

Actions back Eastern strikers, Greyhound walkout begins

Machinists get big labor turnout

BY SUSAN LaMONT

Chants of "One day longer, one day stronger" were heard at airports and union halls around the country over the March 3-4 weekend, as thousands of Eastern strikers, their families, and supporters from throughout the labor movement rallied in two dozen U.S. cities, and in Canada and Puerto Rico, to mark the one-year anniversary of the Machinists' strike at Eastern Airlines.

It was the largest outpouring of support for the Eastern strike in many months, reflecting both the new support the Machinists have recently won and the strikers' growing ties with other labor battles. The anniversary itself and the strikers' activities generated considerable coverage in the big-business media.

The actions were a strong demonstration that, after a year, most of the 8,500 ramp workers, cleaners, mechanics, and stock clerks who walked out at Eastern are determined to keep fighting. "It's been a hard year, but we'll stay out another year if we have to, to beat Frank Lorenzo," striker Wally Mills told the rally in Phoenix, Arizona. Lorenzo is head of Texas Air Corp. which owns both Eastern and Continental airlines.

Virtually everywhere, the anniversary rallies, airport walk-throughs, benefits, and other activities became more than celebrations of the Eastern strike. They were militant protests by fighters from many unions — some also on strike now, others in organizing battles, still others who had themselves recently been out on the picket lines.

Eastern and Greyhound

The connection between the Eastern and Greyhound strikes was especially strong. With their walkout only a few days old — and already one striker killed and others injured — Greyhound bus drivers, mechanics, cleaners, and clerks turned out for the March 3-4 events in many cities. They were seeking broader solidarity from the labor movement and, in particular, aid from the seasoned Eastern fighters. "Now we're not lonesome," striking Greyhound bus driver Ron DiNapoli told the Los Angeles rally. "It's a great feeling."

From Phoenix to Pittsburgh, unionists ended the Eastern anniversary events by going over to bus stations to reinforce the Greyhound strikers' picket lines.

United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) members and officials also had a special place at the actions. Their presence in many cities, including large contingents in a few places, underscored many miners' desire — now that the strike at the Pittston coal company is over — to continue backing the Machinists at Eastern.

Former Pittston strikers were on hand in Greensboro, North Carolina; San Francisco; and Washington, D.C. In Pittsburgh, the miners were mainly from locals in western Pennsylvania and West Virginia where UMWA strikes are still taking place.

Striking garment workers; telephone, restaurant, and hospital workers who were on picket lines last year; and workers at other airlines who are also under attack turned out to back the Eastern Machinists as they head into their second year on strike. In some cities former striking Eastern flight attendants — and in a few cases, pilots — came to show

Continued on Page 8

Greyhound picket killed by scab bus

BY SUSAN LaMONT

On March 3 striking Greyhound bus driver Bob Waterhouse was killed on the picket line in Redding, California. Waterhouse, a 30-year veteran at Greyhound, was crushed against a wall and run over by the rear wheels of a scab-driven bus. The death was ruled accidental and the driver released. Waterhouse was a member of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1225, based in San Francisco.

The killing came just one day after a national walkout by more than 9,000 ATU members at Greyhound began. The strikers include 6,300 drivers and some 3,000 mechanics, cleaners, and clerks.

A nationwide protest was called by the Amalgamated Council of Greyhound Local Unions for March 9. Tribute was paid to the fallen striker at many of the Eastern strike anniversary actions held around the country March 3-4. A memorial picket line was held in Seattle March 5; Waterhouse's funeral was March 7.

"This is going to be a serious fight now," a driver on the picket line in Charleston, West Virginia, said after hearing of the killing.

"This unprovoked incident points out the danger to the public of using under-trained, inexperienced, nonunion scab labor," says an



March 4 rally in Philadelphia. Actions in many cities marked the one-year anniversary of the Machinists strike at Eastern Airlines. Thousands of unionists joined Machinists in largest turnouts in many months.

Militant/Michael Carper

ATU bulletin. "Allowing drivers who are not properly trained to drive these 38,000-pound, 40-foot buses is endangering the people riding in these vehicles."

Scab drivers are now being given one week

of training. Normally the training period is about 12 weeks.

Since the strike started, pickets in Kansas City, Missouri; Minneapolis; and Salt Lake

Continued on Page 9

Mandela salutes Zambia for support

BY GREG McCARTAN

LUSAKA, Zambia — Tens of thousands gathered in a mass rally here at Independence stadium on the final day of Nelson Mandela's first visit to this southern African country since his release from prison on February 11.

In a speech to the March 3 rally, Mandela saluted Zambians for their "unflinching support over these years, which has meant I can stand here as a free man in this beautiful city of Lusaka, the headquarters of our movement in exile."

Zambia, like most of the six Frontline States, borders on South Africa. These countries have borne the brunt of the apartheid regime's military attacks and economic exploitation. As part of attempting to isolate the South African regime, they have taken measures to reduce trade and cut political ties.

During his six-day visit, Mandela met with leaders of the African National Congress National Executive Committee and the Frontline States, officials of the Commonwealth countries, a U.S. congressional delegation, and representatives of other liberation movements.

The ANC leadership meeting concluded that "comrades who were members of the NEC before they were arrested, namely Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, and Govan Mbeki, will resume their places with the NEC," a statement released March 2 said. In addition, Mandela was "elected as deputy president of the ANC." ANC President Oliver Tambo is hospitalized in Sweden as the result of a stroke suffered early last year.

'Bear with us'

At the mass rally Mandela noted it "might have been better economically for Zambia

not to support the freedom struggle." He urged Zambians to "bear with us a little longer because the last stages [of the struggle] can be tricky and stubborn. But we will see the struggle to its bitter end," he concluded.

A secondary school student read a message to the rally and to Mandela from the school's anti-apartheid group that said, "We stand behind you in the quest for a democratic

society in South Africa."

Earlier in the week, Mandela had been greeted by thousands of Zambians, exiled ANC activists, and African heads of state at the Lusaka airport. The road from the airport to the city was lined with thousands more supporters.

"There have been many distinguished vis-

Continued on Page 13

British mine union leaders face massive frame-up

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — "Scargill and the Libyan money: the facts," "Tell us about the money, Arthur," "Scargill 'wanted guns'." These are just three of many front-page headlines in the daily papers in Britain since March 5 attacking the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and the International Miners Organisation (IMO).

Independent Television (ITV) went so far

See editorial on page 14

as to interrupt its normal program schedule on March 5 to broadcast a Central Television program, "Where did the money go," based on a report by ITV journalist Roger Cook, which opened fire against NUM leaders Arthur Scargill and Peter Heathfield. Cook has spent months trying to piece together a frame-up of the NUM leaders.

Allegations against the NUM were first carried by the National Newspaper Group of

media billionaire Robert Maxwell. They are made by the union's former chief executive, Roger Windsor. He claims that the union received money from the Libyan government during the miners' strike of 1984-85, that the funds were misappropriated by Scargill and Heathfield, that they spent tens of thousands of pounds to pay for mortgage repayments and improvements to their homes, that Windsor himself was a beneficiary of the pickings, and that the IMO is implicated in a cover-up.

The IMO, encompassing 46 miners' federations and 26 organizations from 43 countries, was founded after the 1984-85 strike by British miners. Scargill is president of the IMO.

The attack against the IMO was escalated by the London Times on March 7. An article cited charges by anonymous "moderate international union leaders" who "believe that the communist-dominated IMO was at the centre of the web of financial manoeuvres spun by Mr. Scargill and others on the na-

Continued on Page 10

Sweden airline workers like anti-Lorenzo stance

"Along with the *Militant* and its news on the Eastern strike, workers wanted the anti-Lorenzo T-shirts and buttons we were wearing that day," said Carl-Eric Isacsson, a

Denmark. The factory employs a couple of hundred workers who repair engines. Isacsson and two others — a bus driver and a metal worker — began selling the *Militant*

Texas Air and Eastern are losing money. Others cite the fact that the Machinists are on strike at Eastern and SAS shouldn't be cooperating with union-busting Frank Lorenzo, Eastern's owner."

Every time the sales team has gone to the plant, a few workers pick up a copy of the *Militant*. "The best week was when 13 workers bought papers," Isacsson explained.

At an immigrants' rights rally in Stockholm February 24, Isacsson met one of the engine repair workers who had come down to participate. The unionist bought a subscription to the *Militant* and asked how he could help out with the Eastern strike. "We're looking forward to seeing him the next time we go up," said Isacsson.

Militant supporters in Stockholm have also sold regularly at Arlanda airport since the Eastern strike started. During the last two visits at the end of February, a total of 11 workers at the SAS employees' gate bought copies of the paper. "At least

five or six workers buy the paper every time we go," said Isacsson.

Militant supporters in Atlanta began going to the Northwest Airlines maintenance facility at the end of February.

Hundreds of Eastern strikers have been hired at Northwest, and the Machinists' strike is a big topic of discussion.

Eight workers bought copies of the paper on the team's first two visits. Inside the hanger 26 workers have bought single copies of the paper, and four have subscribed since January. The new Pathfinder book *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches* has also been popular — six airport workers have bought copies.

On the Eastern picket lines, 15 strikers and supporters have picked up copies of the paper since January.

Workers selling the *Militant* got a friendly response from members

of the International Association of Machinists in San Jose February 18. Some 2,000 Machinists who work at Lockheed Corporation streamed into a performing arts center that day to vote on their national contract. The contract proposal contained givebacks and was defeated by 99 percent of the vote.

Many IAM members were interested in the *Militant's* coverage of their union brothers and sisters' strike against Eastern Airlines. Eastern striker Bob Stellato was also on hand, passing out leaflets urging the Machinists to come to the Eastern strike anniversary events that were planned for March 3.

Workers were also attracted to the paper by the news on the release of South African liberation leader Nelson Mandela. In all, two workers signed up to subscribe to the *Militant* and 48 bought single copies.

Carl-Eric Isacsson from Stockholm and Peter Anastos from San Francisco contributed to this column.



GETTING THE MILITANT AROUND

union auto worker from Stockholm, Sweden.

Isacsson was describing the response he and other unionists got from workers while selling the paper one week at the Scandinavian Aero Engine Systems plant.

The plant is located just outside Stockholm and is mostly owned by Scandinavian Airlines Systems (SAS), the airline owned by the governments of Sweden, Norway, and

at the plant gate in August, several months after the strike at Eastern Airlines began.

"Workers at the engine repair plant are organized by the Transport Workers Union," said Isacsson. "They had read about the Eastern strike in the union newsletter. SAS owns 10 percent of Texas Air, the parent company of Eastern, and many workers think that's wrong. Some say it's 'bad business' since

Campaign to sign up 7,500 new readers launched

BY RONI McCANN

On March 17 workers who read and distribute the *Militant* around the world — from Reykjavik, Iceland, to Phoenix, Arizona — will begin a seven-week circulation drive to win 7,500 new readers to the socialist press.

Along with the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, the French-language quarterly *Lutte ouvrière*, and copies of the Marxist magazine *New International*, supporters will be heading out with the *Militant* to the countryside, coal-mining regions, airports, shopping centers, subway stops, factory gates, and colleges and high schools to meet workers and young people and introduce them to the publications.

A kick-off target week to get the drive rolling has been called for March 17-24. By organizing to take maximum advantage of each day, supporters worldwide will get a strong start toward achieving subscription goals.

The aim is to sell 4,950 subscriptions to the *Militant*, 1,100 to *Perspectiva Mundial*, 250 to *Lutte ouvrière*, and 1,200 single copies of *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale* by May 5.

The three periodicals will be offered at a special rate for first-time readers: 12 weeks of the *Militant* for \$5; four months of *Perspectiva Mundial* for \$4; and one year of *Lutte ouvrière* for \$6.

Even before the international circulation drive kicks off, supporters of the socialist press are meeting increasing numbers of workers, farmers, and young people interested in politics today.

The *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *Lutte ouvrière* provide needed facts and analysis on the big events that mark today's world. They tell the truth about these struggles — from the U.S. invasion of Panama, the release of South African freedom fighter Nelson Mandela, the shattering of repressive regimes in Eastern Europe, to the Nicaraguan elections — and thousands of working people and youth have responded with interest.

Since Dec. 1, 1989, 1,326 workers, activists, and young people have decided to subscribe to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Together with the struggles that are unfolding internationally there are increasing numbers of workers in the United States mounting fights against the employers and becoming more and more a factor in politics.

Over the weekend of March 3-4, thousands of Eastern Airlines strikers, who remain in a fighting stance after a year on the picket line, celebrated their strike anniversary at airports around the United States. Joining them were union fighters from hundreds of labor organizations.

At labor events, picket lines, union halls, and from fellow fighters, hundreds of workers are running into the *Militant* and are signing up for or renewing their subscriptions. In Detroit 21 airport workers renewed their subscriptions to the *Militant* in the last month. When asked if he could afford to renew, an Eastern striker responded, "Oh yes, this is something that is very important to me."

Since January 1, 44 members of the Inter-

national Association of Machinists subscribed to the paper, and 46 IAM readers renewed.

Militant sales teams traveling through the coalfields in the last three months have met hundreds of miners, their families, and other workers who have decided to read the paper — 1,453 bought single copies and 168 subscribed.

The seven-week international circulation drive takes place in this political atmosphere. There are increasing opportunities to win thousands of new readers to the socialist press by building on the sales and outreach supporters are already doing.

The key to a successful drive will be getting a strong start during the kick-off week. Sending out special weekend or week-long teams can help boost sales right away and set an aggressive tone for the drive.

Militant supporters in Britain will be fielding teams to the coalfields every week of the drive.

Getting on a campaign footing for the next seven weeks will result in signing up more new readers at weekly plant-gate sales, on picket lines, and at workplaces.

During the drive an effort will be made to sell the six issues of *New International*, a magazine of Marxist theory and politics. Workers, young people, and activists in struggle will be interested today in its feature articles, including on the unfolding revolution in South Africa.

Circulation drives to win new readers are the biggest ways supporters of the socialist press promote the *Militant*, *Perspectiva*

Mundial, and *Lutte ouvrière*. Besides organizing to meet as many new people as possible and introduce them to the publications, the subscription rates are greatly reduced to encourage those interested to sign up. Thousands do, and after a few months they decide if they want to continue.

