New York and distributed in other U.S. cities, Canada, and Haiti, reported on the vandal assault and mural supporters' protest response. The January 3 article, which also featured a photo of the damage to the mural, referred to mural supporters' efforts to maintain a 24-hour-a-day watch over the artwork to prevent a recurrence.

"The controversial Pathfinder Mural is on its way to Birmingham via a video presentation at the Birmingham Museum of Arts," began an item in the January issue of the

Birmingham, Alabama, paper *Fun & Stuff*. "The mural features Karl Marx, Fidel Castro, and Malcolm X, along with other revolutionary leaders," it explained. "The mural took over two years to complete and involved over 50 artists from 20 countries at a cost of about \$125,000." The article publicized a January 6 meeting for the mural at the Birmingham Museum of Art.

Speakers at the event included Mary Jones, an administrative assistant to Birmingham Mayor Richard Arrington; Jeff York from the museum; John Schnorrenberg, the chairman of the University of Alabama Department of Art in Birmingham; Melissa Springer, a local photographer whose work had been censored by the city's police department; Heidi Malmquist, the president of the Birmingham chapter of the National Organization for Women; and Sue Skinner, a local mural supporter. Several artists and representatives of art organizations attended.

Dave Ferguson, a Birmingham mural supporter, reported that stories about the mural were also carried by the local NBC-TV affiliate and the Birmingham *Post Herald*.

Costs of restoration

New York mural supporters are busily working to restore the mural, which sustained damage to about a third of its surface. While the splattered paint was easily removed from some sections without injury to the art un-

derneath, artists will be required to touch up or repaint other areas.

The New York Pathfinder Mural Committee has mailed a letter to 500 supporters in New York and Connecticut to raise the needed funds to complete the restoration work. New Jersey supporters have mailed out a similar appeal.

Meryl Lynn Farber, a coordinator of the committee, estimates the costs will run up to several thousand dollars. "To finish cleaning and restoring the mural we need at least \$2,000. To improve the existing lighting and implement other measures will cost another \$2,000," Farber said. "These are funds we need to begin to raise immediately."

New materials to promote the mural, including a poster, are among the committee's projections and fund-raising goals. Checks can be made payable to the Pathfinder Mural Committee and should be sent care of the Pathfinder Bookstore, 191 7th Ave., New York, N.Y. 10011.



Militant/Selva Nebbia
Claridad, a proindependence Puerto Rican newspaper, noted mural's portraits of freedom fighters Pedro Albizu Campos and Lolita Lebrón.

Chinatown exhibit is tribute to seamstresses

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

NEW YORK — On the corner of Mott and Mulberry streets in the heart of Chinatown stands the building that once housed Public School 23 and is today home to many Chinese social and cultural organizations. On the second floor are the offices of the New York Chinatown History Project, where an interesting exhibit — "Both Sides of the Cloth: Chinese American Women in the New York City Garment Industry" — has been on display since October 29. The bilingual — Chinese and English — show runs through February 3.

At the entrance is a sign that explains the phrase "both sides of the cloth" is used in tribute to "the Chinatown seamstress — her skills, back-breaking labor, and strong spirit. When we see a finished garment, let's not forget the women behind it — the mothers and grandmothers who sew the seams, make button holes, and cut the dangling threads. Let us honor these women and listen to their stories."

A long tape measure along one wall serves as a time line showing the development of the garment industry in New York City with special emphasis on its explosive rise in Chinatown over the last 20 years.

The time line begins in the 1820s when, under the "outwork" system, European-American women sewed clothing at home to earn money. The line includes the introduction of the sewing machine in the 1850s and the use of "inside workers" to assemble pieces produced by homeworkers into finished garments.

Lowest paid, least secure

By the 1860s, the time line shows, Irish and German immigrant women dominated the industry. "Already the ethnic composition of the work force reflects patterns of immigration," the time line notes. "Immigrant women work for minimal wages at the bottom of a subcontracting system in the lowest paid and least secure jobs."

In the 1870s and 1880s Jewish men immigrating from Eastern Europe entered the trade and became a significant component of the work force.

Between 1890 and 1930, the majority of garment workers were Eastern European Jewish women and Italian immigrant women. By 1910 women made up more than 70 percent of the garment industry work force. By 1913 more than 56 percent of the workers were Jewish and more than 34 percent were Italian. Roughly 50 percent of the workers were under 20 years old.

Chinese Exclusion Act

With the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882 and other statutes that followed, immigration from China to the United States was severely restricted until the mid-1960s when Congress loosened immigration quotas. Chinese women then entered the garment industry in great numbers, as did many women from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Twenty years ago 15,000 people occupied a six-block square area in lower Manhattan known as Chinatown. Today 300,000 people of Chinese origin live in a much expanded Chinatown and throughout the city. Some 1,400 new immigrants arrive every month.

A display in the "Both Sides of the Cloth" exhibit explains that New York garment manufacturers farm out the cutting, sewing, and pressing tasks at the cheapest price to contractors in what is known as the "spot market." There is cutthroat competition between thousands of small contractors bidding for the work.

The number of contractors in Chinatown has mushroomed. In 1948 there were two

garment shops in Chinatown; in 1960 there were eight and 10 percent of all married women in the community were employed by them. In 1970 there were 102 shops employing 50 percent of all married women. By 1975 the number of shops had grown to 247; in 1980 to 430; and in 1985 to 480.

Today more than 35,000 women of Chinese origin are employed in unionized garment factories in New York and make up more than 80 percent of Local 23-25 of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. In 1988 there were approximately 70,000 members of the ILGWU in the New York area.

\$14 billion industry

Apparel worth \$14 billion is shipped annually from New York and the garment industry is the eighth largest employer in the city.

A display of a denim dress in the Chinatown exhibit shows the garment workers' meager share in this industry. Price tags hanging from sections of the dress show the local piece rates — a seam brings 35 cents, a hem eight cents, a button two cents.

The exhibit includes pictures and a video showing women at work in the factories. They give a sense of the noise, dirt, and stress experienced by garment workers. A sign explains that garments that are easy and quick to sew and have good piece rates are called "soy sauce chicken" by the sewers, and garments with intricate designs that do not pay well are "pig bones" (literally "bones on a pig which have little meat").

The next to last display of "Both Sides of the Cloth" is about the ILGWU. The union collaborated with the New York Chinatown History Project in organizing the exhibit. The display explains the various social, health-care, and child-care programs of the union and emphasizes the importance of the "Defend the Union Contract" mobilizations in Chinatown in 1982.

That year the Chinese Contractors Association refused to sign the contract negotiated between the union and other manufacturers. In response, thousands of garment workers in Chinatown mobilized in demonstrations demanding that the association sign the contract with Local 23-25 and threatening to strike if they did not. The bosses backed down and signed.

The last part of the exhibit invites comments with the question, "How do you think work in the garment industry can be improved?" There is a bulletin board outside the exhibit where responses are posted.

Marea Himelgrin is a member of ILGWU Local 62-32.

Rojas hosts radio news analysis show

BY SELVA NEBBIA

NEW YORK — Every weeknight except Friday, at 7:00 p.m., "Behind the News" comes on the air on radio station WBAI in New York. On Wednesdays the half-hour show, produced by journalist Samori Marksman, is hosted by Don Rojas. Rojas is former press secretary to slain Grenadian prime minister Maurice Bishop. Articles by him are carried by a number of papers in the Caribbean and the United States, including the *Militant*.

"Behind The News," explained Rojas, "presents in-depth analysis every Wednesday of topical national and international issues. We do this through the use of interviews." Over the past weeks, for example, the show featured the Pittston miners' strike, the political crisis in East Germany, the Machinists' strike against Eastern Airlines, and the attacks against the Pathfinder Mural.

The day following the December 20 U.S. invasion of Panama, Rojas joined Marksman in a special three-and-a-half hour show on the invasion.

The show included interviews with British Labour Party parliamentarian Tony Benn; Stansfield Turner, former CIA director; and local Panamanian community leaders. During the course of the program, part of the UN Security Council debates on the Panama invasion were broadcast live.

On January 9 Rojas joined journalists Rosemary Mealy and Annette Walker in a special, titled "Politics in the Caribbean and

Central America Today and the Decade Ahead." The show "took a look at the legacy of U.S. imperialism in this region during the 1980s," explained Rojas. "It projected how the political dynamics in the region will change in the context of the détente between Washington and Moscow." The special included segments on Panama, Cuba, and Puerto Rico.

On January 19 Rojas will moderate a special two-hour roundtable discussion on "International Politics in the End of the 1980s and Looking Ahead to the 1990s."

"These specials are part of a current fund-raising marathon for the station," Rojas pointed out. WBAI-FM is a listener-sponsored radio station. It is licensed to the Pacifica Foundation and broadcasts at a frequency of 99.5 to most of the metropolitan area of New York City, including into New Jersey and Connecticut. This year WBAI is celebrating its 30th anniversary.

"This is not my first experience with radio in New York," said Rojas. "In 1978, before returning to Grenada, I used to host a weekly program on the Black radio station WLIB called 'Carib Beat.'"

"During the revolutionary government of Maurice Bishop in Grenada," he added, "I also moderated a weekly show broadcast live simultaneously over the radio and television there. The show, called 'Face the Nation,' featured leaders of the revolutionary government and of the mass movement interviewed by a panel of local journalists."

Prisoners in Iowa discuss U.S. invasion of Panama

BY MARK CURTIS

ANAMOSA, Iowa — Washington invaded and occupied the small Central American country of Panama over the Christmas holidays using 27,000 troops. This use of force, the biggest since the Vietnam War, has opened up a discussion across the country, including at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory here.

I found out about the invasion the morning it began after waking at 5:45 a.m. I listened to the radio and watched TV. One of my roommates, who was also awake, agreed that it was an outrage.

When our doors opened electronically at 6:05 a.m., I went out to the guard's station to get my identification card and left the cell house for the chow hall. At the station an inmate

BEHIND PRISON WALLS

talked with a guard about the military attack. "It's about time we did something down there," he said. "Yeah, you're right about that. It's about time," the guard responded.

Walking briskly through the cold morning darkness, you could hear men asking each other if they had heard the news of the invasion. After going through the cafeteria-style line to pick up the cold cereal, toast, rolls, and hot peanut butter that often makes up breakfast here, I sat down at a table with some friends. Two were Cuban immigrants and the other a Black man from Iowa.

"That's what Noriega gets for screwing around," the young Cuban said when I reported what I knew about the U.S. government's assault. But this was a minority view at the table. The other Cuban explained that he did not like the invasion. "Panama should be for the Panamanians, not the United States. The U.S. would like to invade Cuba too," he said.

After breakfast I went back to the cell house and watched the coverage on my roommate's color TV which showed a huge fire burning out of control in the poor neighborhood surrounding Gen. Manuel Noriega's headquarters. It had been bombed in one of the first assaults on Panama City.

Later President George Bush appeared announcing the aims of the invasion. He claimed that he had ordered it to protect U.S. lives, to overturn the Panamanian government and install a new one, and to capture the country's leader, General Noriega.

At 7:30 a.m. I left the cell house again for the school building where both high school and college classes are held. I'm taking a Spanish class through the Chicago college computer network known as "Novanet."

On my way there I ran into a friend from Des Moines and asked him what he thought about the morning's events. "Sounds like it could be another Vietnam to me," he said. "Our being down there is what got those people riled up in the first place." When I agreed, he asked, "Honesty is supposed to be one of the great American traits. We told them we were going to give the canal back to them — well?"

Before class starts I usually chat with a janitor at the school, and I asked his opinion. "I just don't know anymore," he said, confused about the real reasons for the invasion. The recent letter bombs that had killed a federal judge and a Black attorney in the South, the U.S. government's anti-drug campaign, and the violence in Colombia were all related he thought, but he didn't know exactly how. Not prepared to form a confident opinion, he was interested in hearing what I had to say.

A civilian employee at the school talked about the invasion as well. She was opposed to the attack, but questioned whether the Panamanian people could have nationalist feelings after being dominated by the United States for so many years.

Over the days that followed I found initial opinions changed and were swayed by the barrage of TV coverage and many supported the invasion. "We had to do something to take a stand against Noriega" was a frequent comment. The main issue often was General Noriega, who they thought was corrupt, unpopular, and in league with Colombian narcotics traffickers. The demonstration against Noriega outside the papal nuncio's residence, where the general sought refuge, changed my roommate's opinion to favor the invasion.