For the last four months workers who read and sell the socialist press have been trying to reach readers who subscribed during the nine-week effort that ended in November.

The results show that in places where a real effort was organized, many long-term readers, as well as union allies and new members of the Young Socialist Alliance, were won.

Last year during the February-March four-week international renewal effort, a total of 309 readers resubscribed to the *Militant* and 46 to *Perspectiva Mundial*.

This year from January 27 to February 24, a total of 503 readers renewed their *Militant* subscriptions, 86 renewed *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 7 renewed *Lutte ouvrière* subscriptions. In addition, 499 new readers signed up for the *Militant* and 77 for *Perspectiva Mundial* during the four weeks. This makes a total of 1,172 new subscribers in 1990 to date.

The international circulation drive can build on this success. We urge readers to get involved in the campaign, tell fellow fighters and activists about the paper, and encourage them to subscribe. Bundles of the publications can be ordered by calling or writing the *Militant* business office at 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014, telephone (212) 929-3486.

If your subscription is running out . . . KEEP GETTING the MILITANT

Featured in the *Militant*:

Reports from March 4 Eastern strike actions from around the United States • Labor battles by miners and other unionists in the coalfields • On-the-scene coverage from Nicaragua bureau and reporting teams in Africa, El Salvador, and Panama.

SPECIAL RENEWAL OFFER

A savings on the Marxist magazine *New International*. With your *Militant* renewal of six months or longer take a dollar off the cover price of a *New International*, or get all six issues of it for \$25. Issue No. 1 features "Their Trotsky and Ours: Communist Continuity Today." No. 2 "The Working-Class Fight for Peace." No. 3 "Communism and the Fight for a Popular Revolutionary Government." No. 4 "The Crisis Facing Working Farmers." No. 5 "The Coming Revolution in South Africa." No. 6 "The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop."



☐ \$5 for 12 weeks, new readers ☐ \$10 for 12-week renewal
☐ \$19 for 6 months ☐ \$35 for 1 year ☐ \$65 for 2 years
 New International offer ☐ No. 1 for \$4 ☐ No. 2 for \$4
☐ No. 3 for \$4 ☐ No. 4 for \$5 ☐ No. 5 for \$4
☐ No. 6 for \$6. ☐ all six for \$25
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State/province _____ Zip/Postal code _____
 Phone _____
 Union/School/Organization _____
 Clip and send to the *Militant*, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

The Militant

Closing news date: March 7, 1990

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.

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

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

Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y. and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The *Militant*, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Subscriptions: U.S., Canada, Latin America: for one-year subscription send \$35, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first-class (airmail), send \$65. Britain, Ireland, Continental Europe, Africa: £22 for one year, £12 for six months, or £6 for three-month renewal. Send check or international money order made out to *Militant* Distribution and send to 47 The Cut, London SE1 8LL, England. Australia, Asia, Pacific: send Australian \$60 to Pathfinder Press, P.O. Box 153, Glebe, Sydney, NSW 2037, Australia.

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

W. Germany presses currency union in reunification drive

BY PETER THIERJUNG

The Bonn government announced in early February plans to establish the West German mark as the common currency of both East and West Germany. West Germany's imperialist rulers see this as the first step toward a reunified and stronger Germany that combines the resources of East and West.

A common currency would link wages, prices, productivity, and profits in the two Germanys. Restrictions on the movement of capital across the border would be eliminated. The move would allow West German capitalists to invest in East Germany and opens the door to taking the first steps to try to reintroduce private ownership of basic productive capital there.

This development signals a new stage in the aggressive drive of West German imperialism for reunification and spotlights one of the most important political developments in Europe and the world today.

For more than 40 years the division of Germany was a centerpiece of the entire post-World War II framework for political relations between Europe, the United States, and the Soviet Union. In this setup, U.S. capitalism played a central role in Europe, especially through its dominant position in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Today this framework is being ruptured by an increasingly assertive West German capitalist colossus and the relative decline of the economic and political weight of U.S. imperialism in Europe.

The resulting interimperialist rivalry and conflict, sharpened by the drive toward German reunification, are the greatest source of the increased tensions and political instability in Europe today.

In 1945, following World War II, Germany was divided by the conquering armies of the United States, Britain, France, and the Soviet Union, which had defeated German military forces. In East Germany, which had been occupied by Soviet troops, the capitalist class was expropriated and capitalist property relations were overturned four years later.

A capitalist powerhouse

Today West Germany has become a capitalist powerhouse and is in the midst of an economic upturn. Industry in the country is working at close to 90 percent capacity — the highest level since 1970. Its exports have risen to 7 percent of the gross national product, creating the biggest trade surplus of any imperialist country. Capitalist economists put West Germany's economic growth at 3.2

percent annually at the outset of this year, compared with 2 percent for the United States.

Because of its economic muscle, West Germany has become the central force in the European Community. Many of the EC's 12 members have pegged their currencies to the West German mark as a medium of exchange. The EC, often referred to as the Common Market, attempts to coordinate economic and other policies to protect the European markets of its members and better compete against other capitalist countries, primarily the United States and Japan.

While East Germany has the most developed economy and highest standard of living among Eastern European countries where capitalism had been abolished, its productivity of labor is much lower than West Germany's or that of other capitalist countries in Europe. Productivity per worker today in the chemical industry, for example, is around 55 percent of the level in West Germany, and most factories, mills, and the transport system are considered outdated. It has been unable to compete with capitalist West Germany.

Faced with economic stagnation, a declining standard of living, and authoritarian rule, millions of East Germans took to the streets in protests last fall and brought down the Stalinist Socialist Unity Party which had been a central instrument of rule for the privileged bureaucratic caste that has dominated East Germany for more than 40 years.

East Germany's economic and social crisis has also led to a massive exodus to Western Europe, especially to West Germany, which has a higher standard of living and where wages are four times higher. Some 350,000 people, many of them young skilled workers, left East Germany last year. So far this year another 70,000 have already emigrated. Almost 80 percent of all those who have departed come from the country's industrial south. This drain has sharply escalated the country's problems, bringing the economy to near collapse.

European Community's '13th member'

Steps toward economic integration were already under way years before the demolition of the Berlin Wall, which had led some to dub East Germany the "13th member" of the EC. The West German government, which as a matter of policy recognizes East Germany as an extension of its own territory, exempted East German exports from tariffs. West Germany has been one of East Germany's greatest export markets.

Moreover, West Germany has subsidized



Pro-reunification demonstration in Leipzig, East Germany. Banner reads, "We want one new Germany." Other slogans are now being raised: "No unemployment" and "Protect our social benefits."

a range of projects, improving communications and travel in the East at a cost of \$1.1 billion in the past two decades. East Germany also received \$2.5 billion each year in income from visitors, postal services, roadway taxes, and the use of toxic waste dumps from West Germany. East German payment shortfalls for West German goods have regularly been offset by the Bonn government as a form of subsidy.

Since the massive shake-up in East Germany that began last fall, economic integration has sharply escalated. The two governments have established joint committees on tourism, the environment, nuclear power, telecommunications, and construction. West Germany has earmarked \$1.2 billion to help pay for visits by East Germans. Road links are being improved. Cross-border railway lines have been reactivated. West and East German airlines are running inter-German flights, stepping up their competition with airlines from other countries.

The deutsche mark

Unable to restore political stability and stem the country's economic problems, East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow appealed for \$9 billion in emergency economic aid on February 13 during a visit to West Germany. West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl rejected the request and pressed for moving swiftly toward monetary union as a first step in reunification. Modrow, who has opposed rapid moves toward reunification, acquiesced and Kohl announced the formation of a joint committee to start preparations for the monetary union. "We are offering our strongest economic asset, the deutsche

mark," Kohl said.

On February 14 Bonn approved \$4.1 billion in aid, which included \$1.4 billion for immediate uses such as credits to small and medium-size businesses in East Germany, \$1 billion for East German resettlers arriving in West Germany, and \$1.2 billion as a reserve fund.

Karl Otto Pöhl, president of West Germany's central bank, the Bundesbank, followed up a few days later by insisting that the East German government would have to agree to additional conditions. These include introducing the economic system and banking system of West Germany in the East and allowing the Bundesbank to control East German monetary policy.

"All that is certainly not going to be simple," Pöhl said, "and means a considerable surrender of sovereignty by" East Germany. "Practically, it means unification below the military and political threshold."

"Reunification now is beginning to look a lot more like a West German annexation," a February 15 *Wall Street Journal* article said.

The actual timetable for currency union will be set after the March 18 elections in

Continued on Page 13

Mandela book reaches Virginia miners

BY JON HILLSON

"I can't believe 27 years in jail didn't break him," the Virginia coal miner said, referring to Nelson Mandela.

He was talking with members of a recently concluded *Militant* sales team, which, in addition to signing up subscribers to the socialist newsweekly, sold copies of *The Struggle Is My Life* by Nelson Mandela. This effort is part of a campaign by the *Militant*, Pathfinder, and the Young Socialist Alliance to distribute the Pathfinder title to the widest possible audience.

Along with promoting this book, distributors are making a special effort to get out *New International* No. 5, which features "The Coming Revolution in South Africa" by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes. This article describes the class character of leading social forces in South Africa's national, democratic revolution and the vanguard role of the African National Congress (ANC). The *New International* is a magazine of Marxist politics and theory published in New York.

The miners who talked to the team of distributors in the coalfields had just ended their strike against Pittston Coal Group by ratifying a new contract. Many had seen Mandela's speech in Cape Town, South Africa, on TV when he was released, team

captain Lisa Hickler reported.

Team members sold two copies of the book, which includes speeches and documents by the ANC leader, to a Trammel, Virginia, Pittston strike supporter and a union coal miner involved in another strike.

Distributors in Miami have sold 60 copies of the book since the campaign began, the big majority of them hawked off of literature tables, at demonstrations, and to coworkers. A dozen copies were sold at a march of some 5,000 Haitians on March 6.

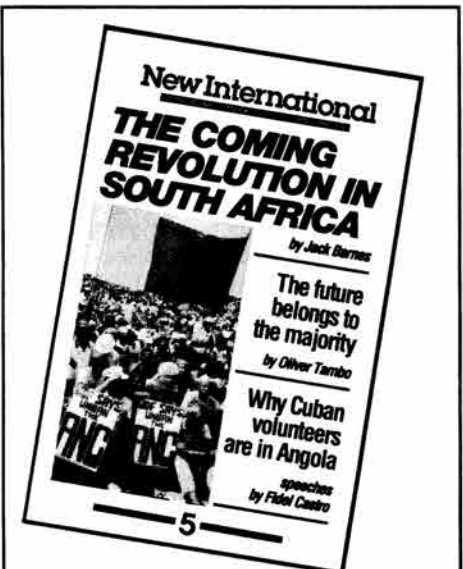
Mark Satinoff and John Naubert have sold nine books to coworkers at Thompson Industries, a factory of 300 organized by the International Union of Electronics Workers, in New York. "We asked everybody we knew," Satinoff said. "It was very uncomplicated.

We still have more people to talk to."

Sales of the *New International* with the article on the South African revolution will greatly strengthen the campaign, Norton Sandler, Pathfinder sales and promotion director emphasized. It is an essential complement to the Mandela book. He urged unionists to bring copies of the magazine along with the Mandela book to work to sell on the job to coworkers.

According to Aaron Ruby, national chairperson of the Young Socialist Alliance, the youth group is organizing a series of classes on the *New International* article.

"The Coming Revolution in South Africa" is available in Spanish in the Pathfinder pamphlet, *Sudáfrica: La revolución en camino* and in French in *Nouvelle Internationale*.



This issue of *New International* focuses on the revolutionary struggle in South Africa, its impact throughout southern Africa and worldwide, and the tasks of opponents of apartheid in the labor movement internationally.

The feature article, *The Coming Revolution in South Africa* by Jack Barnes, discusses the national, democratic revolution to overthrow the South African apartheid regime and establish a nonracial democratic republic.

Also included:

- **The Freedom Charter**
- **The Future Belongs to the Majority**, a message by African National Congress President Oliver Tambo
- **Why Cuban Volunteers Are in Angola**, three speeches by Cuban President Fidel Castro

Send \$5 to *New International*, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014

Send me ☐ 5 ☐ 10 ☐ 15 ☐ 20 ☐ Other copies of:

☐ *The Struggle Is My Life* (\$10.95 each; \$7.25 each for 10 or more).

☐ *Habla Nelson Mandela* (\$6.95 each; \$4.65 for 10 or more).

Enclosed is \$ _____

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to: Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014 or 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400, Toronto, Ontario, M5V 1S8, Canada. Include \$1.50 for postage. Orders of 10 or more postage free. For information on prices and orders in Britain and Australia write Pathfinder, 47 The Cut, London SE1 8LL, England; or P.O. Box 153, Glebe, Sydney, NSW 2037, Australia.

Urgent int'l protests needed to reverse Curtis victimization

BY PRISCILLA SCHENK

DES MOINES, Iowa — The Mark Curtis Defense Committee has launched an urgent international campaign to protest Iowa prison authorities' victimization of political activist Mark Curtis on frame-up charges of gambling.

An appeal of the frame-up was denied February 15 by Warden John Thalacker of the Iowa State Men's Reformatory in Anamosa, where Curtis is incarcerated. Curtis has now appealed to the Iowa Department of Corrections, which is the target of the emergency campaign.

A new information sheet has been put out by the defense committee to bring this new threat to prisoners' rights to the attention of supporters of political rights and win broad backing for Curtis' appeal. It was mailed to supporters of Curtis all over the world on March 3.

The leaflet explains that Curtis was lowered two levels in the prison, locked up for two weekends, and had two good conduct days removed from his record, lengthening his sentence. He also has had his privileges, such as making phone calls and having a radio, taken away. He was removed from his elected position as secretary of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Organization.

"Mark was framed up after a prison guard claimed to have found a piece of paper on the floor after Mark was searched with the words 'Super Bowl' written on it. Based on this, he was charged and convicted of gambling," the leaflet explains.

Effective activist

"The real reason Mark was targeted and victimized is that he has been an active — and effective — political worker since being forced into Anamosa," the leaflet continues. "He, and the King Organization, had just won an important victory in a months-long fight to make a dozen books available to prisoners."

These books, including titles by Nelson Mandela, Malcolm X, Maurice Bishop, Piri Thomas, and Thomas Sankara, were first held for review by prison authorities for six months, then restricted only to officers of the MLK Jr. Organization. The officers donated them to the prison library, but prison authorities decided to seize the books from prisoners who had immediately checked them out. This caused a general outcry. After a few days, authorities were forced to relent, and the books were put back in circulation.

The defense committee also reports a new policy at Anamosa that denies prisoners photocopied material. "This is a blow to all prisoners' rights, but particularly to Mark," the information sheet says. "The defense committee sends him copies of all the letters we have received daily, which allows Mark to participate as fully as he can in the defense campaign."

Protests against frame-up

In response to the defense committee's call for protests against the gambling frame-up, copies of many messages to Paul Grossheim, the director of the Iowa Department of Corrections, and to Warden Thalacker have been received at the defense committee's office.

One is from Bob Langemeier, a union activist who was a victim of government spying and harassment during strike battles by the United Food and Commercial Workers union against union-busting by meat-packing companies.

"Mark Curtis would be a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize anywhere else in the country for his humanitarian efforts to raise the living standards of the less fortunate," Langemeier wrote. "Yet you people falsely imprison him. When he continues to carry out his competency by organizing and supplying literature to fellow prisoners you continue to persecute him. Why?"

Fred Shuttlesworth, pastor of the Greater New Light Baptist Church in Cincinnati, wrote Grossheim, "I am sure you are being made aware of the public charges of unjust incarceration, frame-ups, and maltreatment of Mark Curtis in the Iowa State Men's Reformatory."

"And I am equally sure that as state overseer of correctional institutions, you would not condone mistreatment of Curtis or any other prisoner. But such tragedies were visited upon me and others in the Deep South during the 1950s and '60s almost routinely, and accepted by the system as merely unfortunate. And many citizens believe Mark is suffering in prison today because of his beliefs and challenge to the injustice in our society."

The president of the Northern Kentucky National Organization for Women, Diana Long, wrote, "We have been following the case of Mark Curtis with great interest. It is clear to us that his arrest and subsequent treatment in prison are a direct result of his political activities."

"We urge you to reverse the charges placed against him for allegedly placing a bet on the Super Bowl. . . . Please reject these false charges against Mark Curtis and reverse any penalties. People are watching this case."

Paul Drouin, president of the Movement for a Secular Québec in Montréal, wrote: "Knowing that basic human rights have been denied Mark Curtis, and that he has been subject to all kinds of threats, intimidations, and false accusations, we require the immediate cessation of his ill treatment, the withdrawal of all the false charges that were held against him, and the respect of his human dignity."

New attack on Curtis

On March 1 Curtis was faced with yet another attack on his rights. Warden Thalacker sent Curtis a letter charging that an article in the *Militant* contained "inferences" by Curtis that were inaccurate and exaggerated the facts.

The warden's allegations were then used



Militant/Margaret Jayko
Iowa State Men's Reformatory in Anamosa, where Curtis is incarcerated. Prison authorities falsely charged Curtis with gambling.

by prison authorities to demand that Curtis submit for review remarks the MLK Jr. Organization had asked him to deliver to their Black History Month program scheduled for March 4.

Curtis was told that if he went ahead and spoke without prior approval of his talk, he would be given a major disciplinary report for violating a direct order. He refused to submit his talk for censorship and was prevented from speaking.

"This attack shows what lengths authorities will go to attempt to keep prison conditions from public attention and to prevent contact between prisoners and the outside world. It shows their disregard for prisoners' basic democratic rights," said John Studer, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

"Mark reports that other inmates inside Anamosa have seen the warden's letter and told him they feel that the warden — not Mark — is the one whose version of the facts is inaccurate."

"Framing Mark on gambling charges emboldened prison authorities to further attacks on his free speech rights," Studer continued. "The international campaign to overturn this conviction on appeal can not only correct a gross injustice, but also can help defend all Mark's rights and those of all prisoners."

"Doing everything we can to win Mark's appeal is now the focus of the defense committee's activity. Send telegrams, letters, and petitions to Paul Grossheim at the Iowa Department of Corrections, urging that the false charges be rejected and all penalties against Curtis be reversed."

Messages should be sent to Paul Grossheim, Director, Iowa Department of Corrections, Capitol Annex, 523 E 12th, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, USA; with a copy to John Thalacker, Warden, Iowa State Men's Reformatory, Anamosa, Iowa 52205, USA.

Send copies of messages and replies from state and prison authorities to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311, USA.

Special Curtis fund-raising effort big success

BY PRISCILLA SCHENK

DES MOINES, Iowa — A special effort by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee to raise \$20,000 has met with great success. The fund financed an international delegation of Curtis' supporters headed by Kate Kaku, Curtis' wife, and John Studer, the coordinator of the defense committee, that went to Geneva, Switzerland, in February. They went to attend the 46th session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission. There they launched a long-term campaign to bring Curtis' fight for justice before the international body.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee has more than \$14,200 in hand and has pledged to meet the remainder.

The contributions and pledges for the UN effort came from well over 150 of Curtis' supporters across the United States, Sandra Nelson, a defense committee leader reported. The individual amounts ranged from \$10 to \$3,000. Two supporters gave \$1,000; six others contributed \$500 or more. Sixty backers gave \$100 or more. "We are expecting rapid payment of the outstanding pledges, so that we can cover the bills and move on to raising funds for our ongoing defense effort," she said.

"What was impressive about the responses," Nelson added, "was that we were asking for large donations, and many supporters went all out to meet the challenge of financing the UN delegation. A few even sent in more than they had originally pledged to insure that the delegation could accomplish what they set out to do — winning new international support for Curtis."

Activists in Des Moines, Los Angeles, New York, St. Louis, and San Francisco helped make the calls and write letters to meet this challenge, Nelson said. She reported that Canadian Curtis supporters also successfully carried out fund-raising efforts to cover the costs of sending supporter Michel Prairie to Geneva to participate in the Curtis delegation.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is now projecting raising \$60,000 through May to meet the costs of ongoing activities. "This money will pay for new literature and a big mailing to our thousands of supporters on the

success of the UN delegation," Nelson said. "We are also stepping up a protest campaign against prison authorities' frame-up of Mark for gambling."

The costs include attorneys' fees for Curtis' appeal of his frame-up rape and burglary conviction, and his civil lawsuit against the Des Moines police for beating him after his arrest and violating his rights.

The defense committee has a new office with rent and utility bills, Nelson said. "We are also keeping Mark's wife, Kate Kaku, on the road winning new support throughout Europe for the next two months. And we send supporters to conferences and events to reach

out to win new support.

"All of this takes money," Nelson emphasized. "The job now for our hundreds of supporters around the world is to reach the thousands of individuals and organizations who have backed Curtis. We know they will all want to contribute what they can to make the defense effort successful."

Contributions can be made payable to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and should be sent to the committee at P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Tax deductible contributions should be made out to the Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc. Payments toward pledges for the UN effort should be earmarked as such.

Jailed for supporting Palestinians, editor held in solitary for year

BY HARRY RING

More than 40 Israeli peace activists and journalists demonstrated outside Ashmoret prison February 13 to protest the continuing victimization of Yacov Ben Efrat who was jailed for his solidarity with the Palestinian liberation struggle.

Imprisoned in April 1988, Ben Efrat has been in solitary confinement for the past 12 months. Sentenced to 30 months and denied the customary time off for good behavior, he is not due for release until next October.

Ben Efrat and three other editors of the paper *Way of the Spark* were railroaded to prison on charges of membership in the political wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which is outlawed in Israel.

The other three received lesser sentences and have served their time.

From the outset, Ben Efrat has demanded that he be placed with other political prisoners. At one point, the police commissioner stated he opposed this because he did not want any mutual influence between Israeli and Palestinian political prisoners.

Ben Efrat has conducted three hunger strikes to back up his demand. During one,

40 Palestinian political prisoners engaged in a solidarity hunger strike.

Excepting prison guards and a 30-minute family visit every 15 days, Ben Efrat is totally cut off from human contact.

In a letter read to the demonstrators outside the prison, Ben Efrat wrote, "Except for two hours in the prison yard alone, I am locked in my cell the entire day and there I can talk to no one but my jailers."

A cable to the demonstration from the Arab Journalists Association demanded that Ben Efrat be given the rights due a political prisoner.

Amnesty International has adopted Ben Efrat as a prisoner of conscience and he has been given support by journalists' organizations in France and Britain.

In a cable to the Israeli minister of police, the International Federation of Journalists declared that the treatment of Ben Efrat "is an affront to basic human rights."

Supporters of Ben Efrat have urged that letters demanding that he be transferred to the company of political prisoners be sent to Chaim Herzog, President of Israel, President House, Jerusalem, Israel.

'Cuban racism' charge sparks Harlem debate

BY JON HILLSON

NEW YORK — Charges that Cuba is governed by a "white elite" that opposes Black rights sparked debate at a Harlem meeting February 9.

The accusations were made by Carlos Moore, a Black of Cuban origin who left the country in 1963. He is the author of a recently released book *Castro, the Blacks, and Africa* published by the Center for Afro-American Studies at the University of California in Los Angeles. Moore is currently on a U.S. speaking tour to promote the book.

Prior to his New York engagements, Moore spoke in Miami's Liberty City Black community, at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., and at the University of Massachusetts in Boston.

Moore's national tour coincides with heightened U.S. provocations against Cuba, including a recent Coast Guard military attack on a Cuban cargo ship, and plans to begin test broadcasts of "Television Marti," disrupting Cuban national and local television stations.

In Harlem the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture invited Moore to speak as part of its Black History Month program. Moore told the predominantly Black audience of more than 100 people that he had a "very painful message" to bring them.

Despite the positive things they'd heard about Cuba's advances in race relations and its role in the fight against racism in southern Africa, Moore asserted that for "30 years the Cuban government consciously, deliberately placed obstacles in the way of every Black Cuban who has tried inside Cuba" to raise Black rights issues.

Moore charged that Afro-Cubans are grossly underrepresented in top positions in the Cuban government, armed forces, and Communist Party. The Black figures who do occupy such posts are "tokens."

Coupled with discrimination, Moore said,

the Cuban government routinely represses African religious practices. This, he charged, made Cuba's role in Africa particularly cynical.

Since the 1960s, Cuba has sent thousands of doctors, teachers, engineers, and soldiers in response to requests from various African countries.

The most prominent example of such solidarity has been the participation of 300,000 Cuban volunteer troops in Angola over the past 14 years. They played a decisive role in defending the country against military aggression by South African forces and the mercenary UNITA army.

Moore argued, however, that this Cuban presence in Angola "posed a very serious danger to African countries" because Cuban President Fidel Castro was "toying, playing with the idea of attacking South Africa."

This "panicked" the African nations, Moore claimed, whose leaders feared a South African nuclear strike against their countries, thus raising the possibility of "8 to 15 million dead."

The "gravity of this situation," he said, compelled these heads of state to "pressure" Cuba to withdraw its troops from southern Africa.

Today, of the "Black [Angola veterans] who have come back" to Cuba, Moore charged, "a lot are in jail, a lot are in psychiatric hospitals," and the remainder are "the backbone" of "a terrifying shock force, the Territorial Troop Militia."

Moore said these battalions, along with Cuba's standing army, make the island a "military garrison resting on Black troops," ruled by a virtually all-white elite "that had the effrontery to say it was fighting against white minority rule in South Africa."

Cuba is the world's "last communist regime" and because it is so "militarized," Castro is "threatening a holocaust for Black Cubans, worse than Romania," Moore asserted.

While some in the audience shook their heads in disbelief at Moore's charges, others nodded in agreement at certain points. Many came to the event because they were curious about Cuba.

Partisans of the Cuban revolution in the audience responded to some of Moore's accusations.

Pedro Perez Sardui, a noted Cuban poet currently serving as a writer-in-residence at Columbia University, spoke of the advances for Blacks in Cuba since the revolution began. "I know what my hometown of Santa Clara (Cuba) was like in 1953; I know what it was like in 1959, in 1970, 1980, and now. It is not Harlem, it is not this," said Sardui, who is Black.

Like many who took the floor, Sardui challenged Moore on his positions on Cuba's role in Africa. "Nelson Mandela wouldn't be able to think of being free without the Cuban forces," he said.

Black activist Sam Anderson said that "there is racism in Cuba," but that "there is a serious struggle against it."

The Territorial Troop Militia, he pointed out, "is a people's army," organized for self-defense. He challenged Moore to deny the need for such a force, given decades of uninterrupted, official U.S. aggression against the island. Anderson urged members of the audience to visit Cuba, noting the presence of several members of the Venceremos Brigade, a group that organizes trips to the island.

Others sought, in vain, to get Moore to answer which African leaders were opposed to Cuban military action in southern Africa.

Several mentioned the historic defeat of Pretoria's troops at Cuito Cuanavale, Angola, in 1988 by combined Cuban, Angolan, and South West African People's Organisation forces.

"Do you think there has been no benefit at all to Africa from what Cuba has done?"



Militant/Jon Hillson

Carlos Moore's charges that Cuba is ruled by a "white elite" have been challenged by many on his national speaking tour.

one questioner asked.

"It is legitimate to discuss the legacy of racism in Cuba today," said Cathy Sedwick of the New York Venceremos Brigade regional committee, but any such discussion "has to recognize the huge advance for humanity the Cuban revolution represents, especially for Blacks."

There is, Sedwick said, a "real debate about how to advance the fight for equality in Cuba, which is a part of the rectification process the Cubans began four years ago."

It is through "deepening this process and strengthening the Cuban revolution that Cubans who are Black and working people as a whole will move forward," she said.

Several in the audience who had initially been swayed by Moore's presentation were affected by some of these points. A few participants in the meeting later expressed interest in going to Cuba with the Venceremos Brigade, whose members leafleted the event.

One speaker aggressively defended Moore, a Black Cuban exile who said he had fought in Angola, left Cuba in 1980, and now lives in Paris.