But these opinions were based on news reports by the big TV networks and, while there has been some anti-communist sentiment, everyone is open to discussion with me.

Few know, for example, about the provocations organized by U.S. troops against Panama prior to the invasion or that Washington admitted planning the invasion long before it occurred.

An important point for us, workers behind bars who have been abused by a class- and race-biased judicial system, is that Panamanian society is also divided this way.

The poor and working people organized in the Dignity Battalions fought the invaders even harder than the professional army did, much to the surprise of the U.S. military brass, who rushed in additional troops. They fought at the beginning of the invasion because they had something to gain in defending the rights they had won over the last 20 years since the late Gen. Omar Torrijos came to power, even if it meant fighting the most powerful military force in the world.

Claiming to fight a war on drugs, Washington and state governments have filled penitentiaries with thousands of prisoners. Longer sentences, restrictions on bail, relaxed "probable cause" requirements, property and cash confiscations, increased police searches, and generally more repressive laws have been aimed at working people as a result. This same so-called war on drugs is also being used by the U.S. government as a guise for intervening against working people in Latin America and the Caribbean.

A few months ago I talked with a friend here who is a Vietnam War veteran. He was glad to see a Black man, Colin Powell, appointed head of the U.S. armed forces' Joint Chiefs of Staff. He thought this would be welcomed by Black GIs and officers whose hopes for advancement would be raised. But when he saw Powell selling the invasion to the U.S. people on TV, he could only shake his head in disgust.

Mark Curtis, a union and political activist, is serving a 25-year jail term at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory on a frame-up rape and burglary conviction.

New Zealand meat workers face layoffs, shutdowns

BY PETER BRADLEY

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — In November the Auckland Farmers Freezing Company (Affco) announced it was laying off almost 3,000 workers from six newly acquired meat processing plants in the lower North Island. Four were "down-sized." Two were closed.

This was the latest in a series of closures and layoffs worked out between all the major meat companies with the backing of the government and organizations representing capitalist farmers. They aim to reverse a fall in their profit rates by reducing what they call "excess killing capacity" and imposing speed-up, wage cuts, and longer hours in the remaining plants.

Industry rationalization

The number of workers in the meat industry nationally has now fallen from more than 30,000 in 1981 to less than 20,000. Further massive job losses are imminent through a similar "rationalization" in the South Island.

In this latest round of job-slashing, workers were called to workplace meetings where the company laid out cuts that had been negotiated with top union officials. Workers mostly took the news quietly and went home.

The president of the national Council of Trade Unions, Ken Douglas, praised Affco management for consulting with the unions before announcing the cuts. The CTU had helped negotiate a layoff package that Affco hailed as "innovative."

While receiving smaller unemployment payments than under previous agreements in the industry, laid-off workers were also encouraged to loan half their unemployment payment back to the company for four years in exchange for a promise of preferential rehiring during the same period, if jobs become available. The meat bosses have been bleating that unemployment benefits won by laid-off meat workers have been "too high," discouraging companies from closing "uneconomical" freezing works.

Over the last several years, the meat workers' annual contract has been settled below the rate of wage increases won by other unions. In 1989 the contract was extended over 18 months, delivering an even smaller pay increase. In 1988 unions in many South Island plants broke from the national contract to sign individual company agreements demanded by the employers.

Moreover, shift work, involving 12-hour workdays, is being introduced into the industry for the first time.

The laid-off meat workers will join some 180,000 workers, or 13 percent of the work force, who are already unemployed. Their plight is worsened by cuts in public health care, unemployment benefits, and other government social spending.

These blows to the meat workers' unions, long regarded as one of the strongest and most militant sections of the industrial labor movement, has had a discouraging effect on other workers also under attack from profit-hungry capitalists.

During the initial unfolding of their offensive in the late 1970s and early 1980s, when the employers began campaigning to cut wages, working conditions, and government welfare spending, the unions initially put up some significant resistance.

The meat workers were part of this. In 1978 they rallied around 180 Southland freezing workers prosecuted for defying restrictive antiunion laws, forcing the government to back down and eat "offal pie," as the media put it. Several major strikes were carried out against company moves to close plants and make sweeping layoffs.

Pulp and paper industry workers at the big Kinleith mill in the central part of the North Island struck for 12 weeks in 1980, winning nationwide labor solidarity that defeated their employers and forced the government to repeal its wage control legislation. Two general strikes in defense of workers' rights were called during this period by the industrially based Federation of Labour.

But as the employers' demands grew more trenchant, the top union officials lost their nerve and ran away from further battles, leaving the unions in disorderly retreat.

Declining union membership

By 1987 the top union officialdom had dissolved the Federation of Labour into the more top-heavy CTU. The perspective of the CTU leadership is to further push the union rank and file into the background and preserve the dues base for a "professional staff" in the face of declining membership. They are attempting to do this by promoting top-down union amalgamations and lobbying the government and the employers for a "compact" that will guarantee them a role in negotiating the cuts in jobs, wages, and working conditions that the bosses are demanding.

In 1988, industrial stoppages reached their lowest level since 1967.

In 1989 the Kinleith unions signed a two-and-a-half year contract and agreed to layoffs that will leave the plant with a third of the work force it had during the 1970s. In ex-

change, the remaining workers are promised "job security."

Thousands of government workers have been laid off as state-owned industries have been privatized and as government departments have been radically "restructured" to reduce the social services provided to working people.

Some 50,000 clerical, hotel, and restaurant workers have been without national contracts since their employers refused to settle with them in 1988. Those contracts that were settled in 1989 mostly involved wage rises of less than two-thirds of the rate of inflation, meaning more across-the-board cuts in real wages.

In fact, under the catchwords of "labor-market flexibility" and removing "outdated restraints," the employers are attacking the national contract system itself. Their stated goal is agreements tailored to the productivity and profitability of individual companies.

In this way, they want to intensify competition among workers by giving individual

employers and plants a freer hand to increase the number of hours that can be worked before overtime and penalty rates come into effect. They want to make shift work more widespread and increase the number of temporary and part-time workers.

Employers press harder

As the employers press harder for concessions, and do so with growing confidence and arrogance, the question facing workers is how to defend wages, conditions, jobs, and union organization.

The Seamen's Union gave a lesson here last October when it shut down the ferries that transport freight and passengers between the North and South islands of the country. The union was responding to the state-owned Railways Corp.'s unilateral slashing of crew levels. After a week on strike, in defiance of two court orders to return to work and the seizure of the entire assets of the union, the seamen forced their employer to back off and reinstate the fired workers.

Joint U.S. and South Korean military exercises reduced

The U.S. and South Korean governments announced January 10 that annual joint military maneuvers scheduled for mid-March would be reduced. Last year's maneuvers consisted of war exercises involving some 205,000 troops and cost Washington \$42 million.

The South Korean Defense Ministry explained that the number of troops involved in this year's exercises would be cut by 10 percent and that three Korean soldiers would be cut for every U.S. soldier. Military equipment will also be reduced by 10 percent.

For the last three years, the North Korean government has demanded a halt to the military exercises, code-named Team Spirit.

The announcement comes on the heels of a call by the North Korean government to tear down the concrete wall that separates the north and south, erected following the Korean War of 1950-53. In a January 1 address Kim Il Sung, president of North Korea, said removing the wall, a symbol of the north-south division, should open the door to free travel between the two Koreas and political, economic, and cultural exchanges.

The two Koreas are near an agreement on

arrangements to field a joint athletic team for this year's Asian Games in Beijing, and continue to negotiate over possible high-level meetings between the two governments.

The division between north and south is at the center of a political trial currently being conducted in South Korea. On August 15 Rim Su Gyong, a 21-year-old South Korean student, and Rev. Moon Gyo Hyon were arrested by South Korean authorities at the border village of Panmunjom on charges of illegal travel to North Korea.

Yim traveled to the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, from July 1 through July 8 for the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students that had been held there. Moon was sent to North Korea by a group of priests to escort her home.

Yim visited the north to press demands for the reunification of the two Koreas, which has become a central demand of the South Korean student movement.

On December 4 the trial was disrupted by some 200 supporters, friends, and family members when the two were led into the courtroom for the third day of hearings. The crowd demanded their release. The trial is scheduled to resume later in January.

Salvadoran officers arrested for murder of priests

Continued from front page

in San Salvador, the Salvadoran capital city.

The assassinations occurred amidst a brutal government response to the countrywide offensive by the FMLN, a bloc of five groups waging a guerrilla war against the government.

The Salvadoran military bombed, rocketed, and machine-gunned neighborhoods in cities across the country from U.S.-supplied aircraft. Leaders of trade unions and political organizations went into hiding or fled the country. Thousands were killed or wounded by the government actions.

The priests, who were teachers at the university, are among the best-known victims of the 10-year civil war in the country. Some 70,000 have died, many at the hands of right-wing death squads. The priests were outspoken advocates of a negotiated end to the war and documented human rights abuses by the government.

The killings outraged world public opinion, and a number of imperialist governments that back the regime of President Alfredo Cristiani threatened to curtail aid if those responsible for the crime were not apprehended.

The Salvadoran government is dependent on foreign aid to prop up a devastated economy and maintain political power. Over the past decade Washington alone has provided \$4 billion, much of it for arms and other military supplies.

The officers under arrest are a colonel, two lieutenants, and a sublieutenant. The colonel had been in charge of the military school in El Salvador and was previously director of military intelligence.

Before the arrests the Bush administration floated the idea that the FMLN might be

responsible for the murders, when the pattern of all previous such atrocities indicated that it was the work of right-wing death squads linked to the military, or the military itself.

The Catholic archbishop of San Salvador said at the time that there was a "strong indication" that the priests had been killed by members of the armed forces. But as recently as January 2 the U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, William Walker, told members of Congress that the priests were probably killed by the rebels.

According to the *Washington Post*, Cristiani, while denying the arrests were a result of the international pressure, admitted that they came as a result of "a general clamor of the Salvadoran people . . . who want those responsible not to act with impunity."

Despite extensive evidence of human rights abuses and widespread links with right-wing death squads over the past decade, no officer of the Salvadoran army has ever been tried for any such crime.

The *Post* reports at least one high level officer of the Salvadoran military, Col. Carlos Armando Aviles, was told the names of the military men responsible for killing the Jesuits. He reported the names to a U.S. officer stationed in El Salvador in mid-December, rather than to Col. Rene Emilio Ponce, the Salvadoran chief of staff, out of fear of reprisal.

This information was reported to neither the U.S. embassy nor the Salvadoran government until early January. When the names were turned over to the U.S. military commander, Aviles was removed from his post as defense attaché to the United States.

By the second week of January, Cristiani was forced to announce that the military was



Bodies of clergymen slain by officers of Salvadoran army

indeed behind the slayings and arrests were imminent.

Despite the arrests, many in El Salvador believe the open assassination of such prominent individuals would only be carried out with the approval of top-ranking military and government officials.

FMLN agrees to new negotiations

On January 11 the FMLN had announced it would agree to a new round of negotiations. The talks were to be mediated by the United Nations.

Previous negotiations were broken off following the October 31 bombing of the San Salvador office of the National Federation of Salvadoran Workers' Unions.

The rebels then launched the November military offensive. U.S. officials and advisers played a central role in directing the government's savage counteroffensive to drive the rebels out of the major cities.

During the offensive the FMLN repeatedly demanded the government return to the negotiating table to implement a set of proposals aimed at bringing an end to the 10-year civil war.

On the heels of the government repression, presidents of the five Central American countries signed an accord stating that the regime in El Salvador was "democratic" and calling on the FMLN to cease attacking civilians and to demobilize.

The accords represented a blow to the FMLN and the struggling people in El Salvador because Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega also signed the declaration. The Sandinista National Liberation Front and the Nicaraguan government have supported the FMLN in its struggle against the Salvadoran regime.

Opposition leader assassinated

In response to the murder of Oqueli, the FMLN General Command released a statement January 13 holding Cristiani responsible for his death. Cristiani's party, Arena, was founded in Guatemala in the 1970s and right-wing elements in the officer corps of both countries' armies have longstanding ties, the statement pointed out.

The second secretary of the Nicaraguan embassy in Guatemala, Jorge Adolfo Vargas González, had previously been murdered outside of his residence in Guatemala City, in late December.

The National Revolutionary Movement is headed by Guillermo Ungo. A central opposition figure in El Salvador, Ungo ran for president in the elections held last year.