Moore chose not to respond to questions and comments from the floor, but instead launched a red-baiting tirade against the "cadre of Marxist intellectuals" who defended Cuba. He termed the Venceremos Brigade the "shock troops of the Cuban government" and "loyal agents of the Castro regime."

Moore's second event in the city, sponsored by New York University's Institute for Afro-American Affairs on February 12, was attended by 80 people, most of them Black.

Cuban diplomat welcomed in Bay Area

BY DIANA CANTU

SAN FRANCISCO — Clinton Adlum, first secretary of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C., toured the San Francisco Bay Area February 15-18.

Sponsored by the Venceremos Brigade, an organization promoting solidarity with the Cuban revolution, Adlum's tour included meetings with San Francisco Mayor Arthur Agnos, California State Assemblyman John Burton, and a reception at Berkeley's city hall hosted by Mayor Loni Hancock and city council members, as well as meetings with several religious figures.

A community reception was held in the Cuban diplomat's honor at San Francisco's Galleria de la Raza-Studio 24. Forty people, many of them Central America and southern Africa solidarity activists, also met with him.

Radio station KPOO, Channel 14's Spanish-language news, the Spanish-language newspaper *Tiempo Latino*, and CNN's Spanish news network interviewed Adlum.

More than 100 people attended a February 17 forum on U.S.-Cuba relations held at the San Francisco Western Addition Cultural Center. In his presentation, Adlum pointed to recent attacks against Cuba — the U.S. Coast Guard's firing on a Cuban ship in international waters, the firing at a Cuban sentry post from the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo, the presence of the U.S. Navy's 6th Fleet in the region, and the impending debut of the U.S. government's TV Marti to be beamed into Cuba from Florida.

On February 18 the Cuban diplomat spoke at the Humanist Hall in Oakland to another large audience. Adlum spoke there on the fight against racism in Cuba. He explained that since 1959, shortly after it came to power,

Cuba's revolutionary government has outlawed institutionalized discrimination against Blacks. He described some of his personal experiences growing up as an Afro-Cuban in Cuba's segregated society before the revolution. He never dreamed, he said, that he would some day hold a position where he would be representing his country internationally.

Adlum also noted that discrimination in Cuba has not simply disappeared, even though it is illegal, and that overcoming the legacy of discrimination is an important challenge to the leaders of that country.

In the discussion period, he addressed some of the charges of racism made against Cuba in a newly published book by Carlos Moore, *Castro, the Blacks, and Africa*.

Adlum's tour coincided with a national committee meeting of the Venceremos Brigade held here.



Militant/Craig Landberg

Clinton Adlum, first secretary of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C.

Detroit GM workers protest safety hazards

BY CLEVE ANDREW PULLEY

DETROIT — At General Motors' Orion assembly plant, auto workers have been staging almost daily protests since February 6. They have organized work stoppages and rallies inside and outside the plant and at the union hall. Nearly 5,900 United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 5960 members work at the plant in Orion Township, which is just north of Detroit.

The actions have been mounted mainly by workers on second shift. At first they were protesting GM's refusal to acknowledge and correct a safety hazard. Then they turned to fighting the suspension and firing of union members and officers.

On February 6 the "towveyor" or marriage line was out of synchronization, posing risk to workers' limbs and lives. The towveyor is the point where the elevated line carrying the car body meets the line carrying the engine and the two parts are joined.

At 7:00 p.m., 50 workers in the immediate area stopped production and demanded the company repair the line. As word spread, more than 500 workers from the chassis department and elsewhere in the plant con-

verged on the spot. Company officials were met by arguments and chants. The UAW shop chairman and committeemen joined the protests. When the company suspended — that is, temporarily fired — three union officials, workers began chanting, "No union, no work" and "Safety, safety, safety." This went on for hours.

The company tried to start up the line. Seven or eight cars went by without any work being performed on them, so they shut the line back down and sent workers home at 10:00 p.m. As word spread that the company was going to suspend 50 workers, some protesters decided to remain in the plant overnight. Production was held up for half an hour the following morning and for two hours when the second shift came back to work that afternoon.

The company has never admitted there was a safety problem. But it made the repairs before bringing in company and UAW International safety personnel to corroborate that no problem existed.

Meanwhile the company announced February 12 that UAW committeemen Ed Tweed

and Bill Lukes had been fired. Another committeeman, Lee Oaks, was given two days off. At least two production workers were also fired, and at least three more face possible firing. The company has retreated from its original threat to suspend 50 workers.

Protests have continued on second shift, with rallies involving hundreds of union members in front of company offices inside the plant at the 6:30 p.m. break and outside at the 9:00 p.m. break.

Because the union has not been united around stopping work over the safety issue, the company has so far gotten away with the firings. Some union officials, while initially backing the work stoppage, now wish to fight the firings only through the grievance procedure. Production workers, especially those at the center of the protest, and other union officials continue to organize protests.

Workers at Orion build GM's hottest selling products — front-wheel drive Cadillacs — in a six-year-old, \$600 million plant.

Cleve Andrew Pulley is a member of UAW Local 5960. He works at GM's Orion assembly plant.

8 of 13 fired Pittston miners get suspension

Kentucky sympathy strikers framed

BY JEANNE FITZMAURICE

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Eight of the 13 Pittston coal miners, members of United Mine Workers of America, fired for "strike-related violence" by Pittston Coal Group will get their jobs back with conditions. The cases of five remaining UMWA unionists are still undecided.

After waging an 11-month battle against Pittston to save their union and win a decent contract, 1,900 UMWA miners voted and approved a pact with the coal bosses on February 19. Part of the agreement between union officials and Pittston was that 13 strikers, three in West Virginia, three in Kentucky, and seven in Virginia, would not be rehired.

This led many miners to vote against the pact, and Pittston miners in Kentucky rejected the contract. One sign posted outside the Kentucky union hall the day of the contract ratification read, "13 men, 13 jobs, and 13 families equal a 'No vote.'"

Arbitration began soon after for the jobs of the 13 fired Pittston miners.

Ralph Rollins, William Church, and William Lockard worked at Pittston's Eastern Coal Corp. in Stone, Kentucky, and are members of UMWA Local 5737. The miners' terminations have been reduced to six-month suspensions, Glen Stanley, president of Local 5737, said in a phone interview. The suspen-

sions will begin when the miners get called back from layoff, he said.

Pittston told UMWA members the Kentucky mine will open in about 90 days. There are 11 miners working now and 200 laid off. Local 5737 kept Eastern Coal shut down during the strike.

"The three men are glad to get their jobs back," said Stanley, "at the same time they're looking at being out of work for six months."

In Logan County, West Virginia, Pittston miners Gary Bryant, Harless Hinson, and Paul Baldwin who were terminated will also get their jobs back after 60-day suspensions. One of Pittston's mines there, Buffalo Mining Co., has reopened, but the Elkay Mining operation has yet to call the UMWA miners back to work. No coal was mined during the strike at either mine.

"I thought I'd never get my job back," said Gary Bryant, a mine roof-bolter.

He feels that since all UMWA members went out on strike together all the miners should return together under a union contract. However, Bryant has his eyes on the future. "I'm looking toward the next contract," he said. "I put my union ahead of my job — the union has to come first."

In Virginia arbitration meetings have been held for the seven miners terminated by Pittston there. So far two have been granted



Militant/Roni McCann
October 1989. UMWA Local 1812 President Freddie Bowling outside Mine 29 in Robinson Creek, Kentucky. Bowling and four other unionists were framed on "criminal mischief" charges February 21 and have asked for solidarity from Pittston miners. Mine 29 workers struck in October protesting company coal shipments to Pittston.

suspensions.

Edna Sauls, a member of the Daughters of Mother Jones, a union-support group whose members were active during the Pittston strike, said that many miners charged with violations during the fight have yet to go to court. In addition to the 13 miners originally terminated, 30 UMWA members were also suspended for from two weeks to 30 days.

There are also 250 miners laid off after the strike from Pittston's Virginia operations.

Frame-up in Kentucky

More than 50 UMWA miners who struck Mine 29 Mining and Processing in Robinson Creek, Kentucky, in October protesting Mine 29 shipments to Pittston operations, are still out.

On February 23 five of the miners were arrested and framed on charges of rioting. A security guard for scab-run Jackal Mining Co., now operating the plant after Mine 29 owners claimed bankruptcy in November, has accused the unionists of attacking him.

UMWA Local 1812 President Freddie Bowling, Vice-President David Wright, Randy Burke, Dana Rose, and Bobby Robinson were arrested and framed for rioting in the first degree and criminal mischief.

"We were at the jail from 3 p.m. to midnight and treated as if we were guilty," union leader Wright told reporters. "They picked on me and the union president and its outstanding members. Every one of us was at home in bed when it supposedly happened."

President Freddie Bowling said the miners were asking for help from their brothers and sisters at Pittston. Bowling also charged Jackal's security guards with "instigating a lot of trouble."

Jeanne FitzMaurice is a member of UMWA Local 1570 in northern West Virginia.

W. Virginia miner cleared of frame-up

BY JIM ALTENBERG

BECKLEY, W.Va. — On March 1 Larry Massey, one of nine miners framed on charges stemming from destruction of Milburn Colliery coal processing plant in September and July 1989, was cleared of federal charges. This court decision on Massey came two weeks after eight miners pleaded guilty to other federal charges. Court proceedings continue.

Hearings in the cases of the union coal miners, who are from nearby Fayette County, had begun here February 12.

On Oct. 20, 1989, nine miners, members of United Mine Workers of America Local 5948, were arrested by agents of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and state police.

UMWA Local 5948 struck Milburn in October 1984 after the company refused to sign the national coal contract. The local has been on strike since then. In July 1989 Milburn's owners leased the mine to Mountain Minerals, which then reopened it nonunion.

Billie Lafferty, Jesse Harvey, Michael Woodson, Darrel Ray Sharp, Alan Ray Sharp, Raymond Thomas, Russell Delung, and Julian Bryant Wriston were arrested and charged in October with six counts of conspiracy, destruction of mine property, and destruction of property used in interstate commerce. Massey was charged in connection with a fire at the Milburn tippie that occurred July 12.

Two other miners, Danny Fout and Douglas Stover were arrested October 27. Fout testified as a government witness against Massey. During the testimony it was revealed he had agreed to be wired for sound by the federal agents to record conversations with Massey.

All 11 men had originally pleaded innocent in court on November 3.

When court hearings began here February 12, eight miners, excluding Massey, Fout, and Stover, changed their pleas to guilty on two counts: destruction of property by means of explosives (in this case a mine ventilation fan) and destruction of an energy facility (an electrical transformer). Four other counts were dropped. The interstate commerce charges remain.

Each count could mean prison terms of up to 20 years and fines of up to \$250,000. In addition, the judge can force the unionists to pay Milburn Colliery for the cost of its equipment.

The United Mine Workers of America members had court-appointed attorneys. At the February 12 hearing District Judge Elizabeth Hallanan informed the court that the

government wouldn't have to present any evidence if the miners pleaded guilty. No trial would take place. She then asked the miners a series of questions "to establish for the court record" that their guilty pleas weren't the result of a promise for a lighter sentence.

Sentencing is scheduled to begin April 11.

The government's frame-up took a turn, however, with the March 1 trial of Larry Massey. He was cleared of the federal charges against him after Fout, the government's snitch, told the court he set the bomb in the tippie and Massey started a fire. Asked why he didn't tell federal agents about the bomb earlier he said it "slipped his mind." Massey's public defender then said he reviewed his notes and also "forgot" he knew about the bomb. Fout also admitted burning down two

people's homes whom he disliked and his own garage with his jeep inside to collect insurance.

Massey's public defender then submitted that the bomb, not the fire, destroyed the coal tippie. Massey was cleared. The government also failed to prove that the tippie was used in interstate commerce, throwing into question the remaining charges against the eight miners who pleaded guilty.

Charges of disrupting interstate commerce have been used in recent years to provide legal backing for broad federal action against strikes and unionists. Alleged violations of interstate commerce laws were used to frame and imprison four leaders of the 1984-85 UMWA strike against A.T. Massey Coal Co. The miners remain in prison today.

Ford auto workers wage strikes in Mexico

BY SUSAN LaMONT

Auto workers at two of Ford Motor Co.'s three plants in Mexico recently waged strikes and, at one plant, held demonstrations and a two-week plant occupation. Workers were demanding higher wages and benefits. Ford is the third largest company in Mexico.

The auto workers are members of the Confederation of Mexican Workers (CTM), Mexico's main union federation. At one of the plants, workers are also fighting to replace the union leadership.

- At Ford's engine plant in Chihuahua, in the northern part of Mexico, 800 workers waged a week-long strike and won a new, one-year contract that includes a 27.4 percent wage hike. Workers went on strike February 1 after Ford refused to increase its offer of a 12 percent wage increase.

- In Cuautitlán, 15 miles north of Mexico City, 2,400 auto workers occupied Ford's car and truck assembly plant for two weeks after armed thugs attacked the workers in early January.

Workers at the Cuautitlán plant have organized demonstrations and work stoppages in recent months in an effort to resist company attacks on wages and bonuses and to press for a change in the CTM's leadership at Ford. Workers are asking the CTM to hold a referendum on whether Héctor Uriarte, the union's national executive secretary at Ford, should continue in office.

On January 5 workers coming in on first shift were met by 150 armed thugs inside and outside the plant, in addition to federal and

state cops. More than 20 workers were beaten; two were hospitalized. In response, workers organized a one-day work stoppage.

Three days later thugs carrying bars, pistols, and machine guns were again brought into the plant in the early morning when only the maintenance crew was inside. The crew was ordered outside. Two thousand workers gathered outside the plant and attempted to dislodge the thugs, who opened fire. Eight workers were shot and three beaten severely enough to be hospitalized. One worker later died.

In the afternoon, the thugs left and the workers occupied the plant. Some 2,400 of the 3,800 workers participated in the occupation. They also sent out 500 union members to do outreach work in Mexico City and organize demonstrations.

Riot police sent in

On January 22 the workers ended their occupation after riot police were sent in to remove the workers. None were injured. The company then fired the 2,400 workers who had participated in the occupation.

The company has since rehired about 1,200 of the fired workers, who continue to stage demonstrations outside the plant and at the CTM headquarters. The union members are fighting to win the reinstatement of the rest of the workers.

In addition to higher wages, workers are also demanding that those who organized the thug attacks be brought to justice, that Uriarte be removed as head of the union at Ford, and that new union elections be held.

- At the Hermosillo assembly plant in

the northwestern state of Sonora, a new contract covering 2,100 workers was announced March 1. Workers there will assemble Ford Escorts and Mercury Tracers when the plant reopens in April. It is closed now for retooling.

The new pact includes a 27 percent increase in wages and benefits. "While that appears very large by U.S. standards, it is actually considerably lower than wage and benefit increases in recent years in Mexico," commented a Ford spokesman.

Meanwhile, in Matamoros, across the border from Brownsville, Texas, workers at 53 of the city's 80 assembly plants, known as *maquiladoras*, recently won a wage increase of 15 percent, bringing average wages and benefits to \$2.30 an hour. Workers at the mainly U.S.-owned *maquiladoras* assemble foreign-made components for export to their country of origin.

"Fifteen percent to us means nothing, because the cost of living in Matamoros is high, the most expensive place in Mexico," said CTM leader Agapito González Cavazos, explaining workers' dissatisfaction with the settlement.

Inflation in Mexico is currently running at 20 percent. Two years ago it was 180 percent. Over the last decade, workers' living standards have been ravaged as Mexico has staggered under the burden of trying to pay its foreign debt, now at \$97 billion, to 450 lenders, mainly U.S. bankers.

UAW Local 325 member Andrea González, who works at Ford's St. Louis assembly plant, contributed to this article.

New Nicaragua gov't prepares for office

Washington's weight felt in proposed plans of new regime

BY SUSAN APSTEIN

MANAGUA — As Violeta Chamorro prepares to take office, Washington's weight in determining the course of the newly elected government is increasingly making itself felt.

A group of top Chamorro aides traveled to Washington, D.C., one week after the February 25 elections for meetings with Secretary of State James Baker and other U.S. officials to discuss the policies of the new regime and seek large-scale financial assistance.

"We know George Bush is a friend of Nicaragua," Chamorro adviser Francisco Mayorga told *La Prensa*, the Managua daily that supports the president-elect.

The delegation asked the Bush administration for an immediate \$300 million in grants and additional millions in loans.

It also met with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Washington has vetoed loan requests to these bodies by the Sandinista Front government as part of its efforts to reverse the Nicaraguan revolution. With a pro-U.S. government now taking office, at least some loans are expected to be approved.

Carter Center

In Managua, the international "observers" who supervised the election are now stepping in to participate directly in the negotiations between the FSLN government and the incoming regime. Meetings began two days after the elections.

The talks themselves are being conducted at the Carter Center here, an office maintained by former U.S. president James Carter, who personally participated in managing the Nicaraguan elections. UN representative Elliot Richardson, João Baena Soares of the Organization of American States, and Carter have also participated in at least some of the negotiating sessions.

Chamorro is represented in the talks by her son-in-law and campaign manager Antonio Lacayo, while defense minister Humberto Ortega heads the FSLN government delegation. No details of the talks have been made public.

Armed forces and police

The decisive question in the negotiations is control over the armed forces and the police, which are now under the command of forces loyal to the FSLN.

Luis Carrión of the nine-man FSLN National Directorate outlined the government's public stance to an assembly of Sandinista Front members March 5.

"The nation's security depends completely on the integrity of the Sandinista People's Army and the Ministry of the Interior," he said. If the new regime "does not accept this, they will be the ones responsible for hurling the country into complete chaos."

An editorial in the March 4 *La Prensa*, which is owned by Chamorro, suggested that for the moment the incoming administration plans to move cautiously on trying to restructure the armed forces and the police.

"What is called for is respecting the institutionality of all of the armed forces," the paper stated. The new government, it said, can reduce the size of the military forces and "reorganize them . . . but without excluding all the current members" of the armed forces.

"The new executive power cannot propose to the armed forces, of which it is the commander-in-chief, that it expel all its members and reorganize the armed forces with entirely new personnel," the editorial continued.

"The armed forces, reduced in size and reorganized, should be the ones that currently exist, not others, except for new personnel and commanders named by the executive at its convenience."

To date, no public statements have been made here since the elections by defense minister Ortega or by Minister of the Interior Tomás Borge. Both are members of the FSLN National Directorate.

Statement by Borge

A front-page article in the March 2 *New York Times* reported that Borge had said publicly here "that he will be willing to step down when the opposition takes power on April 25."

However, the Ministry of the Interior denied that Borge made any such statement, saying he has refused all requests for interviews since the elections. In response, the *Times* reporter, Mark Uhlig, issued a statement insisting that Borge had made the comment at a Managua restaurant in the presence of foreign journalists.

Three days after the elections, the government declared an immediate, unilateral cease-fire with the mercenary forces.

President Ortega has repeatedly stated that the contras should lay down their arms before the new government takes office. "If they don't, it will be fatal," he said in announcing the cease-fire. In that case, "we will have to take the necessary measures to guarantee the security of Nicaraguans."

Chamorro has also called for the "rapid and immediate demobilization and repatriation" of the contras. She has sent representatives to Honduras to negotiate with contra bosses.

Contra attacks

However, at least some of the mercenary forces have made it clear they have no intention of disarming. The Ministry of Defense reported March 5 that in the first five days of the month contra forces kidnapped 10 civilians in the southern Atlantic Coast region, intercepted a civilian vehicle in the northern Atlantic Coast region, and kidnapped two civilians in the central and northern areas of the country.

Lieut. Col. Rosa Pasos, an army spokesperson, also reported "fierce combat" in the two areas. Two separate contra units attacked government troops in Nueva Segovia and

Workers in FSLN look for way forward after election of pro-U.S. alliance

BY LARRY SEIGLE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — How have committed working-class members of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) reacted to the electoral victory of the U.S.-backed National Opposition Union?

One part of the picture emerged at a turbulent meeting held in the headquarters of the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST) several days after the elections. The assembly brought together officials and activists in the pro-FSLN union of health workers, known as FETSALUD.

Hundreds jammed into the hall to express their views about the challenges ahead, hear what fellow workers are thinking, and listen to the response of the FSLN leadership. Similar meetings have been held in other branches of the union movement.

The health workers' gathering was punctuated by militant chants and the singing of Sandinista Front battle songs. Workers lined up at a floor mike to raise ideas ranging from the demand for immediate wage increases to calls for the distribution of weapons and reconstitution of the workers' and peasants' militia.

Many of those present had fought in the victorious war against the contras or participated in the militia. All have worked long hours under difficult conditions to deliver health care to Nicaragua's working people.

On the platform were Gustavo Porras, the head of FETSALUD, and Víctor Tirado, a member of the nine-member National Directorate of the FSLN.

Improved wages and benefits

Many workers called for improvements in pay and benefits and in medical services to the population to be decreed before April 25, when the FSLN government is to leave office. A number expressed the urgent need to get union contracts signed before that date.

One representative from a center for tropical diseases in Region IV, southeast of Managua, said, "In the name of the 135 workers in my workplace, I have come here to tell you that by next month our 1990 union contract must be signed. Also, we are in agree-

ment that, on a national level, our right to free uniforms and shoes must be granted."

"We ask," he went on, to cheers and applause, "that all retired health workers get 100 percent of their retirement pay." And, beginning in April, he said, workers should insist on premium pay for overtime hours.

Leonela Campo took the mike to say, "I represent the workers at the Carlos Marx Hospital. We are requesting that all the advances be maintained, and in particular that all health services continue to be free."

Reporting that some in the hospital administration have announced their intention to fire FSLN partisans, Campo declared, "We are therefore asking that the Carlos Marx Hospital be turned over to the health workers' union."

A worker from the Lenin Fonseca Hospital in Managua said, "there will be violence in the streets" if attempts are made to close down hospitals or health centers.

"You have no idea how we are going to take over the streets to defend the conquests of the revolution," he said in a warning addressed to President-elect Violeta Chamorro. "If our patients are denied a single X-ray, a single lab test, a single prescription, we will go on strike!"

"Strike! Strike!" chanted many of the participants.

Demands on new government

As the enthusiasm built in the crowded hall, speakers competed with each other in proposing wage increases to be demanded of the new government. One urged, to cheers, an increase of 100 percent. Another insisted that a 300 percent pay hike is needed.

A short time later, María Castillo, the local FETSALUD president at a Managua clinic, took the floor to say that the union should demand 500 percent. "And this has to be put into effect immediately."

Then, to laughter and applause, someone called for no less than 1,000 percent. Even this was topped by a worker who declared, "Since they say everything is going to be better, let them pay us in dollars," instead of in córdobas, the national currency.

and other medical workers from Cuba and some other countries, invited here by the FSLN government, have left and others are preparing to depart. Statements by officials of the new government have made it clear that they are not welcome to stay. Cuban physicians have been crucial to providing medical attention to Nicaragua's working people.

In some areas, particularly in more remote parts of the country, clinics and health posts now find themselves without doctors, especially those with specialized training. These areas have been heavily dependent on the internationalist volunteers from Cuba.

Although some of this was offered at least partly in jest, behind it was the idea that the unions should challenge the new government by presenting demands that it won't be able to meet. "Let's see if they can sustain a big wage increase plus all the social benefits we have in our contract," said María Castillo.

'Not a defeat'

Many who spoke repeated the argument of the FSLN leadership that the Sandinista Front is still the dominant political force because its 41 percent of the vote is larger than any of the constituent parties in the National Opposition Union bloc would have gotten on their own. "We are still the biggest party," insisted one worker.

"This has not been a defeat," said another. "This has been a victory because 40-plus percent means 40 percent who voted their consciousness and haven't sold out."

Unions weakened

Although most speakers took the floor in the name of the union, the assembly was in reality a meeting of FSLN cadres. The unions, like other mass organizations, have been weakened over the last half-decade or so, as participation and control by the membership declined.

More often than not, "the union" has come to refer to the union executive committees, which are often appointed, rather than to a fighting unit of workers in a given shop or industry. The FSLN's dedicated cadres, who hold the big majority of union posts, increasingly got into the habit of speaking in the name of "the union," regardless of whether most members would agree with their positions.

This lent a jarring aspect to the FETSALUD meeting, as speaker after speaker took the floor in the name of the entire work force to pledge support to the Sandinista Front, while at the same time bitterly denouncing as "sell-outs" and "traitorous" fellow workers who had voted for Chamorro.

"We warn those Judases, those hypocrites, that they are going to pay a very high price

Continued on Page 10



Scene at the Plaza of the Revolution in Managua, Nicaragua, on February 18 when the pro-U.S. National Opposition Union held its final election rally. Sitting on van is a United Nations "observer."

'One day longer, one day still'

Eastern strikers, unionists celebrate year-long battle against

Continued from front page

they still support the Machinists, despite the ending of their own sympathy strikes last fall. Students were also part of the protests in many places.

At New York's La Guardia Airport, a rally sponsored by New York and Newark, New Jersey, striking Eastern locals drew more than 1,500 supporters from dozens of unions. The rally was cochaired by International Association of Machinists District 100 General Chairman Leroy Washington and IAM Local 1018 strike leader Ernie Mailhot from La Guardia.

"Yesterday, one of our soldiers on the front lines of the fight for justice and human dignity for all working people fell in battle," said Mailhot, who opened the rally by asking for a moment of silence for Greyhound striker Bob Waterhouse, killed March 3 when he was crushed by a scab-driven bus in Redding, California.

A group of garment workers, mainly from Haiti, who are now on strike at Domsey Trading Corp. in Brooklyn to win recognition for the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, helped set the rally's militant tone. "If you touch the union, your fingers are going to get burned," they sang in Creole as the crowd was gathering. Dozens of other ILGWU members were there as well and ILGWU President Jay Mazur spoke.

Workers from United, Trans World, and other airlines were on hand, a reflection of the stepped-up support these IAM members have given the Eastern strikers in recent weeks. Top officials from the state and city AFL-CIO and many unions brought greetings, along with two UMWA representatives.

Harold Mendlowitz, president of Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 1202, which represents striking Greyhound workers in the New York area, invited everyone to join the nationwide March 9 protests of Waterhouse's death.

Ottiwel Simmons, president of the Bermuda International Union, which waged a successful boycott that recently forced Eastern to withdraw from Bermuda, was an honored guest. "When one man tries to break 8,000 workers," Simmons said, "we can't stand for that. Otherwise we know we will be next. If little Bermuda can stand up against Lorenzo, then so can U.S. workers."

Everyone was urged to return to La Guardia on March 17 for the strikers' next solidarity picket line. "This was a great affair," said IAM leader Leroy Washington at the

reception following the rally. "It sets the stage to continue the strike."

After a rally outside IAM Local 702's headquarters in Miami, more than 1,500 strikers and supporters boarded buses to Miami International Airport, where they walked past the Eastern ticket counters and went to an auditorium to view an exhibit put together by strikers on the history of the fight at Eastern.

"We're going to stay out one day longer than Frank Lorenzo," IAM International President George Kourpias told the cheering rally. Both Kourpias and IAM Local President Frank Ortis pledged support to striking Greyhound workers.

ATU leader Richard Oechsle also spoke. On the first day of the Greyhound strike, he said, "the first ones I saw at our picket line were Eastern strikers. They beat us there."

In Boston, nearly 1,000 attended a rally at Logan International Airport. Almost half the crowd was made up of Eastern Machinists, their families, and other airport workers. NYNEX workers, Greyhound strikers, Teamsters on strike in the Boston area, electrical workers, and garment workers from Lawrence, Massachusetts, formed some of the union contingents.

At the end of the rally, Massachusetts AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Bob Haynes said, "Let's go for a walk up to the terminal." Defying a court injunction, the crowd marched to the terminal and back, infuriating state police and airport officials who have used the injunction to try to block actions at the airport.

Miners at rallies

Some 600 unionists joined the solidarity walk-through at Greater Pittsburgh International Airport March 4. Several hundred miners, many in camouflage, from six UMWA districts joined the action, including a busload from Zanesville, Ohio, who had read about the walk-through in a local paper. Striking hospital workers from Washington, Pennsylvania, and laundry workers from Clarksburg, West Virginia, also on strike, were on hand.