Oqueli, who is also the secretary of the Socialist International for Latin America, was on his way to Nicaragua as an observer to the preparations for the February elections in that country.

The murder of Oqueli and Gilda Flores, the continued state of emergency in El Salvador, and "the latest events in connection with the case of the Jesuits, in which everything points to the fact that the intellectual authors of the crime will not be punished, brings us to re-examine our offer of dialogue," the FMLN statement said.

The jailing of the officers has opened a rift

in El Salvador's ruling party and its officer corps. Some elements resent the officers' arrest. They also wish to pursue even more ruthless action against opposition to the government.

"You have to understand that there were people who drank champagne when they heard the news of the Jesuits' death," a businessman told the *Washington Post*. "They feel that they bought and paid for a product [Cristiani], and now the product is not what they thought it would be."

The divisions have led to rumors of a coup for the first time since Cristiani took office last May.

But maintaining the state of emergency and a worsening human rights record carries a high political cost inside the country and internationally. Maintaining at least the image of a democratically run government is essential for the continued massive inflow of aid from Washington.

The FMLN communiqué said the UN General Assembly's resolution that demands respect for human rights and democratic liberties in El Salvador "should be applied unconditionally in our country in order to create the atmosphere and the favorable conditions that are necessary for a political settlement."

Anti-Semitic vandal charged for attack on Maryland school

Jeffrey Lee Eskew, who police say is a self-proclaimed "skinhead," was charged January 13 with vandalizing a Jewish secondary school in a Washington, D.C., suburb on the night of December 27.

The Boys Division of the Yeshiva of Greater Washington is located in a neighborhood that has the largest Orthodox Jewish community in the Washington area. During the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah intruders smashed windows, sprayed chemicals, broke bookshelves and ransacked lockers, and set a bathroom on fire. The words "Satan" and "Roman Catholics rule" were scrawled on lockers and a blackboard.

This school had been moved a few miles to its current location near Silver Spring, Maryland, in 1977 after the building where it was housed was defaced with swastikas and anti-Semitic slogans and damaged by arson.

The recent attack, apparently the work of several individuals, was one of a series of incidents in the area last year that had an expressly anti-Semitic character. Several small neo-Nazi groups operate in the Washington-Baltimore area, including Southern Maryland Area Skinheads, Baltimore Area Skinheads, and American Resistance, a group reportedly tied to the Maryland Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. No links have been established between Eskew and any of these groups.

Eskew was arrested in Los Angeles where he is facing armed robbery charges. If convicted, it "could be years," according to Maryland police, before he is extradited and faces prosecution for the vandalism.

Antiwar activists issue call for national action

BY BOB MILLER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "We need to see massive protests to stop the U.S. in El Salvador," said Angela Sanbrano to the third national convention of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador.

Sanbrano, the executive director of CISPES, addressed the 350 activists attending the January 12-14 event here.

The convention called for a national "Archbishop Romero Commemoration and March to End the U.S. War in Central America," to be held here March 24. Romero was murdered in El Salvador on March 24, 1980. He had spoken out against government repression.

The main demands of the protest are: "End all U.S. aid to El Salvador," "End the U.S. war in Nicaragua," "No invasions — end the occupation of Panama," and "Cut military spending, fund human needs."

The march will be a top priority for CISPES, said Hugh Byrne, political director of the solidarity organization. The march has been sponsored by a range of organizations including the Nicaragua Network, the Network in Solidarity with Guatemala, Pax Christi, Pledge of Resistance, Rainbow Coalition, and SANE/FREEZE.

Sanbrano reported that CISPES helped organize more than 800 demonstrations in 1989 against Washington's aid to the Salvadoran regime. These actions, she said, involved more than 80,000 people throughout the United States. More than 2,500 were arrested in acts of civil disobedience.

Two tasks are central to CISPES' work, Sanbrano noted. First is to cut off U.S. government aid to the regime in El Salvador, which includes ending all forms of U.S. intervention in the country. The second goal is to raise material aid for the Salvadoran people.

Some \$6,000 was donated during the convention as part of a fund-raising campaign to

buy mobile hospitals for the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN).

Gladys Sibrián, a representative of the FMLN in the United States, delivered a keynote address. Following the murder of the six Jesuits in San Salvador, the bipartisan consensus on U.S. government aid to El Salvador has been shaken, she reported.

"Congress and the U.S. administration will need to hear from millions standing up with protest actions," she said.

Reviewing the peace initiatives over the past year, Sibrián concluded, "We need a negotiated political solution — there is no other way out."

Other workshop and plenary sessions discussed "Building the Antiwar Movement," student organizing, U.S. policy and Central America, the current situation in El Salvador, and other topics.

At a plenary session Sanbrano denounced the December 20 invasion of Panama by thousands of U.S. troops. "Noriega was not the reason" the invasion occurred, she said. The aim of the assault was to preserve the 13 U.S. military bases in Panama, she noted.

The convention also received greetings by video from Salvador Samayoa, the coordinator of the political diplomatic commission of the FMLN.

"The change of policy of the Soviet Union has given a free hand to the U.S. to use force, as demonstrated by the invasion of Panama," he said.

"It is too bad the Panamanian people and the Panamanian Defense Forces were not able to resist and surrendered to the U.S. These events have created an international climate in which the U.S. is tempted to use force anywhere in order to guarantee what they call 'their interests,'" he continued.

Samayoa stressed that solidarity with struggles around the world is a necessary ingredient in deterring "this policy of domination and aggression that the U.S. government would like to follow."

Brazilian currency drops 1% per day

Elections show deepening crisis, growing dissatisfaction among workers

BY SELVA NEBBIA

As soon as they receive their paychecks, Brazilians rush to the supermarkets to stock up on food for the month, in an attempt to beat inflation. Every 20 hours Brazil's currency, the cruzado, loses more than 1 percent of its value.

Many in Brazil, though, have no paycheck to spend. Some 40 million of Brazil's 145 million people live in absolute poverty. The minimum wage is less than \$50 a month; about 25 million people survive on a third that amount. The foreign debt of this South American country is more than \$120 billion, the majority owed to U.S. bankers — the largest foreign debt of any country in the Third World.

It was in this context that 31 million Brazilians voted on December 17 for Luis Inacio "Lula" da Silva, the candidate of the Brazilian Workers Party (PT), in the second round of the presidential elections. Although da Silva lost the election to big-business candidate Fernando Collor de Mello, who received 35 million votes, his showing reflects the growing dissatisfaction among Brazilian working people with the social and economic conditions they face.

Founded 10 years ago by trade unionists, activists in various left groups, and left-wing Catholics, the PT has the backing of the 15-million member United Workers Federation. In November 1988 the PT won many local elections including the mayoralty of the country's largest city, São Paulo.

This election was the first time in 29 years that Brazilians were able to vote for president. José Sarney, Brazil's current president, was elected in 1985 by indirect vote. From 1964 until 1985 Brazil was ruled by a military dictatorship that came to power through a U.S.-supported coup against the reformist government of João Goulart.

Collor, 40, son of a prominent businessman, began his political career in 1979 when Brazil's military government named him mayor of Maceió, the capital of Alagoas. In 1986 he was elected governor of the province, one of Brazil's most impoverished.

Known as a playboy and once voted by the Brasília Yacht Club as one of the capital's "10 most elegant men," Collor used his public office to promote himself and his family. In his last five months as governor of Alagoas, for example, Collor spent almost \$1 million on official propaganda promoting his work as governor, of which 54 percent went to media outlets owned by him and his family.

As the voting date was approaching, Collor, worried about the election outcome, began making more appeals to Brazilian working people and to the poor, pledging to expand social programs and institute "reforms that will result in the social justice that the Brazilian people need so badly."

This will be a tall order for Collor, who is scheduled to take office March 15. According to the World Bank, the richest 20 percent of the population in Brazil receive 67 percent of the national income, while the poorest 40 percent get only 7 percent.

Argentina and Venezuela

With an annual inflation rate above 1,300 percent, fear is growing among Brazilian rulers that a social explosion similar to those that rocked Venezuela and Argentina last year will take place. Burdened by the economic crisis, thousands in those countries engaged in protests and flocked to the stores and took food from the shelves.

Today Argentina is again on the brink of major economic collapse as inflation rapidly eats up buying power. Last year's inflation rate probably topped 5,000 percent. Argen-



Side by side with high-rise apartments in Rio de Janeiro, shantytowns are sign of deep economic crisis in Brazil, once presented as "economic miracle" of Latin America.

tine shopkeepers raised prices by 100 percent during the last week of the year.

The Argentine daily *Clarín* reported December 31 that in only 24 hours the price of bread rose from 540 australes (US\$48) to 1,100 australes a kilogram. Many pharmacies chose not to open their doors rather than sell

medicine at prices that would not allow them to restock.

Homeless children

Roaming the streets of Brazil, at one time presented as the "economic miracle" of Latin America, 12 to 16 million homeless children beg, hawk trinkets, and steal to feed themselves. Another 20 million children run around on their own during the day but return to a place in the country's slums at night.

Brazil has not made any payments on its foreign debt since September. By March it will owe \$5.5 billion, in service payments alone, to foreign banks. The crisis is further aggravated by a capital flight estimated at \$7.5 billion in 1988, expected to have reached \$12 billion in 1989 and expected to go up again this year. Clarice Pechman, a Brazilian foreign exchange expert, told the *Washington Post*. "This will bring to \$41.1 billion the amount of foreign exchange illegally accumulated in overseas accounts," said Pechman.

Following the election results, da Silva declared that come March 15, Collor's government will face stiff opposition from the trade unions and the parties that gave their support to the PT candidate.

Protests charge cop murder of Hmong

BY KEN KAWAKUBO

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The police killing of two 13-year-old Hmong youths, Ba See Lor and Thai Yang, has spurred outrage in the Hmong community here. Some 15,000 Hmong, a highland people of Laos, live in St. Paul. This is the largest metropolitan concentration of Hmong in the United States.

The boys were killed by Inver Grove Heights police officer Kenneth Murphy on Nov. 15, 1989. They were shot in the back by a single shotgun blast fired by Murphy. Police allege that the youths stole a car.

According to the police version of the killings, officer Murphy fired because he thought Yang was pointing a gun at him. This gun turned out to be a screwdriver, according to official reports. Murphy shot Yang from a distance of 30 yards, but the blast also struck Lor. The police officer, who claimed he acted in fear of his life, was sheltered by a hay wagon when he fired.

It took more than 24 hours for the police to come up with this version of events.

Cop not indicted

A community meeting held in response to the killings called for postponing a grand jury, set for December 8, so that Murphy could be thoroughly investigated. Reports had surfaced regarding harassment of Latino and Laotian youths by Murphy. Just after the killing of Yang and Lor, a complaint was filed with the Inver Grove Heights police chief by a resident charging that his son, a Latino, had been harassed by the officer.

The demand to postpone the grand jury was ignored. After four days of testimony and one hour of deliberations, a Dakota County grand jury decided not to indict Murphy.

On December 28 nearly 500 people held a vigil in the capitol for Yang and Lor. The four-and-a-half hour rally heard speakers from the Black, Latino, Asian, and Native American communities. Many called for the prosecution of Murphy and charged that the investigation was biased and incomplete. People carried hand-lettered signs saying, "Find the truth — Bring Murphy to trial" and "Freedom is what we want, prejudice is what we got."

While the protesters rallied outside, the Minnesota attorney general met with the parents of the two boys in his office. The attorney general refused their request to reopen the investigation.

The parents of Yang and Lor have condemned the killings as racist and brutal. "He used the gun to shoot the boys like he was shooting an animal," said Yang's father. "I think he shot because he hates Hmong. If the two had been white they would never have been shot."

Xa Lor, a sister of Ba See Lor and a central leader in the fight for justice in the killings, announced a citywide community meeting set for 6:00 p.m. on January 25 at the Martin

Luther King Center Gym, 270 N. Kent St., St. Paul.

"We believe that the government and the authorities are involved in the cover-up," Lor stated. "We want the whole truth to come out and we want to continue to press for the prosecution of Murphy. We need support from everybody to bring him to trial."

Wendy Lyons, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Minnesota, issued a statement demanding Murphy be prosecuted. "Massive public pressure on the authorities is needed from all working people — Asians, Blacks, Native Americans, Latinos, and whites — to prevent another white-wash in the murder of two Hmong boys," she explained.