After the walk-through, some 50 unionists marched to the Greyhound bus station and held an impromptu rally in support of the Greyhound strikers.

At Washington, D.C.'s National Airport, close to 500 joined the picket line March 3 in the largest 'Stop Lorenzo' action held there in the year-long strike. Some 20 Pittston coal miners from southwestern Virginia and five from Logan County, West Virginia, participated, along with many other union contingents. After two hours on the picket line, everyone "walked through" the airport, with IAM President Kourpias leading the way.

Sune Ahlen, general secretary of the Council of Nordic Trade Unions, told the crowd the council "supports your struggle for dignity and a fair contract."

At a rally held later, Kourpias and UMWA President Richard Trumka spoke. "We've broken bread together, gone to jail together, and our struggle goes on together," said Trumka. Michael Moore, director of the film *Roger & Me*, was on hand to lend his support to the strikers. The unionists chanted, "Viva ANC! Viva Mandela!" as African National Congress representative Nemzi Plaatje brought greetings. D.C. strike supporters were invited back to a "March for the Eastern Strikers" on March 18.

Nearly 200 turned out at Piedmont Triad International Airport in Greensboro, North Carolina, to back the 23 Eastern strikers there. Several striking Greyhound drivers and four UMWA members, veterans of the Pittston coal strike, were among the many unionists who attended. IAM members from the big USAir maintenance base in Winston-Salem were the largest contingent. The USAir workers had donated \$5,000 to finance the March 4 action.

The Pittston miners, in camouflage, led the crowd into the airport terminal for two spontaneous walk-throughs — the first time there has been such an event in Greensboro.

Nearly 600 unionists and family members crowded into a St. Louis union hall March 4. Coal miners and electrical workers came by chartered bus from southwestern Indiana. A contingent of steelworkers from nearby Granite City, Illinois, brought a banner. A special section in the front of the rally, hosted by the United Auto Workers (UAW), was reserved for the 35 Eastern strikers.

Harry Raskin of the Illinois American Agriculture Movement was warmly received when he said farmers face the same enemy as unionists.

Adjourning from the union hall, the crowd reconvened at the airport terminal for a spirited walk-through. After cutting the anniversary cake, 65 people headed downtown to join the Greyhound picket line.

'Lorenzo au poteau!'

Chants in English and French of "Lorenzo must go, *Lorenzo au poteau* (Down with Lorenzo)" resounded through the terminal of Dorval International Airport in Montréal, Quebec, March 4 as 100 strikers and supporters held a walk-through, picket line, and rally. IAM members from Air Canada, Canadian, and Marriott catering company joined the actions, along with other unionists and students.

"We began on our feet and we'll finish on our feet, and not on our knees before Lorenzo," Eastern strike coordinator Martial Jasmin told the crowd. Giles Brosseau presented Jasmin with a solidarity message signed by workers at Mirabel International Airport, north of Montréal.

In Toronto, Ontario, a message signed by 75 Air Canada workers was presented to Eastern strikers on the picket line there March 3.

More than 500 Eastern strikers and supporters roared "On strike! Shut it down!" at the March 3 mass picket line at Los Angeles International Airport.

In addition to members of many unions, including substantial numbers from every IAM district in the area, dozens of high school and college students organized by the Los Angeles Student Coalition attended the picket line. Actor Edward Asner was also on hand.

UMWA International Representative Roger Nelson, strike coordinator at Rum Creek Coal Sales in Dehue, West Virginia, was a special guest of the Los Angeles Eastern strikers during the anniversary events, as was Frank Waldner, an assistant to IAM Vice-president John Peterpaul.

ANC representative Nkululeko Sowazi asked the crowd for a round of applause for the Eastern strikers. "We in South Africa look with respect on those who put up such a fight," he said.

In closing the rally, strike leader Eddie Croft pointed to the fliers for the next solidarity picket line, set for March 17. "Keep the pressure on Lorenzo. Solidarity can win at Eastern!" he told the rally.

'Don't go Greyhound'

"Frank Lorenzo's got to go, but don't go Greyhound!" was the chant that rang through the Birmingham, Alabama, Municipal Airport March 4 as a picket line of 150 marched in front of the terminal to support 15 Eastern strikers there.

Some 20 striking Greyhound drivers joined the picket line. At least two prospective passengers on a sparsely filled Eastern flight decided to turn in their tickets after seeing the demonstration — and one joined the picket line.

The anniversary event was initiated by two United Steelworkers of America locals and backed by the Alabama AFL-CIO and other labor bodies. After a rally at a local union hall, strike supporters drove in a car caravan over to the airport, and marched into the terminal, carrying a coffin with a sign that read "They're dying to fly Eastern."

After the picket line, many people continued on to the Greyhound Bus Depot to join the strikers' picket line there.

The Salt Lake City, Utah, picket line drew 75 to the Continental Airlines' area at the airport. AFL-CIO State Director Ed Mayne had proclaimed March 4 "Solidarity Sunday." Three Greyhound strikers were also there, and a group of 30 went over to help them picket after the Eastern event.

The largest strike support action held in Portland, Oregon, in the last six months took place at 6:30 a.m. March 4, as 100 strike supporters turned out to picket Eastern's morning flight. Twenty Greyhound strikers, wearing black armbands to honor slain striker Waterhouse, shut down their own line for

South Africa union hails IAM strikers' 'heroic struggle'

The following message was sent by the Transport and General Workers Union of South Africa to striking Machinists Local 796 at Washington, D.C.'s National Airport, for the Eastern strike anniversary rally held there March 3. It was read to the rally by Nenzi Plaatje from the African National Congress.

We in the Transport and General Workers Union, which is an affiliate of COSATU (Congress of South African Trade Unions), have recently heard details of your heroic year-long strike. It is heartwarming to hear of the unity of the workers in this important dispute, and to know that the Lorenzo bosses are not getting away with undermining your union and with the exploitation of workers.

We in South Africa are familiar with these long and bitter struggles and extend solidarity greetings to all comrades fighting similar battles in other parts of the world. Indeed the slogan of our federation, COSATU, is "An injury to one is an injury to all."

Please keep us posted on any further developments in your strike action.

Amandla! [Power!]

Report finds Lorenzo stripped Eastern

While Eastern Airlines strikers were mobilizing for the March 3-4 anniversary actions, there were several developments in the airline's ongoing attempts to "reorganize."

Texas Air Corp., Eastern's parent company, sold a 50 percent interest in System One, its computer reservation system, to a General Motors subsidiary for more than \$250 million on February 21. Texas Air had bought the entire system from Eastern three years ago, in exchange for a \$100 million note payable in the year 2012 — a deal protested by the Machinists union and pilots' association.

On March 1 court-appointed examiner David Shapiro released a report confirming what the Machinists at Eastern had long charged: that Lorenzo, after acquiring Eastern in 1986, had used his control of Texas Air and Continental Airlines to systematically siphon off assets from Eastern — "cherry pick" them, as one Texas Air executive put it.

"After estimating that the 12 fraudulent transactions should be worth between \$285 and \$403 million in additional compensation to Eastern from Texas Air and Continental," the March 1 IAM strike bulletin noted, Shapiro negotiated a deal in which Texas Air would repay Eastern only \$280 million. Many strikers were outraged that no criminal charges against Lorenzo and Texas Air were recommended.

On March 6 Eastern announced it was requesting a special court hearing on Shapiro's report, claiming the examiner's report had the potential to be "damaging to Eastern."

Shapiro, for his part, wrote a letter March 5 aimed at convincing Congress not to override President George Bush's veto of a measure that would set up a "blue ribbon" panel to investigate the Eastern strike, a proposal backed by the IAM.

Meanwhile, there was some concern among strikers about AFL-CIO President

Lane Kirkland's statement at the AFL-CIO's Executive Council meeting, held in Bal Harbour, Florida, in late February. "In the Eastern situation, there are no victors," Kirkland said. "We cannot say of course that the strike has been a success for labor because the objectives of it — a fair and decent agreement and the continuation and growth and progress of that airline — have not been achieved."

"But I do say to you this has been no victory for the employer," he added. The AFL-CIO gathering passed a resolution backing the strike.

— S.L.

In order to bring 'Militant' readers more extensive coverage of the March 3-4 anniversary actions in support of Eastern Airlines strikers, the "Support Eastern Strikers!" column does not appear this week.

'onger' inst Lorenzo

several hours to join the airport picket. Many Portland Greyhound strikers had been friends with Waterhouse.

At **Kansas City International Airport**, 500 unionists rallied March 4, including UAW members, Machinists from TWA's big maintenance base, and others, including Iowa unionists. Striking Greyhound drivers and a group of UMWA miners were also there. American Agriculture Movement member Harold Dunkelberger, an Iowa farmer fighting foreclosure, brought a message of solidarity, and NAACP chapter president Ron Finley offered support to the Eastern strikers.

In **Detroit**, 500 people — including from scores of UAW locals — attended a March 2 benefit that raised about \$10,000 for the Eastern strike fund. Detroit strikers invited participation in a March 10 picket line at the airport.

Some 300 unionists — from stagehands to autoworkers — joined the March 3 picket line at the **Philadelphia International Airport**. Bermuda union leader Simmons was a special guest, as were several UMWA representatives.

In **San Juan, Puerto Rico**, strikers organized a caravan of 30 sign-covered cars for a 20-mile drive to mark March 4.

IAM District 100 President Charles Bryan was the featured speaker at an anniversary dance organized by **Atlanta** strikers that drew 300.

More than 100 people attended a picket line and rally at **Baltimore-Washington International Airport**, including striking Greyhound workers. Some 45 unionists joined an airport picket line in **Cleveland** March 3. Nearly 70 attended a rally at the **Syracuse**,



Miami support rally drew 1,500 strikers and supporters. Event was addressed by International Association of Machinists President George Kourpias.

New York, airport the next day.

A rally at **Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport** drew 200 strike supporters, including from International Falls, Minnesota, where construction workers are on strike against Boise Cascade paper company. Two members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 9 in Austin, Minnesota, presented Eastern strikers with a check for \$540 that had been raised at a plant-gate collection at the Geo. A. Hormel and Quality Pork Processors plants there and with another \$100 from the local.

UMWA Local 1971 President Dave Collins from Logan, West Virginia, was the featured speaker at a rally of 400 at **San Francisco International Airport** March 3. Collins was a leader of the UMWA's strike against Pittston. A leader of the Greyhound strikers,

Janis Borchardt, also spoke.

"Your strike has historic importance for labor in Arizona and throughout the country," Arizona AFL-CIO President Chuck Huggins told a rally of 25 at the **Phoenix** airport. The seven Eastern strikers in Phoenix have maintained a daily picket line since the strike began.

After the rally Huggins and Eastern strike coordinator Gerald Watson led a group to the bus station picket line.

In **Chicago**, 50 strikers and supporters swelled the Eastern picket line March 3 and held a picnic at strike headquarters. The same afternoon, 200 unionists attended a labor solidarity rally that drew UMWA representatives, Greyhound strikers, steelworkers locked out in East Chicago, Illinois, and electrical workers on strike in Lawrenceville,

Illinois.

Five former striking Eastern pilots were part of a picket line of 50 at **Intercontinental Airport in Houston** March 4. Greyhound strikers were also on hand, as were two Aeroméxico strikers. A picket line was also up for four hours at **Stapleton Airport in Denver**.

In **Louisville, Kentucky**, more than 50 turned out for an expanded picket line at the airport. The rally was chaired by Joe Buonadonna, a former Eastern pilot who refuses to cross the Machinists' picket line. Seven strikers and retirees were called up front and a rousing chant of "One more day!" erupted. The IAM picket captain got an award — a new pair of walking shoes — for being out on the line the most. The group then went down to the Greyhound picket line.

Greyhound strikers protest picket's death

Continued from front page

City, Utah, have been struck by scab-driven buses, which in many cities have police escorts. In **Washington, D.C.** on March 5, striker Troy Gibson was hit by a bus that pulled out of the station without stopping. The driver was released after one hour and given a \$25 traffic fine, after which he — and the full bus — headed for Miami.

Court orders barring strikers from "interfering" with scab-driven buses have been issued in seven cities.

ATU members set up picket lines March 2 after negotiations broke off. Union members had rejected Greyhound's only and final contract offer by more than 90 percent on February 9.

Greyhound's current proposal to union members includes no wage increases. It gives the company unrestricted rights to subcontract bus routes and maintenance work, eliminates seniority, and undermines the grievance procedure. The company also wants to reduce sick leave, vacations, holiday pay, and

other benefits.

In 1987 ATU members had their wages cut some 30 percent after a leveraged buyout of the bus company by Greyhound chairman Fred Currey for \$350 million. The company then managed to come up with another \$80 million to buy Trailways bus lines, creating the only nationwide bus company. Their wages and benefits were also slashed in 1983, following a hard-fought seven-week strike.

Drivers are paid on an incentive, "cents-per-mile" basis. Some make as little as \$6.50 per hour and can work up to 10 consecutive days before getting overtime pay. Wages are also contingent on the number of passengers and drivers' safety records.

"We're on strike for job security, benefits, and working conditions," said striker Willie Tiller on the picket line in Miami. "They want us not only to drive buses, but clean terminals, paint, and clean buses in between runs."

Many strikers are convinced Currey is out to break the union. "We didn't strike over wages," said a picket at the Greyhound terminal in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. "We're striking over our dignity and our unions."

Greyhound has amassed a \$50 million strike-breaking fund and is actively recruiting scab drivers. The company claims 1,800 ATU members have crossed picket lines; the union says the number is 95. Some union members who had crossed quickly changed their minds and came back out. Others hired as scabs quit after a few days on the job.

The union estimates that Greyhound is making about 10 percent of its normal departures. Greyhound claims that 900 newly hired scab drivers are operating 30 percent of the company's normal schedule.

Strikers in some cities are picketing Greyhound's scab-hiring sessions and have appealed to striking Eastern Machinists and other unionists for aid.

Normally Greyhound has bus service to 9,500 communities. Intercity and regional bus lines duplicate service to half of these,

leaving nearly 5,000 without bus transportation.

Since the company did not warn people buying tickets about the possibility of a strike, thousands of passengers were stranded around the country when the walkout began.