Britain: workers close airport, win strike

BY ANDY BUCHANAN

MANCHESTER, England — Nearly 500 baggage handlers and catering loaders at Manchester's Ringway airport were forced out on strike last month in response to management's attempts to introduce a two-tier structure for pay and work rules. For a week the airport was shut down completely as airport fire fighters refused to cross the handlers' picket line.

The fire fighters and baggage handlers are part of the same union, the Transport and General Workers Union Branch 6/167. Manchester airport experiences a boom in traffic over the summer months and extra workers are hired on temporary contracts to cope with the increased workload. At the end of the busy period, the majority of these workers are dismissed.

Workers at the airport report that it is not uncommon for a worker to be recalled for summer work for five or six years running before being offered a permanent contract. The dismissal of the temporary workers also often leads to management pressing the permanent staff to work long hours of overtime.

This year the union responded to this situation by demanding that management cut overtime work by giving the temporary workers permanent contracts. Union leaders

at the airport explain that this demand would also strengthen the unity of the work force by having all baggage handlers work under the same pay and work rules. In addition, of course, new permanent jobs would be created.

Management eventually agreed that 82 of the summer temporary workers should be made permanent. But it also decided that they should work different shift patterns than the existing handlers. In particular, these involved earlier starts and later finishes, together with "split shifts" to cover morning and evening rush periods with several hours off work in between.

The new hires refused to work these shifts, and the existing handlers backed them up. A ballot for a strike produced a 10 to 1 majority in favor. When management queried the result, a fresh ballot produced a 36 to 1 majority.

Many airport workers believe that this attempt to divide the work force is part of a broader management plan aimed at undermining the union's strength in preparation for privatizing the airport. At present a majority stake in the airport is held by the Labour Party-controlled city council in Manchester. Management is clearly concerned that the strength of the union could disrupt their plans.

Earlier this year union solidarity at

Ringway airport defeated an attempt by British Airways bosses to victimize a flight attendant. This action united cabin crews and ground staff and helped to strengthen the union. The victimized attendant, Lynn Hooper, won her case before an Industrial Tribunal in November.

During their three weeks on strike, the baggage handlers won support and solidarity from other workers employed at the airport, including the catering workers, cleaners, check-in clerks, and cabin crews. Unlike at airports in the United States, where some airport workers are employed by the individual airlines using the facility, at Manchester Ringway all the airport workers are employed by the same management. This arrangement allowed the baggage handlers to bring the airport to a halt within hours of starting their action.

The baggage handlers ended their strike in the week before Christmas. On the principal issue of uniting all handlers under one contract and resisting management attempts to impose two tiers of wages and conditions on the work force, the union registered a significant victory. Although workers also voted to accept new shift rosters, these did not meet the original demands of management for greater flexibility and speed-up.

Haiti unionist urges int'l drive to free imprisoned activists

BY GREG McCARTAN

MONTREAL — "The liberation of the three imprisoned leaders is a very important aspect of the struggle for political and democratic space in Haiti today," said Yves Richard.

Richard is general secretary of the Independent Federation of Haitian Workers (CATH). In an interview conducted here at the end of December he explained the significance of this political fight.

On November 1, Jean-Auguste Mesyeux, the executive secretary of CATH; Marino Etienne, a leader of the September 17 Popular Organization (OP17); and Evans Paul from the Confederation of Democratic Unity were arrested, beaten, and jailed by members of the personal security guard of the Haitian president, Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril.

The day following the arrests, "to everybody's surprise," recounted Richard, "the severely beaten prisoners were shown on TV. They were presented by a major who said they were involved in drug trafficking, operating to perpetrate terrorist actions, building popular militias, and plotting to kill the president," the union leader said. "They even showed arms that were supposed to be used to prepare a coup. The government tried to use these charges to prevent others from organizing a defense," he said.

OP17 "was formed by soldiers after the coup in September 1988 that brought Avril to power. These soldiers were dismissed from the army by Avril" and had worked with CATH "getting help organizing themselves."

Haiti, a Creole- and French-speaking country is located in the Caribbean. It occupies the western third of the island of Hispaniola. The Dominican Republic is located on the eastern section of the island. The poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti's population is 6.4 million.

The jailing of the three leaders takes place "in the context of a generalized climate of insecurity now in Haiti," the union leader explained. "Every day you find people dead in the streets. You can't go outside in the evening because you could be killed by the Tontons Macoutes and military from the National Palace."

The Tontons Macoutes are the hated thugs who terrorized the population during the regime of former dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier and, earlier, of his father François. Though

officially disbanded, they continue to operate throughout Haiti.

"Showing the three prisoners on TV had a big impact in Haiti," continued Richard. "Even Duvalier had not dared to do something like that."

"People couldn't believe it," he added. "Even bourgeois figures, who are opposed to the CATH, couldn't accept what had happened. Their reasoning is that if they can do it to these three, they can do it to anyone who opposes the regime," Richard explained.

The CATH leadership called for a strike November 7 and 8 to protest the arrests. The strike was 90 percent effective, Richard said, being observed by workers, peasants, and small proprietors.

On November 9 the government brought the three leaders to the courthouse in Port-au-Prince, the nation's capital, to be tried. "They couldn't even walk because of their condition," Richard related.

A protest of some 500 people in front of the courthouse demanded the three be freed.

The judge sent the activists back to prison even though the government failed to produce any evidence or witnesses. A one-day protest strike was then organized on November 22.

Another reason for the widespread support for the three jailed union and political leaders is the deteriorating economic situation in Haiti. "The gourde, the national currency, went down by 50 percent recently. Even the rich are hurt by this because they don't have any money to buy commodities on the U.S. or French markets," Richard pointed out.

"So even they are turning against the government. The rich are pressuring Avril to organize elections," he said. On January 6 the Haitian government announced that legislative elections would be held in July and a presidential vote in October.

CATH is urging continued international protest to demand the three leaders be freed because "the government is preparing a kangaroo court." "Several soldiers," Richard explained, "have already made public statements claiming the three had contacted them to plan a coup."

Messages demanding the release of the imprisoned leaders should be sent to: President Prosper Avril, Palais National, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Copies should be sent to CATH, 93 Rue des Casernes, Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Stockholm meeting celebrates 'In Defense of Socialism'

BY LARS ERLANDSSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — "The publication of this book could not have come at a better time than now — when imperialism wishes to see socialism dead and buried," said David Kgabang, an activist from South Africa.

Kgabang spoke to 130 people at a December 3 meeting here to launch the Pathfinder book *In Defense of Socialism*. The book contains four speeches by Cuban President Fidel Castro given in December 1988 and January 1989 at events celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Cuban revolution.

"The Congress of South African Trade Unions," Kgabang continued, "wants nothing less than the same ideas propounded by comrade Fidel in his speeches."

The meeting, cochaired by Catharina Tirsén from Pathfinder Press and Hans Marcusson from the Swedish-Cuban Association, gave a special welcome to Cuban ambassador Dennys Guzmán Pérez.

The U.S. government's plans to start-up TV Martí, a propaganda television station aimed at Cuba, constitute another form of aggression against Cuba, the ambassador explained. Guzmán called TV Martí "another attempt to undermine and break the unity in our country."

"The speeches published in the book *In Defense of Socialism* have great importance, not just in understanding Cuba but also in order to not be misled by the siren call of imperialism," he stressed.

Bengt Hallberg, director of housing in the county of Stockholm and author of a book about housing in Cuba, also spoke.

Sylvia Hernández, a welder, had participated in a union-sponsored trip to Cuba. The Cuban people, she told the meeting, "have proven that by stimulating the moral way of thinking, man can give his all."

An activist in the Communist Youth and a participant in work brigades to Nicaragua, Daniel Häkansson, said the youth of Cuba, South Africa, and El Salvador are in the forefront of fighting for "genuine socialism that is based on man's wishes for love, laughter, and working together."

The representative from the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front of El Salvador scored U.S. support for the brutal repression by the Salvadoran government.

Publishing *In Defense of Socialism* "fills a big gap and strengthens the revolutionary people of the world and their leaders," said Angolan ambassador G. Vaz-Contreiras.

Peace in Angola and the independence of Namibia were won by defeating the South African army's invasion of Angola, he pointed out. For the U.S. government, "détente means peace with the Soviet Union and war with Cuba, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Angola."

Eugene Makhlof, the Palestine Liberation Organization representative in Sweden; the ambassador of Nicaragua; Ghana Union; and the Organization of Revolutionary Workers of Iran sent greetings.



Militant/Harvey McArthur

CATH leader Yves Richard (left) and Jean-Bertrand Aristide (at microphone), a prominent leader of the popular movement in Haiti, spoke at a 1987 rally in Port-au-Prince to mark the reopening of CATH's offices, which had been closed by the military government.



PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

GREG McCARTAN

Dalton Bookseller has produced for the first time a special promotional catalog for Black History Month, which is the month of February.

The glossy 16-page color piece features paid advertisements by a range of publishers. Books on art, the civil rights movement, music, culture, and South Africa and other titles relevant to Black history are included in the handout.

The back cover of the catalog is titled "The Life and Thoughts of Malcolm X." It features six books by and about Malcolm X, four of which are published by Pathfinder.

The feature title on the page is *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches*. The book, published last year by Pathfinder, is now in its second printing. This volume underlines and clarifies Malcolm's "rapidly changing views on political action, anti-imperialism, the civil rights movement, whites, and other crucial topics," the explanatory paragraph says.

B. Dalton distributes the brochure to 100 of its top-volume retail stores and selected colleges, universities, religious organizations, and other groups.

In addition to the titles on Malcolm X, *Nelson Mandela: The Struggle Is My Life*, also published by Pathfinder, is listed. It is included on a page titled "Lives That Made a Difference." The volume includes the major writings and speeches by the imprisoned leader of the African National Congress of South Africa.

Pathfinder will soon be publishing in pamphlet form the speech by Thomas Sankara "The Revolution Cannot Triumph Without the Emancipation of Women."

Sankara was the central leader of the revolutionary government of the West African country of Burkina Faso from 1983 until his assassination in 1987.

The speech has been available in English as one of a series of speeches and interviews published in *Thomas Sankara Speaks: The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87*.

The speech was given to thousands of women at a March 8, 1987, International Women's Day celebration in the country's capital, Ouagadougou. The pamphlet will help make this speech more accessible and will be a valuable addition to Pathfinder's titles on women's liberation.

"We have the pleasure of informing you of the creation of the Union of African Youth — Thomas Sankara (UJATS)," the president of the organization wrote from Senegal.

The formation of the group comes after two years of study and discussion by young people in that West African country, the letter said.

The objective of the group is to help "enrich and make widely known the ideals of independence, social justice, and freedom — ideals that formed the foundations of Sankara's work."

The organization also aims "at ensuring the promotion of youth and advancing the real emancipation of women."

The publication of *Thomas Sankara Speaks* is a useful and essential contribution to the perpetuation and rehabilitation of the memory of Thomas Sankara," the letter adds.

Since Pathfinder began promoting and handling subscriptions last November to *Granma Weekly Review*, the international newsweekly published in Havana, Cuba, more than 250 new readers have bought subscriptions.

While most are from the United States, subscriptions have also been received from Canada, Puerto Rico, France, and New Zealand. A number of people from the Miami-area Cuban community are among those who have subscribed in Spanish.

Many subscribers have thanked Pathfinder for the service.

"With so much happening in the world, Cuba's voice is very important," one Texas subscriber wrote. "Let's break the information blockade."

"Our solidarity group received *Granma* for years, and it was greatly depended on for its news and cartoons in our publications," an Illinois activist explained. "I've missed it greatly since the 'forces of freedom' mysteriously cut us off several years ago."

Granma Weekly Review is available in English, French, and Spanish from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. A one-year subscription is \$16. Allow 12 weeks for delivery from date of purchase.

The South African newspaper *Weekly Mail* reported at the end of November that the Pathfinder book *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution* was added to the list of banned books, publications, and objects by the apartheid regime. The banning order means the book cannot be distributed or imported.

Guevara was a leader of the struggle to overthrow the U.S.-backed dictatorship in Cuba in the 1950s. He became a central leader of the Cuban revolutionary government.

The Pretoria regime, shaken by months of anti-apartheid protests, doesn't want fighters in the country to read Guevara's speeches and writings on the Cuban guerrilla war, Cuba's land reform and economic development, the place of social consciousness in the fight for a socialist society, and Cuba's commitment to freedom struggles in Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

ARIZONA

Phoenix

In Defense of Socialism: Advances in Revolutionary Cuba Today. A class series. "Rectification: A Political Reorientation to Meet the Challenge of Growing Problems Facing the Revolution;" Thurs., Jan. 25, 6 p.m. "The Political Continuity of the Cuban Revolution;" Wed., Jan. 31, 6 p.m. "Defending and Building Socialism: Taking Care of the Younger Generation;" Wed., Feb. 7, 6 p.m. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Translation to Spanish. Donation: \$1 per class. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 279-5850.

How to Fight Antilabor Disruption Campaigns: The Case of the Workers League. Speaker: Tom Leonard, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 27. Dinner, 5:30 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$3, with dinner \$5. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 279-5850.

Communists and the Labor Movement. A class by Tom Leonard, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Jan. 28, 2 p.m. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 279-5850.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

U.S. Troops Out of Panama. Speakers: Eric Jackson, Latin American Solidarity Committee; representative Socialist Workers Party; Emirene Mendoza, activist in Guatemala solidarity movement. Sat., Jan. 27, 7 p.m. 5019½ Woodward Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

The Growing Danger of Political Censorship in the Arts. Panel discussion. Sat., Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Speak-Out and Teach-In on U.S. Occupation of Panama. Speaker: Esmeralda Brown, Panamanian activist from New York, leader of protests against U.S. invasion. Discussion to follow. Sat., Jan. 27, 1 p.m. University City Public Library Auditorium, 6701 Delmar Ave.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

The Crisis of Stalinism in Eastern Europe. Speaker: Peter Thierjung, *Militant* staff writer. Translation to Spanish and French. Sat., Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Namibia On the Road to Independence. Speaker: Selva Nebbia, *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* staff writer. Translation to Spanish and French. Sat., Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. 464 Bergen. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (718) 398-6983.

Manhattan

Presentation on the Venceremos Brigades to Cuba. Slideshow and discussion on joining the brigade's 21st contingent this spring. Sun., Jan. 21, 2 p.m. Casa de las Américas, 104 W 14 St. For more information call (212) 927-1021.

New York City

Beyond the News. Hosted by Don Rojas, former press secretary to slain Grenadian prime minister Maurice Bishop. Every Wed., 7-7:30 p.m. WBAI 99.5 FM.

OHIO

Cleveland

In Defense of Socialism: A discussion on the book of speeches by Fidel Castro. Speakers: Joy Hintz, chairperson Citizens Concerned for Peace in Central America; Selo Thole, South African student; representative of Pathfinder Bookstore. Sat., Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (216) 861-6150.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Speak-Out Against Censorship in the Arts. Speakers: Dennis Brutus, South African poet exiled by apartheid regime; Tomé Cousin, dancer and choreographer; Anne Feeney, singer; Elaine King, director Carnegie-Mellon Art Gallery; Steve Marshall, Pathfinder Bookstore; Tom Murphy, state representative; Moe Seager, poet and journalist; Barbara Wolvovitz, executive director American Civil Liberties Union. Fri., Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m. University of Pittsburgh School of Law. Sponsor: Committee Against Censorship in the Arts. For more information call (412) 268-2852.

Program on the Pathfinder Mural and Open House. Sat., Jan. 27, 2-5 p.m. Program, 3 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave., Donation: \$3. Sponsors: Militant Labor Forum, Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Houston

Refinery Disasters: Companies Put Profits Before Safety. Speakers: Katy Karlin, Socialist Workers Party, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 4-227; others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Almeda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

UTAH

Price

U.S. Troops Out of Panama. Speaker: Steve Warshell, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress (2nd C.D.). Sat., Jan. 27, 7 p.m. 253 E Main. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

Salt Lake City

Solidarity with the Eastern Strikers: Bring Down Lorenzo! Speakers: Ellie Garcia, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America Local 2701; others. Sat., Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

31 Years of the Cuban Revolution. Speaker: Bob Miller, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

Defend the Pathfinder Mural and Artistic Freedom. Speaker: Sam Manuel, former director Pathfinder Mural Project. Sat., Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

Celebrate the 78th Anniversary of the African National Congress of South Africa. Speakers: Lindiwe Mabuza, chief representative

Defend Mark Curtis!

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Speakers: Eddie Carthan, first Black mayor of Tchula, Mississippi, farmer, and victim of racist frame-up; Kate Kaku, leader Mark Curtis Defense Committee; Michele Wilson, action vice-president Alabama National Organization for Women; Rev. Abraham Woods, president Birmingham Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Spiver Gordon, Eutaw city councilman; Colonel Stone Johnson, civil rights activist; Bobby Singleton, Greensboro youth activist; Jane Christian, peace and justice activist; John Zippert, copublisher *Greene County Democrat*. Sun., Jan. 28, 6 p.m. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 1180 11th Ave. S. Sponsor: Supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

FLORIDA

Miami

Banquet and rally. Speakers: Penny Gardner, president Dade County National Organization for Women; Chris Kirchner, teacher at Jackson High School; Roland Rolle, president A. Philip Randolph Institute; representative Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 3. Banquet, 6 p.m.; rally, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Sponsor: Mark Curtis Defense Committee. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis. Showing of video produced by Nick Castle. Program: Kate Kaku, leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee; Linda Riggins, president of Ser-

vice Employees International Union Local 679, Janitors for Justice; Sammye Roberts, former president Alabama National Organization for Women; Dr. Emory Searcy, Clergy and Laity Concerned; representative Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Sat., Jan. 27, 7:00 p.m. Martin Luther King, Jr., Center, Rm. 261-262, 449 Auburn Ave. Sponsor: Georgia supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

IOWA

Des Moines

The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis. Showing of video produced by Nick Castle. Program: Eddie Carthan; Alfredo Alvarez, former chairperson Des Moines Human Rights Commission; Merle Hansen, farm protest leader; Imam Ako Abdul-Samad, community activist; Gil Sierra, former Davenport alderman and board member of Iowa Civil Liberties Union; Rita Melagares, leader of Francisco "Kiko" Martínez Defense Committee. Sat., Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. Park Inn, 1050 6th Ave., top floor. Sponsor: Mark Curtis Defense Committee. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis. Showing of video produced by Nick Castle. Speakers: Rev. Oliver White, president St. Paul Black Ministerial Alliance; representative Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Sat., Feb. 3, 7 p.m. Camphor United Methodist Church, 585 Fuller Ave. Sponsor: Minnesota supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. For more information call (612) 291-7436.

CANADA

Toronto

Which Way Forward for Humanity: Capitalism or Communism? Speaker: Margaret Manwaring, Political Committee of the Communist League, member Canadian Auto Workers. Fri., Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

Annual José Martí Dinner and Dance. Speaker: Carlos Castillo, Cuban ambassador to Canada. Sat., Jan. 27. Cocktails, 6 p.m.; dinner, 7 p.m. Fairbank Memorial Hall, 2213 Dufferin St. Donation: \$20. Sponsor: Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association. For more information call (416) 323-3808.

ICELAND

Reykjavik

U.S. Out of Panama! Speakers and location to be announced. Wed., Jan. 24, 8:30 p.m. For more information call (91) 17513.

Response to the South African Escalation. Video showing of second part of Cuban documentary on victory over South African army at Cuito Cuanavale, Angola. Speaker: Sigurlaug Gunnlaugsdóttir. Sat., Jan. 27, 6 p.m. Klapparstíg 26. Sponsors: Communist League, South Africa Solidarity Group Against Apartheid, Cuban-Icelandic Friendship Society. Donation: 100 kronor. For more information call (91) 17513.

SWEDEN

Stockholm

Demonstration Against U.S. Invasion of Panama. Sat., Jan. 27, Sergels Torg 10:30 a.m. Sponsor: Committee Against U.S. Invasion of Panama.

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SWEDEN

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

Time-tested — In London, at least 60 people a week are fined or jailed for begging under the 1824 Vagrancy Act aimed at "rogues and vagabonds." It was enacted during



Harry Ring

the slump after the Napoleonic wars to deal with the homeless, mostly maimed war veterans.

"Frankly, Dan..." — The vice-prez is supposed to make a swing

through Latin America to assure governments that the Panama invasion doesn't mean they're next. But an official said announcement of his itinerary was being delayed "to let things cool off." Quayle said he spoke to various heads of state, but "it wouldn't be appropriate or productive... to characterize what was said to me."

Would Lorenzo lie to you? — "Imagine what it would be like to be a part of the fastest growing airline in the industry — working with an airline that's advancing at a pace that rivals any airline in the world." — Ad for scab mechanics at strike-bound Eastern Airlines, which lost an estimated \$820 million last year and is \$2 billion in hock.

Continental image — A market survey ranked consumer opinion of various brand names. Quality-wise, Continental, Lorenzo-owned sister airline to Eastern, ranked 89 out of 91. Among regular customers, it ranked last.

Available Mike — "If people want me to come back, of course I'll come back." — Ex-king Michael of Rumania, who split in 1948 but says he left under duress and, therefore, feels he's still king.

RJR's eyes on the prize — "With the poor health among Black folks today, we don't need anything else to cause even more health problems." — Mary Clarke, a North Carolina NAACP official, responding

to plans by R.J. Reynolds to target Black communities as a prime market for a new cigarette, Uptown.

Food for thought — Under pending legislation, British health inspectors would face two years in jail plus fines, if, in disclosing food dangers, they reveal information relating to "any manufacturing process or trade secret."

Relax and enjoy your flight — That Northwest Airlines jet that lost an engine, apparently when leaking toilet fluid froze and hit the engine, had a leaky toilet valve that was repaired 10 times in two months. All plane repairs are supposed to be recorded and the Federal Aviation

Administration is supposed to check out repeated repairs.

Simple choice for simple folk — "People have too many choices these days," — André Moholy-Nagy, who makes shirts — but only in white. \$95 to \$180.

Thought for the year — "It will be a new phenomenon that Communists will have to fight for socialism within the socialist countries. And it will also be a new phenomenon that the job of general secretary of Communist Parties will include some occupational hazards." — New Year's prediction by CPUSA general secretary Gus Hall.

What's behind the Soviet crackdown in Azerbaijan

Continued from Page 3

By portraying the struggle simply as an ethnic or historic war between Armenians and Azerbaijanis or as a series of fanatical pogroms, conducted mainly by Muslim Azerbaijanis against the Christian Armenians, the news media is giving a false picture of the situation. There's more behind these events than that.

Oppressed nationalities

The Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples are both oppressed nationalities with their own distinct languages, cultures, and histories.

After the October 1917 Russian revolution, Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as nearby Georgia, separated from Russia and were governed by capitalist governments until Soviet governments were established there following the 1918-20 civil war. Armenia and Azerbaijan voluntarily chose to become part of the USSR when it was established in 1922.

But as a bureaucratic caste, headed by Joseph Stalin, developed and overthrew the workers' and peasants' government in the Soviet Union, Russian chauvinism toward other nationalities reared its ugly head again. Language, cultural, and religious rights established by the revolutionary government that came to power in 1917 were trampled on.

The loosening up of some undemocratic restrictions by the Gorbachev regime has awakened nationally oppressed peoples and has stirred some of them to press for greater rights. This has been seen in the Baltic republics of Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia, as well as some of the Asiatic republics, most notably in Azerbaijan. The struggle in Azerbaijan has also been reinforced, due to its historical and cultural links with Iranian Azerbaijan, by the 1979 Iranian revolution.

Aspirations for unification

Although the two Azerbaijanis have been formally divided since the last century, they have not lost their aspirations for unification. In all the social upheavals of this century in the region this demand for reunification has always been an important element.

This was true early in the 1900s when the Iranian Azerbaijanis played the leading role in the democratic revolution in Iran that fought against despotic monarchy and imperialism and for parliamentary democracy. It was also true during the 1944-45 Azerbaijan revolution when the workers and peasants in Iranian Azerbaijan established their own government. In both struggles decisive help was provided from what is now known as Soviet Azerbaijan. In these revolutions Armenians from both Azerbaijanis also participated and fought for the common cause.

Again in 1979, Iranian Azerbaijanis played a prominent role in the overthrow of the shah of Iran's regime, which gave a big impulse to the fight for land reform in Azerbaijan and for national rights.

Today, the struggle of the Azerbaijanis is centered in Soviet Azerbaijan, and it has taken center stage in the national struggle among the Soviet Union's Asiatic republics.