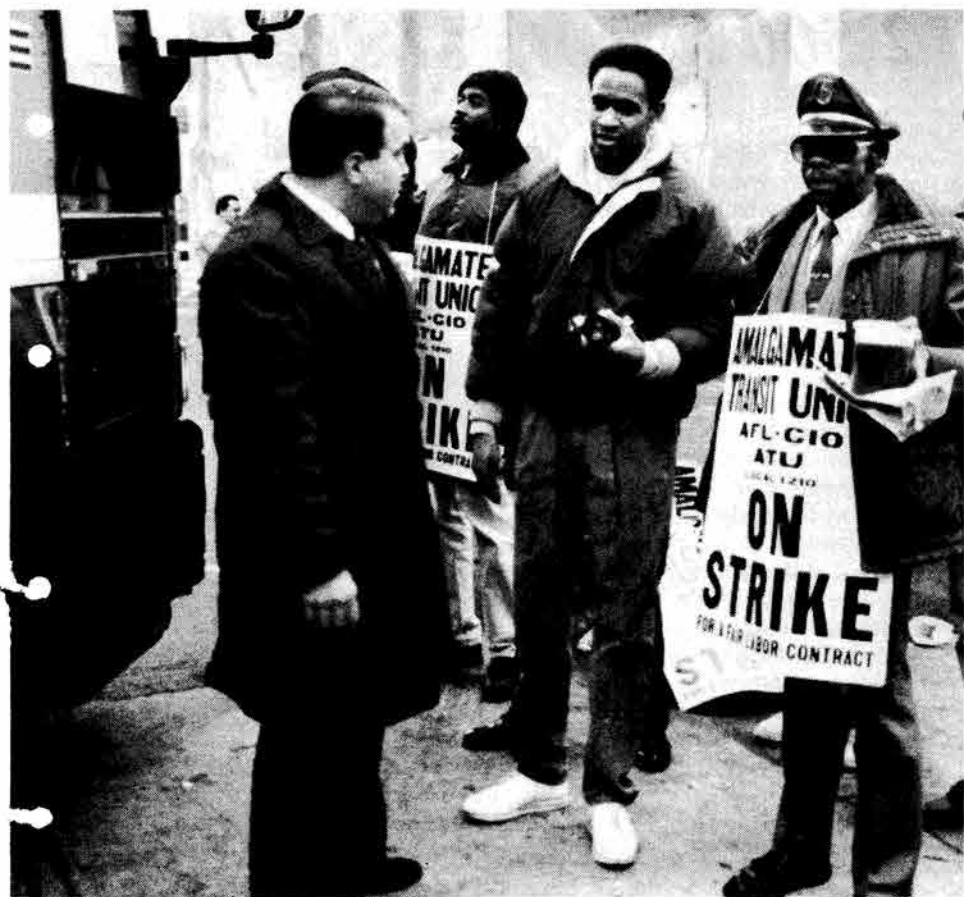
Many working people are dependent on Greyhound for transportation, and strikers are discussing how to win support from passengers for their fight.

In **Winston-Salem**, where a large majority of Greyhound riders are Black, the strikers have already contacted the NAACP and are looking to other Black rights organizations and unions for support. In **Phoenix**, where most passengers are Spanish-speaking, strikers are discussing putting out picket signs and leaflets in Spanish.

Greyhound strikers in many cities are beginning to reach out for solidarity. On March 1 a rally of several hundred unionists was held at New York's Port Authority bus terminal to support the strikers. Over the March 3-4 weekend, ATU strikers joined in and spoke at activities organized by striking Eastern Machinists. In some cities, ATU picket lines at bus stations were swelled by unionists from those events. In **Washington, D.C.**, Eastern strikers are helping ATU members get a food bank set up. A rally to back the strikers has been called for March 11 in Miami.

Strikers in **Kansas City, Missouri**, report that drivers from another bus company based in Jefferson City are taking regular picket shifts alongside the Greyhound drivers. ATU members from **St. Joseph, Missouri**, who work for that city's bus line, called up to ask why there was no picket line at the St. Joseph bus terminal. When told there were no Greyhound drivers there, he said, "Send us some signs, we'll set up a line."

Strikers in **Phoenix** and **Miami** are also discussing how to confront the challenge of bus mechanics represented by the International Association of Machinists crossing the ATU's picket lines. In some cities, Greyhound mechanics are in the Machinists union, not the ATU.



Greyhound pickets in Philadelphia. Pickets have been injured by scab-driven buses in several cities. Instead of 12 weeks' training, scabs are getting one week.

British mine union leaders face frame-up

Continued from front page

rational executive of the National Union of Mineworkers and that it helped to hide funds destined for the NUM in foreign bank accounts."

Allegations multiply

The initial allegation that the NUM received £163,000 (US\$269,000) from the Libyan government was multiplied 30-fold by the Cook report. The media now claims that Tripoli provided more than \$9 million.

Scargill is also alleged to have asked the "Libyan connection" to provide him with a Derringer pistol and a pump-action shotgun.

Windsor is today living in France. He resigned his appointed staff position at the union last year, shortly after which NUM President Scargill called in the fraud squad when "certain matters came to light." Windsor is wanted by police for questioning. He is also facing legal action by the IMO in France concerning his nonrepayment of a loan of nearly \$48,700 originally extended to him by the NUM and subsequently transferred to the IMO.

The media has not covered Windsor's relations with the NUM and IMO over the last few months. But his allegations against the union have formed the leading edge of the witch-hunt initiated by Maxwell in his tabloid, the *Daily Mirror*.

In a signed editorial in the March 5 issue entitled "Scargill's Waterloo," Maxwell outlined his stand.

"The miners' strike of 1984-85 was the longest and most bitter since the General Strike of more than 60 years ago," Maxwell begins. "It was always the wrong strike at the wrong time — the start of spring — with the wrong motive — the toppling of the Government — and with the wrong leaders."

"The *Daily Mirror* never supported Arthur Scargill's direction of the strike," the editorial continues. "Many thousands of good men and their families suffered irreparably from the conduct of the dispute. As we said at the time, they were lions led by donkeys."

Union and Labour Party leaders hostile to the NUM leadership have been quoted at length to add oil to the flames. Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock and others have called for a public inquiry. Labour member of Par-

liament Kim Howells, an NUM official in South Wales during the miners' strike who spearheaded the return to work opposed by Scargill and Heathfield, said, "There are tears in the valley of Wales, but the *Mirror* has done the union a great service."

"The miners' real enemy continues to be the government, British Coal."

Former international officer of the NUM Peter Kennedy, in a telephone interview, condemned the witch-hunt. "It's real objective has nothing to do with Libyan money or guns but to smear and discredit the uncompromising, class-struggle methods employed by the leadership of the NUM during the union's historic strike against pit closures five years ago."

"The real enemy of the miners continues to be the government and British Coal," Kennedy continued. "Since the end of the strike, 136,000 jobs in the industry have been

cut and more than 90 pits shut down. The media stay silent on this, but instead smear the very methods that workers need to fight back against such attacks."

"The strike ended on March 6, 1985. Five years later, its legacy lives on. Despite the defeat of the miners at the time, the fight the union put up is looked to around the world as an inspiration."

"Nor is it a coincidence that the media has gone after the International Miners Organisation," the former NUM officer concluded. "The IMO has been led by the NUM since its inception. It has spearheaded solidarity with the South African and Namibian miners, among others. The organization does what it can to keep alive the internationalism of the miners' strike. It's this that the likes of Maxwell and the big-business interests his papers represent are so opposed to."

"I worked closely for nearly three years in conducting the union's international relations with the two national officials, both through the IMO and on a union-to-union basis, and can categorically state that throughout this period the union business was conducted properly and with the best interests of working people at heart."

NUM statement

The NUM issued a statement March 5 refuting point by point the media allegations. "No Union money or money donated for Union members or hardship purposes was used for the personal needs of the National Officials," the statement explains. "Neither the National President nor the General Secretary had a mortgage or loan, so no question of repayment could have been perceived. By the rules and long-standing practice of the Union, houses occupied by the National Officials are owned by the National Union."

The statement explains how the sequestration of the union's assets by the courts during the strike affected matters. Measures were taken to prevent the houses being seized by the sequesteror. All measures to this end were temporary, and custom and practice were resumed after the lifting of the sequestration order.

The union explains that all monies that were donated to it were accurately recorded and that qualified auditors have gone through the union's books. It flatly denies that it received any money from the Libyan government.

NUM leader Ken Capstick from Stillington in North Yorkshire explained on a BBC radio interview that, on the contrary, the government imported oil from Libya to try to break the coal strike, adding that the union had the right to raise funds from whatever quarter, including from working people in Libya. Huge sums of money were donated to the NUM during the strike by working people and their organizations around the world, Capstick said.

Workers in FSLN look for way forward

Continued from Page 7

for their treachery," said one union activist.

"Now we know who our enemies are," said another. "In my workplace we discovered some enemy traitors among our ranks," she added. "I asked one compañero, 'Why did you sell yourself? How much did they give you?' Fifty dollars! 'For that you sold your conscience, you scum?'" This met with loud applause.

'We want weapons'

As the meeting continued, demands for weapons began to be raised with more force. José Manuel Flores, who fought in the mountains against the Somoza dictatorship and now works with disabled army veterans in the Aldo Echevarría Hospital, took the mike. "In the name of the Sandinistas whose blood is red and black [the colors of the FSLN banner], I ask Comandante Víctor Tirado and the National Directorate for arms so that the National Guard may not return," he declared.

This was met with an explosion of chants and cheers.

Another worker, from the town of Mateare, just north of Managua, proclaimed, "We are here to ratify our president, Daniel Ortega, and our National Directorate. And we say to them, the army's weapons should not be given up. We need them to defend ourselves."

"In the name of the war-wounded, in the name of the Sandinista Youth, in the name of the health workers, in the name of all the people of Nicaragua, we are asking for these weapons. We call on health workers to organize themselves into the former military structures in our work centers and to rebuild the Sandinista People's Militia, which used to exist among our people."

Roaring chants of "We want weapons!" greeted this speech and others like it. Slogans that were popular in earlier days of the revolution but in recent years had fallen out of fashion were also revived: "National Directorate, give us your orders," and "One single army," referring to the unity between the people and the armed forces.

Willingness to fight for revolution

As the assembly continued, the radical tone of many of the speeches was maintained. But it was becoming apparent that much of what was being said was intended as an expression of the cadres' willingness to continue fighting, and sacrificing, rather than as concrete proposals for action.

The participants knew that the policy guidelines would be set by the FSLN top

leadership, and they weren't surprised when Víctor Tirado, speaking on behalf of the National Directorate, closed the meeting with a speech rejecting "adventures and disorder."

"We have to prepare ourselves for new slogans, new forms of struggle, and new procedures to maintain what has been conquered and to deepen the revolution," Tirado said. Nicaragua has entered a "new stage," he went on. "Everything is legitimized — the Sandinista Front, the revolution, democracy, the opposition, and the new administration."

"The FSLN," he added, "will work within this legitimacy, within the channels of the constitution and the judicial system so as not to lose what we have conquered in these 10 years."

The defense of past gains "should unfold with a peaceful tone, with tranquility." As Tirado spoke, most listened closely to what he had to say, and many nodded in agreement.

The FSLN's new slogan "Govern from below," he said, "does not mean adventures and disorder." The goal should not be to "disrupt the economy with these demands. Nobody can be in agreement with pushing the economy backward."

The FSLN leader continued, "To develop the economy, what is needed above all is political and economic stability in the country. Without stability, there won't be either foreign or domestic investment."

This is "the new reality we have to accept," he stressed. "We are going to be a legal and constitutional opposition. We are not going to take the road of seeking revenge."

Harlem meeting of 2,500 honors Malcolm X

An overflow crowd of 2,500 gathered in Harlem February 21 to commemorate the 1965 assassination of Malcolm X. Hundreds more waited outside the Abyssinian Baptist Church, hoping to get into the event honoring the revolutionary leader.

The character of the crowd was stamped by the many young people, born after Malcolm's death. They roared their approval of special tributes to the fighter by rap music artists and to the rappers' protests of recent racist violence in New York.

Organized by the National Malcolm X Commemoration Commission, the meeting also featured speeches, poetry, and reminiscences by a number of prominent individuals, including Percy Sutton, Malcolm's attorney and former Manhattan borough president; Benjamin Chavis; and Ron Daniels, a leader of the commission.

A poem read by its author Sonia Sanchez assailed U.S. aggression in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Grenada and drew attention to the fight against apartheid in South Africa. As she spoke the name of Nelson Mandela, the crowd erupted in a huge ovation.

Betty Shabazz, Malcolm's widow, and their three daughters attended the event. "Our young people need Malcolm," Shabazz said, urging the audience to "study Malcolm as you evaluate present conditions and chart our

course for the future."

In Fort Lauderdale, Florida, an audio hookup to the New York event drew 150 people. The meeting at city hall was organized by Janice Graham of WPOM radio, a member of the commission.

Also on February 21 more than 130 students attended a gathering organized by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., in Cincinnati to see the video *Our Fallen Warrior* and hear excerpts of several of Malcolm's speeches. A discussion followed on how to carry forward the revolutionary leader's work today.

Books and pamphlets of Malcolm's speeches published by Pathfinder Press were attractive to participants at all these events. In Harlem 13 copies of the new book *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches* were snapped up. At the Fort Lauderdale event, the pamphlet *Malcolm X Talks to Young People* was bought by a number of teenage participants. And a table of Pathfinder literature was welcomed at the Cincinnati meeting.

Malcolm X book celebrations

A February 3 gathering at the University of Chicago to celebrate publication of *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches* drew 100 people. Patrick Phillips, vice-president of the Organization of Black Students, a sponsor of the celebration, noted how Malcolm's teachings help activists understand events in the world

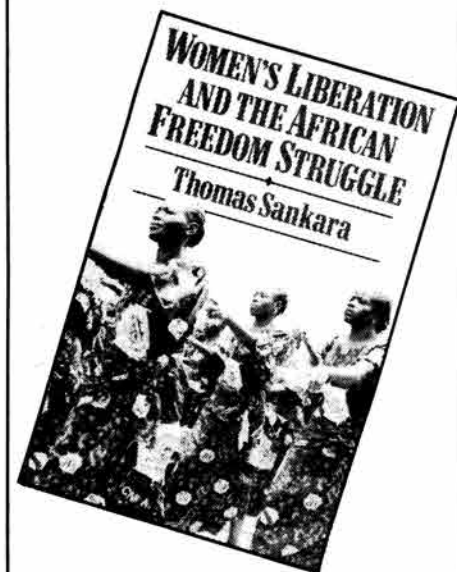
today like the U.S. invasion of Panama.