Earlier this month, Azerbaijanis in Nakhichevan tore down miles of barriers along the Araks River on the Iranian border and exchanged slogans of solidarity with the Iranian Azerbaijanis gathered on the opposite side of the river. Many of the demonstrators were Azerbaijani refugees expelled from the dis-

puted enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. They particularly objected to thousands of acres of fertile land being shut off from farming by border patrols.

Azerbaijanis outside the country reported that in Tabriz in Iranian Azerbaijan slogans were written on city walls in the Azeri Turkish language calling for unity of the two Azerbaijanis. Later a demonstration centered on that theme took place in Ardabil in the agricultural region in the northern part of Iranian Azerbaijan.

In a rally held in Baku on January 13, several hundred thousand Azerbaijanis "roared" their support for a demand that the republic's parliament conduct a referendum on withdrawing Azerbaijan from the USSR.

Further south along the Caspian Sea in the towns of Lenkoran and Dzhailabad local Popular Front groups reportedly seized control of government buildings and police head-

quarters. In one rural district of the Azerbaijan Republic the entire Communist Party leadership has reportedly been held hostage.

The Soviet press agency Tass reported that the situation was out of control in a number of localities. It said a group of unidentified "bandits" broke into a weapons depot in Gandja and stole 80 automatic rifles, two machine guns, and a mortar. A detachment of railway police reportedly joined Azerbaijanis with their weapons. Representatives of the Azerbaijani Popular Front charged that the Kremlin was exaggerating the level of tension to justify imposing martial law in advance of coming local elections.

During the mass rally in Baku that called for a referendum on independence for Azerbaijan, news spread that an Armenian had killed an Azerbaijani with an ax. There were also provocateurs in the crowd handing out mimeographed sheets with names and addresses of Armenians living in Baku. The

provocateurs were organizing to attack Armenians and they disregarded the pleas of the leaders of the demonstration against violence.

Some Armenians were expelled from their homes and beaten, and some fled the city. There were also reports of Azerbaijanis helping to fend off the attackers and assisting those victimized.

After decades of bureaucratic rule and national oppression, the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute has not only not been resolved, it has become a horrible reminder to what degree the antagonisms between oppressed nationalities have become institutionalized and used in bureaucratic maneuvers.

In the current situation the Kremlin is using the conflict between Armenians and Azerbaijanis as a pretext to move troops into Azerbaijan and attempt to beat back the growing struggle for an independent, united Azerbaijan.

Miner's killing stirs anger in coalfields

Continued from front page
to our society as a whole."

A union spokesperson in Charleston told the *Militant* that since 1984 the miners have fought a series of different owners of the mine due to bankruptcies and subcontracting. They are owed \$357,000 in back wages and medical bills.

In the January 17 *Charleston Gazette*, witnesses described Tuesday morning's shooting.

James Chapman, a clergyman who operates a mission near the mine, said he saw three men hiding on a hillside across from his home. When he went outside, the men opened fire on him. "If I had stayed out there I would have been shot," said Chapman. He reported a dozen bullet holes in the front of his house.

Other witnesses reported that a short time later the picket line was fired on. As the pickets began to chase the gunmen, three pickup trucks drove by and shot down the miners.

When picketing stepped up in recent weeks, state police began regular patrols of the mine site. Following the shooting, troopers sealed off the area and evacuated non-union miners "for their own safety," but no arrests for McCoy's murder were made.

On January 18 the *Charleston Gazette* reported that police had seized 30 firearms from the site. None came from picketing miners, police admitted, but were surrendered "voluntarily" from inside the coal mine.

Mine bosses in the vicinity used the shooting of the unionists as an excuse to beef up "security" with more hired guns.

UMWA International Executive Board member Howard Green said, "We're out there trying to comply with the labor laws and the company is out there with automatic and semiautomatic weapons. It's like David and Goliath and I hope the judicial system will sit up and take notice, especially Mr. Massey."

Coal boss E. Morgan Massey responded the next day saying, "UMWA violence is a way of life in southern West Virginia and someone is going to have to restore law and order."

John McCoy was an employee of Robinson Phillips Coal Co., a subsidiary of A.T. Massey Coal Co. Miners have been striking Robinson Phillips since the hard-fought 1984-85 strike between the mine workers and A.T. Massey. Southern West Virginia and eastern Kentucky were the regions at the center of that strike, which was eventually defeated. In 1987 five Kentucky activists involved in that strike were framed up for the shooting death of scab coal hauler Hayes West and four are currently serving lengthy jail terms.

Some Massey mines remained shut down and others reopened with union miners and scabs working side by side under substandard contracts. Many of these contracts expire in 1990.

Visitors at the Pittston strikers' Camp Solidarity in southwestern Virginia reported that

when the news of McCoy's murder reached there, miners wanted to get the facts and offered their solidarity.

Pittston striker James "Buzz" Hicks said, "He was one of our brothers. We're going through the same things; it could have been one of us. If they need our help, we're ready to go."

In a telephone interview, UMWA District 28 spokesman Gene Carroll said McCoy was a firm supporter of the 10-month Pittston strike and had visited Camp Solidarity many times.

Carroll also reported that voting on a tentative agreement to the Pittston strike, announced by union, company, and government officials on January 1, has been stalled.

In the meantime picket lines remain up and a few visitors continue to stop by Camp Solidarity.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Jan. 25, 1980

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — A public meeting of several thousand at the university here January 11 marked the creation of a national coordinating committee for unity of El Salvador's revolutionary and democratic organizations.

The main organizations that make up this coordinating committee are the People's Revolutionary Bloc (BPR), the United Front for People's Action (FAPU), the February 28 People's Leagues (LP-28), and the Nationalist Democratic Union (UDN—backed by the Salvadoran Communist Party).

On January 10 a political document was released here signed by three of the organizations in the coordinating committee: the CP, the Armed Forces of National Resistance (FARN—linked to the FAPU), and the "Farabundo Martí" Peoples Liberation Forces (FPL—armed wing of the BPR). This document affirmed that there is no peaceful way out of the crisis in El Salvador and that the only alternative is armed struggle and a popular insurrection.

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

Jan. 25, 1965

The Johnson administration continues to invite a wider war with its acts of aggression in Southeast Asia. The U.S. bombing raid in Laos on January 13 was one more step toward such a war. There are also reports of continuing U.S. sea and air cover for South Vietnamese attacks on North Vietnam.

The raid on Laos was a flagrant violation of international law and of the 1962 Geneva agreements on the neutrality of Laos, which the U.S. government signed.

The Johnson administration tried to hide this act of aggression from the American people. It was generally reported that no word of the raid would have been published if U.S. planes had not been shot down. Press reports discussing the raid disclosed that Washington had been carrying out smaller bombing raids in Laos since June, under the pretext of "protecting" reconnaissance flights.

No U.S. aid to Salvador regime!

The call by the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador and others for a national march to protest U.S. intervention in Central America deserves the enthusiastic backing of all those opposed to the growing U.S. military aggression in the region. Unions, farmers' associations, church groups, antiwar and student organizations — everyone should throw their support behind this action.

The protest, called the "Archbishop Romero Commemoration and March to End the U.S. War in Central America," will take place in Washington, D.C., March 24. The demands include ceasing all U.S. aid to the government of El Salvador, ending the war against Nicaragua, and withdrawal of U.S. troops from Panama.

The march is a timely and important response to the stepped-up use of U.S. military force in the region, including the invasion of Panama in December, the attempt to position a permanent naval flotilla off the coast of Colombia, the continued backing of the repressive regimes in El Salvador and Guatemala, and military threats against Cuba and Nicaragua.

The call for the march coincides with Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani's announcement of the arrests and charging of four officers and four soldiers in the assassination of six Jesuit priests last November.

The cold-blooded murder of the priests, and their cook and her daughter, exposed to millions around the world the repressive and undemocratic nature of the ruling regime in the Central American country. And it raised the specter of the return to the days when right-wing death squads openly kidnapped, tortured, and killed thousands of working people and political activists.

The murders undermined Washington's efforts to maintain the regime's democratic facade and made the Bush administration's claim that Cristiani's regime was a "democratically, freely elected," government ring hollow.

The priests' murder, happening in the context of a

countrywide offensive by the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, cracked the wall of bipartisan support for aid to El Salvador and opened a debate in the U.S. Congress. Some congressional members pressed for adoption of a bill that would cut back aid to the Cristiani regime if the murderers were not apprehended.

Both Washington and the ruling families in El Salvador know that the nearly \$500 million a year in military and economic aid from Washington is essential to maintain the embattled government.

When asked by the *New York Times* whether the Salvadoran economy was in deep trouble, Cristiani responded, "That's an understatement."

Moreover, without the military and police training, arms, ammunition, aircraft, armored vehicles, communications equipment, and U.S. military advisers provided by Washington, the repressive government wouldn't last a single day.

Support for successive Salvadoran regimes from both Democratic and Republican politicians has kept U.S. aid flowing with only one interruption: for two weeks following the murder of three nuns and a lay worker from the United States in 1980.

The Cristiani regime and the Bush administration hope the arrest of the army officers and soldiers will help deflect continued debate and probing when Congress resumes at the end of January.

The march provides an important opportunity to solidarize with the people of Central America — who are fighting for social and economic justice and for control over their countries — by mobilizing the broadest possible protest to demand:

- End all aid to the Salvadoran regime!
- U.S. troops out of Panama!
- Respect Nicaragua's sovereignty. End all aid to the contras!
- U.S. hands off Cuba!

Final victory in disruption suit

Continued from front page

evidence," the judge found. "One of its main purposes was to generate material for political attacks on the SWP by the Workers League."

At a November hearing where Gelfand attempted to reverse or substantially alter the adverse ruling, Pfalzer denied his motions and admitted the court's complicity in the disruption effort. The judge explained that she should have dismissed the case for lack of evidence before it even went to trial in 1983. She also admitted the drain the legal fight had been on the SWP's treasury. Gelfand's case, she said, "is groundless, and always was."

The court intrusion instigated by the Workers League into the affairs of the SWP has now been repulsed after a very long and costly legal battle. The public campaign that accompanied the court fight played a central role in winning this victory and in forcing the Workers League to forego the appeal, which could have lasted many more years and drained tens of thousands of more dollars from the SWP's funds.

This is a victory for every union, Black rights organization, women's rights group, and political organization for whom the right to privacy and freedom of association are precious conquests providing elbow room to advance their causes free from government interference. This victory also reflects the limits on such court and government intervention won over the last four decades by civil rights struggles and other battles.

Outfit's dirty work exposed

This successful fight further exposes the dirty work of the Workers League — something which many Eastern Airlines strikers, coal miners, paperworkers, meat-packers, copper miners, air traffic controllers, and others in the midst of the last decade's union battles have learned about firsthand.

Organized disruption of the kind carried out by the Workers League against workers and working-class organizations will increase in this next decade, as working people continue to resist attacks on their living standards, job conditions, democratic rights, and unions. 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 agent-baiting, provocations, violence, and demagoguery.

At the same time, serious blows can be dealt to the antilabor activities of these groups because of the growing militancy among unionists and other workers. The rise of nationally — and internationally — important labor struggles over the last year, especially the Machinists' strike at Eastern and the coal miners' strike against Pittston, create an atmosphere where the methods and aims of such disrupters can be more easily understood and will be less tolerated.

Unionists and working people worldwide, from the coalfields of West Virginia to the freezing works of New Zealand, have begun to tell the Workers League disrupters they are not welcome. The SWP's victory will help con-

vince and encourage others to do the same.

A major campaign of the Workers League today is to wreck the international defense effort for Mark Curtis, an Iowa unionist and political activist currently serving 25 years on a frame-up rape and burglary conviction. The frame-up stems from Curtis' activities in defense of his Latino coworkers, meat-packers who had been victimized by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. The Workers League has aggressively peddled the cops' frame-up story and attempted to smear the defense effort.

Through letters, visits, and phone calls to defenders of Curtis, and in its paper, the *Bulletin*, the Workers League tried to derail the defense effort. Because this antilabor outfit claims to be socialist, they received an initial hearing from some working people who would not otherwise lend credence to a prosecutor's frame-up case against a union militant.

This campaign has not succeeded and Curtis' supporters continue to score impressive gains. Last year more than 6,000 individuals and organizations endorsed the efforts of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. They include prominent unionists, political activists, and defenders of democratic rights from around the world.

The backing won for Curtis' fight by Kate Kaku on the first leg of her current tour through the South is another indication of the success Curtis' supporters have had in turning back the Workers League campaign. Kaku, who is a leader of the defense committee and is Curtis' wife, has been warmly received at each of her stops. Numerous veterans of civil rights struggles, unionists, and farmers there have identified with Curtis' situation because of their experiences.

While the Workers League has suffered some serious blows, their attacks will not go away.

A lawsuit by the parents of the woman Curtis allegedly raped is now pending in an Iowa District Court. It claims punitive damages from Curtis and asks the court to assign them "any monies" received by Curtis "as a result of the commercialization of his acts." This court action, which is consistent with the Workers League's practices, will be used to step up the smear campaign against Curtis and his supporters and is yet another attempt to undermine the defense effort.

The best way for unionists, defenders of civil liberties, and others to celebrate the victory won by the SWP in the Gelfand case is to let everyone know about it and to explain its meaning. Doing so is the surest way to help isolate and quarantine groups like the Workers League, making it more difficult for them to attempt further disruptions and provocations.

Curtis' supporters, the most immediate beneficiaries of this victory, should seize it with both hands and use it to aggressively expose the Workers League's campaign against the framed unionist.

Copies of Pfalzer's court ruling can be obtained for \$5 from the Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc., P.O. Box 761, Church Street Station, New York, N.Y. 10007.

In Panama they call it 'heroic martyrs' day'

BY DOUG JENNESS

According to many U.S. journalists and politicians, it was the day the "flag riots" began. But in Panama it's called the day of the "heroic martyrs."

The date is Jan. 9, 1964, when 23 Panamanians were killed by U.S. cops and troops in a protest favoring Panamanian sovereignty over the Canal Zone. The 10-mile-wide strip across the Panamanian isthmus had been under Washington's direct rule since 1903.

This year, commemorating that day, 150 Panamanian students and others held the first anti-U.S. demonstration in

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Panama City since U.S. military forces invaded and occupied Panama on December 20. Carrying Panamanian flags and wearing black armbands they marched to the cemetery where the January 9 martyrs are buried. They demanded an end to the U.S. military occupation of their country.

The events 26 years ago deserve to be marked by all fighters for social justice and national sovereignty, not only in Panama, but throughout the Americas. They opened an important stage in the struggle of the Panamanian people for control over their country, including the canal and the Canal Zone.

On the afternoon of Jan. 9, 1964, some 200 students of the National Institute entered the Canal Zone to protest the fact that U.S. students at Balboa High School had raised only the U.S. flag. The action of the North American youths violated a 1962 agreement between U.S. President John Kennedy and Panamanian President Roberto Chiari that designated public buildings would fly either both the U.S. and Panamanian flags or none.

The Panamanian students secured permission from U.S. cops in the Canal Zone to let a delegation of five go to the flagpole and hoist the Panamanian flag. The U.S. students surrounded them and attempted to force them out. The cops intervened against the Panamanians. When the rest of the Panamanian students rushed to join the five, the cops began throwing tear gas. Then they started shooting.

The students ran along the boulevard — once called Fourth of July Avenue and later renamed Kennedy Avenue — that divides Panama from the Canal Zone. They drew a crowd of some 3,000 people who entered or attempted to enter the Zone carrying flags.

The police, and then U.S. troops, opened fire indiscriminately. The revolt continued through the night and into the next day as anger mounted throughout the population. A report a few days later in the Mexico City daily, *El Día*, said the "people charged, literally with shirts unbuttoned, baring their breasts to the North American bullets. Waves of them advanced and fell back before the gunfire." Nearly two dozen were killed and more than 300 wounded.

Only the presence of armored trucks prevented the crowd, which had grown to some 20,000, from capturing the U.S. embassy. Embassy personnel burned secret records and hightailed it out of the building.

President Lyndon Johnson called Chiari on January 10 asking if something couldn't be done about the street protests. Chiari replied there was one thing: revise the Panama Canal treaties. Mostly known for his conservative views, he was emboldened by the hot breath of the Panamanian peoples' anger on his neck. That day he broke diplomatic relations with Washington. A week later U.S. diplomats in Panama were told to get packing. Diplomatic relations weren't reestablished until April. The Organization of American States called for "complete revision" of the canal treaties and Panama took the issue to the United Nations Security Council.

The January revolt didn't come out of the blue, but had been prepared by decades of indignities heaped on Panamanians by the existence of a colonial enclave, stamped by Jim Crow-style racial segregation, bisecting their country. A struggle for Panamanian control over the canal and the Zone had been going on for a long time and had become stronger following World War II.

In 1958 students organized a movement called Operation Sovereignty that grew into a popular movement embracing some trade unions. It organized a demonstration the following year that resulted in a pitched battle with U.S. cops. Hundreds of Panamanians were wounded.

But the events in 1964 represented a turning point because they finally forced the U.S. government to renegotiate the 1903 canal treaties. It took 13 years and many struggles before the treaties were finally signed. The 1977 agreements said that in 1979 Panama's laws would become applicable in the former canal zone. By the year 2000 the full operation of the canal would be turned over to Panama and the 13 U.S. military installations in the former canal zone would be dismantled.

While Washington has been reluctant up to now to formally break the treaties, it has attempted to suck them dry of any content that would permit true Panamanian sovereignty. The U.S. government can't tolerate any regime that doesn't bow down before its dictates. That's why Washington invaded Panama last month and overturned its government.

Machinists in Bay Area discuss abortion rights

BY KATHLEEN DENNY

SAN FRANCISCO — Members of International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 1781 have been involved in a discussion about abortion rights for nearly a year. Most of the 12,000 Local 1781 members work at United Airlines' big maintenance base here. There are also several dozen Eastern Airlines strikers in our local. While Eastern's station at San Francisco International Airport was small, the campaign to build solidarity with the Eastern strike has inspired many members of the local.

At our membership meeting last March, several local members distributed flyers for the abortion rights marches being held in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco the

UNION TALK

following month. Many members were interested in the actions, and some participated.

After attending the massive April 9 march in Washington, D.C., I reported at our local meeting on the IAM's participation in the demonstration, including the warm reception given to the Eastern strikers who were there from Boston, New York, Miami, Washington, D.C., and other cities.

Following that report, an older mechanic stood up and spoke. "Myself, I don't particularly like the idea of abortion," he said. "But you have to remember what it was like before *Roe v. Wade* — what a degrading, dangerous, and humiliating experience that was for women." *Roe v. Wade* refers to the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. He went on to call for "all of us who defend women's rights to fight for laws that protect women's rights." Both speakers were applauded.

The discussion at local meetings soon convinced the editor of the local's newsletter *Tradewinds* to open the pages of the paper to an exchange of views about abortion rights.

The June *Tradewinds* carried a full-page opinion piece titled, "Why a woman's reproductive freedom is a labor issue." The article discussed the need for solidarity, connecting the fight for abortion rights with the battle against

union-busting at Eastern. It also reported on the April 9 prochoice march.

"We are driven back when workers — any workers — lose their rights," the article said. "Women make up 45 percent of the work force today. Right now, women's right to control their bodies is in jeopardy."

Local 1781, the article urged, "should take on the challenge of actively educating and organizing its members in support of women's rights, including the right to abortion. I believe it will strengthen the union and build support for labor among others fighting for social justice. Our power is in solidarity, our ability to stand together to keep anyone of us from being driven back."

Four months of debate followed in *Tradewinds*.

"Abortion is a multimillion dollar industry that reaps enormous profits for abortion clinic landlords . . . big bucks and 'Big Business,'" wrote Charlie, who works delivering parts around the base, in the July issue. "Labor unions have never supported big business."

Leila, a customer service representative from Mexicana Airlines, disagreed. "Women's reproductive freedom is indeed a union issue," she said. "If *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, working women will be the victims," she wrote. "Is this the kind of fate we, as a union, can tolerate for 45 percent of the work force?"

There were more letters in August. Mike, a mechanic, urged readers to "consider the rising infant mortality rate . . . the lack of government support of any pre-school, after-school, or day-care programs; and the complete absence of any kind of national health-care plan."

"Those same architects of these social policies say they are encouraging the 'sanctity' of life by taking away from a woman the right to decide when and how to raise a child," he continued. "In reality it is yet another plan to keep working people locked-down, without options."

Another member disagreed that abortion should be considered a union issue. "The abortion issue is a very controversial one," wrote Chester, "with emotion running high on both sides. . . . Bringing an issue like this into the IAM will

only cause offense and division among members."

Last July the U.S. Supreme Court upheld Missouri's restrictive antiabortion law. That prompted Charlie, a machinist, to write a letter published in the August *Tradewinds*. "The Supreme Court has made several rulings against the rights of working people and . . . the lower courts have made many rulings in favor of the Lorenzos of the corporate world," he said, referring to Texas Air Corp. Chairman Frank Lorenzo.

"Because of the economic hardships placed on us by the ruling class, . . . this is a union issue," he continued. "When we struggle as union members to keep what we've got and to lift ourselves up, we are also helping workers without unions. . . . We must act in union with all people affected by this latest court decision and prevent states from diminishing our rights." More letters followed in September and October.

In the San Francisco Bay Area, October was a busy month for unionists who support a woman's right to choose. The Coalition of Labor Union Women sponsored a forum in Oakland around the theme, "Pro-Union, Pro-Choice" and distributed a button with the same slogan.

On October 15 a broad coalition sponsored an abortion rights march in San Francisco, to build the national Rally for Women's Lives held in Washington, D.C., November 12. The Eastern strikers had an information table at the event.

At four union meetings in September and October, Local 1781 members had tables with flyers and buttons for the San Francisco and Washington, D.C., actions. More than 150 "Pro-Union, Pro-Choice" buttons were sold to local members. Some wear them on their union jackets and to work.

"Since I started wearing that button," said one mechanic, "I've been having all kinds of discussions. I never would have guessed that so many people feel the same way I do."

Kathleen Denny is a member of IAM Local 1781. She works as a machinist at United Airlines' maintenance base.

LETTERS

Panama protest

As a meat-packer I have been struck by the fact that the working people of Panama, who in the Dignity Battalions organized and fought back against the invasion, have been described as "thugs" and "criminals." This is the same way they describe working people in the United States who fight back — construction workers in International Falls, Minnesota, or Eastern Airlines workers or meat-packers.

I was able to participate on a panel with Billy Curmano of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, at a Militant Labor Forum in Austin, Minnesota, protesting the U.S. invasion of Panama. Curmano explained that when he got back from Vietnam, he noted the "contrast between what was really happening in Vietnam and the image the media was projecting to people in the United States."

"We are being presented with the same kind of disinformation about the U.S. invasion of Panama," he said.

The meeting also heard a message from Sister Edith Zamboni who had been in Nicaragua and knew Sister Maureen Courtney, the nun recently murdered by contras there. National Public Radio covered the meeting and aired a report on the news.

Dean Peoples

Austin, Minnesota

AIDS and unequal care

A November meeting marked the first anniversary of the death of Elizabeth Ramos, who died at 33 of complications due to AIDS. Ramos' case made national headlines in January 1988 when she was awarded \$750,000 in the first AIDS-related malpractice suit in the country. She was repeatedly misdiagnosed and given inadequate treatment.

The meeting was sponsored by the Puerto Rican Women's Committee — Miriam López Pérez. Committee spokeswoman Elba Creşpo said of Ramos, "She had to live with racism, with unequal access to health care, but she continued to fight. She refused to be a victim and fought for her right to basic health care as just that, a right, not a privilege. She is an example of the struggle waged by Puerto Rican women."

The meeting also commemorated the lives of the many other victims of AIDS in Boston's Puerto Rican community. Complications from AIDS have been cited as the leading cause of death among young Puerto Rican men here.

At the same time the death toll is rising, Boston City Hospital, which treats the majority of cases, is facing cutbacks. These will mean fewer beds and reduced nursing staffs. In short, the inadequate health care that people with AIDS have faced will only worsen.

Kathryn Owen
Boston, Massachusetts

Flying Lorenzo-style

When a recent storm hit Philadelphia, gusts of wind literally picked up a Continental plane and blew it across the tarmac. My coworkers, airplane cleaners at United Airlines, claim Frank Lorenzo (the owner of Texas Air, which operates Continental and Eastern airlines) was behind that move.

"Now he wants to fly the planes without pilots," they said.

Maureen Coletta
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

'Open season on Maoris'

It is "open season on Maoris," said Auckland District Maori Council leader Ranginui Walker, responding to police refusal to prosecute a man who killed an unarmed Maori allegedly burglarizing a neighbor's property. Maoris are the indigenous people of New Zealand.

In a separate incident a man was acquitted on attempted murder charges after shooting at two Maori youths with a high-caliber rifle, claiming they were stealing gasoline from his wife's parked car.

Incidents of vigilante-style violence against Maori and Pacific Island youth reflect an atmosphere whipped up in New Zealand by the capitalist media and politicians.

"Young Maoris and Pacific Islanders are disproportionately, and indeed substantially, responsible for turning Auckland into a very nasty and dangerous place in which to live," said John Banks, a leading member of the opposition National Party. "The most frightening thing,"

he says, is that they make up 38 percent of children under four years old. This means "20 years from now Auckland could well be one of the world's most violent cities." Immigrants from the Pacific Islands should be deported, Banks said.

Maoris and Pacific Islanders make up 15 percent of the country's population but represent more than 50 percent of the prison population.

Mike Brown

Auckland, New Zealand

Beating protested

"Not a penny at J.C. Penney's!" is the response of Denver Black leaders to the beating of a pregnant Black woman by the department store's security guards. Linda Ann Lewis is suing the store for \$15 million in damages.

Lewis was accused of shoplifting last June by two security guards and their supervisor. She was held in a choke hold, handcuffed, and wrestled to the floor even though she told guards she was pregnant and offered to cooperate. A videotape of the incident has been obtained by Lewis.

More than 100 people gathered in December at the Denver National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's headquarters to protest the assault. Lewis was targeted because she is Black, said Linda Sadler of Union Baptist Excel Institute, who chaired the protest.

"What is a shoplifter? Is that a Black woman with an Afro and jeans and tennis shoes?" asked Menola Upshaw, president of the Denver NAACP, labeling the attack "animalistic."

The FBI has announced it will launch an investigation to determine if Lewis's civil rights were violated.

Maureen McDougall

Denver, Colorado

Socialism doesn't work

As a college student, I have had many opportunities, unlike most of your readers who appear to be from the "working class."

I know that our capitalist system is not the best. No system is. But it is far superior to any other.

Just ask those in Eastern Europe who are throwing out their socialist governments and hoping to catch up



to the standards of the western capitalist countries. They know socialism doesn't work.

The United States has many opportunities for all, but many of those opportunities are escaping to other countries or shifting to different markets. One reason is the fact that foreigners take more pride in their workmanship and are less concerned with how much overtime they have to work and when they'll be able to have a break to smoke a cigarette or have a beer.

Long live capitalism!

Mike Ritchald
Rochester, Minnesota

Halifax conference

Mary-Alice Waters' speech on Cuba's rectification process given at the Halifax conference and reprinted in the Dec. 1, 1989, *Militant* represents a big step forward in understanding that rectification, which has been up to now primarily a social process, must be deepened by increasing workers' democracy and control in the workplace — a political process. Otherwise, voluntary labor will degenerate into its Stakhanovite opposite.

A similar point could be made about the execution of Arnaldo Ochoa and jailing of others. These actions do not in themselves register an advance for the revolution. Only to the extent that they help remove obstacles to the working people seizing responsibility for running society, from the factory to foreign policy, will they help the political revolution led by Cuba's revolution-

ary government succeed against the unconsolidated bureaucracy.

Part of this will be continuing to increase the educational level of the Cuban working class, overcoming the unequal distribution of university education. The relative scarcity of higher education among workers reinforces bureaucratic power. Workers must not only conquer the intellectual foundations of the history and theory of their fight (Marxism), but also bourgeois technique and culture.

The central task facing the Cuban revolution is the politicization and empowerment of the working class. The conquests of the revolution so far — literacy, internationalism, and voluntary labor — are foundation stones on which workers' democracy will be built.

Jim Miles
Chicago, Illinois

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

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

London rally backs ambulance crews

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — Over 40,000 people rallied in Trafalgar Square January 13 to show support for the campaign of National Health Service ambulance crews for an increased pay offer from the government. The dispute is now in its 18th week.

The rally was addressed by the Trades Union Congress general secretary, Norman Willis, and Neil Kinnock, a leader of the opposition Labour Party. Roger Poole, chief negotiator for the five ambulance unions, culminated his remarks by threatening the government with massive support for the TUC call for a 15-minute work stoppage on January 30.

The rally was the biggest show of trade union solidarity since the height of the year-long miners' strike five years ago. In addition to speeches from leading trade union figures and representatives of rank-and-file ambulance workers and fire fighters, a message of support was read from the South African Black Municipality and Allied Workers Union, which said, "We are ready to mount a picket day and night at the British embassy in South Africa, even if this means losing our lives."

Despite overwhelming public support for the demands of the ambulance workers' unions, the government has remained implacable, refusing to increase the 6.4 percent



Ambulance strikers at Crawley depot wave at passing motorists

wage offer — some 1.5 percent below the current level of inflation. The government hopes to inflict a significant defeat on the ambulance workers to stiffen the resolve of

management in major companies.

Undoubtedly a major factor in government thinking has been the rejection by unions representing Ford's 22,000 work force — a

traditional trendsetter in wage claims for industry — of a 10.2 percent wage offer. News of this was a contributing factor in the sharp drop in London stock prices on January 12.

Since then craft workers at two Ford plants have gone out on indefinite strike, halting production at those plants, and line workers at the largest plant at Dagenham near London have voted for a 24-hour stoppage on the day that negotiations with Ford management restart.

In the face of government intransigence, resolve is hardening among the ambulance crews. Until last week ambulance crews were simply banning overtime and rest-day working. It has been management that has locked out crews in response to this, but crews have still explored every avenue to maintain an emergency service.

But on the eve of the Trafalgar Square rally, workers at the Crawley depot in the South-East of England, decided on an all-out strike and now other depots are organizing ballots with the aim of winning support for similar action. These developments are increasing the pressure on the unions to call a national vote for all-out action.

Even in a national strike, crews would maintain an emergency service if contacted directly at their depot. In normal circumstances, all emergency calls go through the operator.

Judge blocks parts of Pennsylvania antiabortion law

BY HOLLY HARKNESS

PITTSBURGH — A victory for abortion rights was won January 11 when a federal judge blocked three key sections of Pennsylvania's new antiabortion law.

The Abortion Control Act of 1989 was overwhelmingly passed last November by the state legislature and signed into law by Gov. Robert Casey. The new law drew national attention because it was the first to be passed since the Supreme Court upheld Missouri's restrictive antiabortion law in July 1989.

The Pennsylvania law went the furthest of any state law in restricting a woman's right to abortion. Barry Steinhardt, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union

of Pennsylvania, described the state's revised law as "the most dangerous piece of antiabortion legislation in the country."

The January 11 injunction was granted by Judge Daniel Huyett of the Federal District Court of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania just hours after it was requested by Planned Parenthood and other prochoice organizations.

The injunction blocks provisions of the law that would have required a woman to notify her husband that she planned to have an abortion, imposed a 24-hour waiting period before an abortion could be performed, and required doctors to describe to the woman the development of her fetus.

A third provision that was blocked would

require a second doctor to be present at any emergency abortion done after the sixth month of pregnancy and require the abortion to be performed in such a way as to try to keep the fetus alive after the operation.

The remainder of the law, which outlaws nonemergency abortions after six months and prohibits abortions performed because of the sex of the fetus, goes into effect January 16.

Abortion rights activists around the state are planning prochoice activities on January 22, the anniversary of the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. In Pittsburgh they will gather at the State Office Building at 5:00 p.m., then march to the YWCA for a rally.

Since the Supreme Court upheld the Mis-

souri law last July, supporters of women's right to abortion have mobilized in many states. On November 12 tens of thousands of prochoice activists turned out for a rally in Washington, D.C.

These actions, which reflect majority support for abortion rights among working people, have helped push back efforts in Florida, Texas, and other states to enact restrictive antiabortion legislation along the lines of the Missouri statutes.

Recently, an Illinois case that could have forced all clinics performing abortions to comply with state regulations requiring them to be equipped and staffed like hospitals was settled before it reached the U.S. Supreme Court. Nearly all the regulations were scrapped by the terms of an out-of-court agreement. The state law, if upheld, would have forced most clinics to close.

The Michigan state legislature passed a bill in December requiring unmarried women under the age of 18 to get parental permission before obtaining an abortion. Michigan Gov. James Blanchard has said he will veto any measure restricting abortion rights.

Two other cases, from Ohio and Minnesota, involving the right of teenage women to choose abortion without being required to tell or get permission from one or both parents were considered by the Supreme Court during the fall. The decisions on these cases have not yet been announced.

Int'l actions protest attack on Panama

BY SELVA NEBBIA

Actions against the U.S. invasion of Panama have taken place in many countries throughout the world. In Tehran, Iran, thousands of students and workers, joined by big contingents of women and soldiers, marched toward the Majles (Iran's parliament) for a meeting to express their outrage at the invasion and to show their solidarity with the Panamanian people.

The rally held December 26, was called by the head of the Majles, Hodjatol-Eslam Karrobi. The central theme of the protest was "Hands off Panama!" Huge banners condemning the invasion were put up in the area around the Majles.

Karrobi, the main speaker at the rally, cited many examples of U.S. aggression in Iran and other countries. He explained that the Iranian people are indebted to the people of Panama because, after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, they refused to allow the Shah to stay in their country.

In Sydney, Australia, a forum protesting the U.S. invasion was held January 9. "Yesterday it was Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Nicaragua," said Micaela Ramirez, the Cuban acting consul general in Sydney, to the meeting. "Today it is Panama. Tomorrow, who knows, it may be Nicaragua, El Salvador, or Cuba."

Craig Gannon, a leader of the U.S. Socialist Workers Party, also spoke at the meeting

sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum. Behind its smokescreen of a so-called drug war, Gannon explained, the Bush administration was installing a puppet Panamanian government to maintain U.S. control of the Panama Canal to further Washington's aims in Central America and the Caribbean.

U.S. protests

In Cincinnati, Ohio, some 100 people held a protest January 12 against U.S. policy in Central America. The occasion was a visit by President George Bush to speak to the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative and to the city's Chamber of Commerce.

More than 400 turned out in Los Angeles January 12 for a public protest meeting organized by the newly formed Panamanian Sovereignty Support Committee.

On January 11 a news conference took place on the steps of the Richard Russell Building in Atlanta to demand the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Panama.

Among those who spoke to the press were Rev. Joseph Fahy, Hispanic Apostolate of the Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta; Chanda Eakins, SANE/FREEZE; Gary Washington, shop steward of the Graphic Communications International Union; Robin Singer, Atlanta Committee on Latin America; a representative of the American Friends Service Committee; and Miguel Zárate, Socialist Workers Party.

The National Emergency Civil Liberties

Committee took out a quarter page ad in the January 12 *New York Times* condemning the U.S. invasion. The ad was signed by Corliss Lamont, Edith Tiger, Beth Lamont, Harrington Harlow, John Scudder, and Connie Hogarth.

Simin Dehgan from Tehran; Ron Poulsen from Sydney; Bobbi Sack and Greg Sack from Cincinnati; and Nelson Blackstock from Los Angeles contributed to this article.

Anti-Cuba pickets target UN mission

BY JON HILLSON

NEW YORK—About 50 opponents of Cuba's revolutionary government called for its overthrow in a demonstration across the street from the Cuban mission to the United Nations. The December 29 action was promoted in a major opinion article entitled, "Romania's revolution gives new hope to Cubans," by columnist Miguel Pérez in the *Daily News*, the city's largest circulation newspaper. Several Spanish-language radio stations also announced the right-wing event.

The action, according to Pérez, was timed to coincide with supposed anti-government protests in Cuba announced over the radio and the appearance of a full-page advertisement in the *New York Times*, in which self-proclaimed former supporters of the Cuban revolution demanded a plebi-

scite be held on the island to judge whether Cuban President Fidel Castro should be removed from office.

The anti-Cuba demonstrators pointed fingers at the mission, shouting, "You're the last," a reference to posters and placards equating Castro with deposed Rumanian tyrant Nicolae Ceaucescu. Most of the protesters were Cuban, but were joined by handfuls of right-wing Rumanians. Their spirit was "not dampened," Pérez stated, by the nonappearance in Cuba of the hoped for "internal insurrection."

Several of the marchers told the media they intended to continue their presence at the mission. On January 6 some 200 reactionary Cubans and their allies, this time Panamanian supporters of Washington's recent invasion, staged a similar event.