Speaking for the Socialist Workers Party, Mac Warren said the advances of the liberation movement in South Africa prove what Malcolm repeatedly told his audiences, that it is ordinary men and women, not individual leaders, who make history. "He had confidence in the capacity of ordinary people who are Black," Warren said, who can accomplish "extraordinary things once we realize our humanity and begin to fight to advance our interests the way Malcolm did."

In Boston more than 80 people turned out for a meeting February 24 to promote *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches*. The program included presentations by Massachusetts State Rep. Byron Rushing; Curtis Porter, a high school student; Louis Elisa, president of the Boston chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Ellen Convisser, president of the Boston chapter of the National Organization for Women; Mel King, Rainbow Coalition; Gus Newport, former mayor of Berkeley, California, and executive director of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative; and Betsey Soares, Socialist Workers Party.

Jon Hillson from New York, Dan Fein from Miami, Bobbi Sack from Cincinnati, Don Davis from Chicago, and John Harris from Boston contributed to this article.

New from Pathfinder...



Women's Liberation & the African Freedom Struggle by Thomas Sankara

A pamphlet of a speech by the African revolutionary leader given on International Women's Day in 1987. Available from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12, or by mail from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Price: \$2.50. Please include 75 cents for postage.

'Friends of the Pathfinder Mural' founded to aid in promotion

BY SELVA NEBBIA

NEW YORK — Supporters of the Pathfinder Mural in New York have launched an organization to support the maintenance, defense, and promotion of the six-story work of art.

"One of the main activities of the committee is fund-raising," explained Meryl Lynn Farber, executive director of the new Friends of the Pathfinder Mural. So far \$600 has been sent to the committee in response to a January fund mailing sent to supporters in New York State.

The appeal was sent following a right-wing attack by vandals who defaced the work of art the night of December 20. "We need thousands of dollars to clean and restore the mural," Farber explained, noting that supporters have already worked hard to remove the white paint that was splattered on the wall by the vandals. "We will recoat the mural with a protective finish and plan to organize a restoration of the damaged mural portraits some time in the spring or early summer," she said.

Funds have also been received from supporters around the country as well as internationally. Backers in Britain, for example, recently sent a check for \$1,100 towards the restoration fund.

Farber also reported that the committee has received a letter from Ruth Messinger, the Manhattan borough president, stating that her office will assist in the restoration of the mural by providing \$500 towards the rental of scaffolding.

The Pathfinder Mural, featuring the portraits of revolutionary fighters such as Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro, Malcolm X, Augusto César Sandino, and many others whose speeches and writings are published by Pathfinder Press, is painted on the publisher's building on Manhattan's West Side.

Part of the funds collected will go to improve the existing lighting of the wall and to implement other measures to help prevent another vandal attack, noted Farber. These modifications are anticipated to cost \$3,500.

On February 11 Doug Cooper, representing the friends of the mural committee, participated on a panel sponsored by the Women & Art Documentation Ad Hoc Group as part of the 18th annual conference of the Art Libraries Society of North America.

Several conference participants signed a petition defending the mural, including Clive Philpott, director of the Library Museum of Public Art at the Museum of Modern Art.

Call for apprehending vandals

During the past few weeks, Farber said, many individuals and organizations have sent letters and statements to the city administration calling for the apprehension and prosecution of individuals who desecrated the mural.

Among those who have sent statements are Michigan Congressman John Conyers; Chicago Alderman Jesus Garcia; Christopher Hosford, chairman of the Florida Coalition Against Censorship; Sainsois Charles, for Veye-Yo, a Haitian community organization based in Miami; W.W. Finlator, a retired Baptist minister from North Carolina and member of the National Advisory Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union; Alan Barnett, art historian and professor of humanities at San Jose State University; Tom Fentin, executive director of the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights; and Illinois Congressman Sidney Yates.

In early February, Jennifer Burdick, executive director of the State of Maryland Commission on Human Rights wrote to Mayor

David Dinkins, "The damage perpetrated against the Pathfinder Mural has been brought to our attention. I am writing to add this commission's voice to the many expressions of concern you have already received. We deplore this despicable act. Defacement of any kind, but particularly of this nature, is unacceptable.

"I urge you to use the strongest legal procedures available which will lead to the capture and prosecution of those responsible for this reprehensible attack on free expression," Burdick wrote.

In response to the release of Nelson Mandela after more than 27 years in South

Africa's prisons, the Friends of the Pathfinder Mural sent a letter to him accompanied by two color photos of the Mandela portrait on the mural painted by Dumile Feni.

Farber reported that in commemoration of Mandela's release, the committee is rushing into production a large, four-color poster featuring the portrait of Mandela as it appears on the mural. The poster will be on sale around March 12, but people interested in obtaining a poster can order now. Only pre-paid orders will be filled. Single posters will be \$10. Bulk orders prices are \$8 each for 10 posters, \$6 each for 20, or \$5 each for 30 or more. Those who contribute \$50 or more to

the Friends of the Pathfinder Mural can receive a complimentary poster.

Farber explained that money sent now will help fund the production of the poster, which will cost \$3,000 to get out.

Meetings of the Friends of the Pathfinder Mural, Farber noted, are open to all those who support this work of art. For more information call (212) 727-8421.

To contribute to the restoration and promotion of mural, or to order a Mandela poster or bundle, checks can be made payable to the Friends of the Pathfinder Mural and sent care of the Pathfinder Bookstore, 191 7th Ave., New York, N.Y. 10011.



Militant/Margrethe Siem
Portrait of Nelson Mandela on mural. New group is printing poster with this image to publicize mural and writings of those published by Pathfinder Press.

Israel suspends deporting of Palestinians

BY HARRY RING

Bowing to protests and to pressure from Washington, the Israeli government temporarily suspended the practice of deporting Palestinians from their West Bank and Gaza Strip homelands. They had claimed that the Palestinians live there illegally.

The suspension was announced January 31 by Israel's defense minister, Yitzhak Rabin. He emphasized that the deportation policy, which mainly victimizes women and children, "hasn't been changed, only frozen for the time being."

Israel has kept Gaza and the West Bank under military rule since it seized the two areas in its 1967 war against neighboring Arab countries.

In September 1967 the Israeli military conducted a one-day census of the two areas, registering those Palestinians there at the time. Those so registered and children born to them since then are deemed to be legal residents. Anyone who was away that day is not.

The denial of residency targeted the thousands of Palestinians who had fled the Israeli military attacks of 1948 and 1967 and had taken refuge in Jordan and other Arab countries.

It hit those who happened to be working or studying abroad at the time. Those who had the misfortune to go shopping in Jordan that September day were barred from returning to their homes.

Since then, many Palestinian women, mainly from Jordan, have managed to return to marry men in their home towns. Most got back across the Jordan River by obtaining three-month visitor's permits, and then simply remaining. Once married, many applied for permanent residency under a family reunification program. The big majority don't get it.

Rabin says that since 1967 there have been 88,000 requests for family reunifications. Of these, he asserted, 13,500 were granted. According to the Red Cross, as of 1987 there were 140,000 applications, with but 9,000 granted. And, Palestinians charge, those who did get reunification permits included many who made exorbitant payoffs to Israeli officials.

Prior to the eruption of the Palestinian uprising at the end of 1987, the residency regulation was not consistently enforced. But since the uprising, there have been systematic expulsions.

Israeli and Palestinian human rights organizations have protested the expulsions and the way they have been carried out.

Most deportations take place at night. Soldiers arrive at a village after midnight with a

list of names of those to be expelled. If a woman is taken, her children go too.

Given minutes to gather some belongings, the soldiers then take them to a border point. There they are often made to pay a fine and transportation fee before being put across a bridge into Jordan. In some cases, soldiers tear up a woman's travel papers and her children's birth certificates to insure that they can never return.

If a husband then wants to see his family in Jordan, he has to be ready to give up his homeland. If he crosses the border, he cannot return.

An instance of what this involves was offered by the *Washington Post*, which spotlighted the deportation issue in a January 30 front-page article. It told the story of one West Bank villager whose wife and two children

were among those expelled. With one of his children hospitalized in Jordan, he tried to get a permit for a temporary visit. Israeli military authorities denied his request.

After the publication of the *Post* article, State Department spokesperson Margaret Tutwiler expressed the hope that Israel would apply its deportation policy with "sensitivity and flexibility."

In response, Rabin said that from now on, his chief administrator for the West Bank and Gaza would rule on all deportations. Until now, deportations could be ordered by any officer from major up.

Rabin reiterated, "We can't allow everyone who comes to visit to stay without permission." But, he assured, "we will deal with it more gently and more tactfully."

Subscribe to 'Perspectiva Mundial' Mandela declaration in 'PM'

As a reader of the *Militant* you are familiar with our weekly coverage of the struggles of working people around the world.

If you can read or are studying Spanish, there is a complementary monthly magazine for you: *Perspectiva Mundial*. *PM* is a Spanish-language socialist magazine that carries many of the same articles you read in the *Militant*.

In March, *PM* features the call issued by Nelson Mandela shortly before his release from prison, urging the government of South Africa to negotiate with the African National Congress. It includes coverage on the recent election results in Nicaragua and their significance for the region.

Also included is a chronology of the one-year-old strike by the Machinists against Eastern Airlines.



Subscriptions:
Introductory offer: \$3 for four months; \$9 for one year.

☐ Begin my sub with current issue.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Clip and mail to PM, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

ARIZONA Phoenix

Forging Fighting Trade Union Leaderships: The 1934 Minneapolis Teamsters' Strikes and Their Lessons for Today. Four classes based on books by Farrell Dobbs. Translation to Spanish. Tuesdays beginning March 13, 6 p.m. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 279-5850.

CALIFORNIA Los Angeles

U.S. Hands Off Nicaragua, Cuba, El Salvador! What Elections in Nicaragua Mean for National Sovereignty in Central America. Speaker: Judy White, former *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* correspondent in Nicaragua. Sat., March 17, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Translation to Spanish. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Richmond

Celebrate the Release of Nelson Mandela. Speakers: Lindiwe Mabuza, African National Congress of South Africa representative to the U.S.; Rep. Ronald Dellums; Angela Davis; Leo Robinson, International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union; others. Sun., March 11, 4-11 p.m. Richmond Memorial Auditorium, 27th and McDonald. Donation: \$5-\$25. Sponsor: Bay Area Anti-Apartheid Network. For more information call (415) 655-6606.

GEORGIA Atlanta

Nicaragua After the Elections. Speakers to be announced. Sat., March 17, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd fl. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS Chicago

Grand Opening of New Pathfinder Bookstore. Sat., March 10. Open house, 10:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 545 W Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$5. For more information call (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018.

U.S. Hands Off Nicaragua, Cuba, El Salvador! What the Nicaraguan Elections Mean for National Sovereignty in Central America. Speaker: Mac Warren, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., March 17, 7:30 p.m. 545 W Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018.

IOWA Des Moines

Defend a Woman's Right to Choose Abortion. Speakers: Shelly Bain, National Organization for Women; representatives of Politically Active Feminist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party. Sun., March 11, 3 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (515) 246-8249.

MASSACHUSETTS Boston

Young Socialist Alliance Discussion Series. "The Truth About Panama," Thurs., March 15, 7 p.m.; "Defending Socialism Today," Thurs., March 22, 7 p.m.; "The Fight for Abortion Rights," Thurs., March 29, 7 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Boston Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

MINNESOTA Albert Lea and Rochester

The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis. Showings of documentary video by director Nick Castle, with presentation by Hazel Zimmerman, secretary of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. In **Albert Lea:** Sun., March 11, 1:30 p.m. St. Theodore's Church, Parish Center Room 11. In **Rochester:** Mon., March 12. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 1001 14th St. NW. For more information call (507) 433-3461. Sponsor: Supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

St. Paul

Defend Cuba Against U.S. Aggression. Sat., March 17, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

Is Communism Dead? Speaker: Wendy Lyons, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Minnesota governor. Sat., March 24, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI St. Louis

Popular Upsurges in Eastern Europe: The Crisis of Stalinism and the Fight for Socialism. Speaker: Dave Sandot, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 17, 7:30 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

NEBRASKA Omaha

Celebrate International Women's Day. Speakers: Helen Ochs, Namibian student; Hi Cuzco, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 10, 7:30 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle. Speaker: Cathy Sedwick, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sat., March 17, 7:30 p.m. Translation to Spanish. 464 Bergen. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (718) 398-6983.

Manhattan

U.S. Hands Off Nicaragua, Cuba, and El Salvador! What the Elections in Nicaragua Mean for National Sovereignty in Central America. Speaker: Cindy Jaquith, Socialist Workers Party National Committee, former head of *Militant's* Nicaragua Bureau. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 10, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 675-6740.

New York City

Beyond the News. Radio program 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.

NORTH CAROLINA Greensboro

The Meaning of the Nicaraguan Elections. Sun., March 11, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OREGON Portland

Fidel Castro's In Defense of Socialism. A

panel discussion on book of Cuban president's speeches. Speakers: Katalina Montero, National Committee Venceremos Brigade; Bill Gaboury, professor of history, Southern Oregon State College; Howard Glazer, architect who has worked in Cuba. Sat., March 10, 7:30 p.m. 2730 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

PENNSYLVANIA Pittsburgh

The Elections in Nicaragua: A Blow to Working People Worldwide. Speaker: Steve Marshall, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., March 11, 5 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS Houston

The Reunification of Germany: What Does It Mean for Working People? Sat., March 17, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

UTAH

Price

Socialist Educational Conference — March 10-11. Forum: "Victory in the Fight Against Antilabor Disruption;" Sat., March 10, 7 p.m. Class I: "Too Many Babies? The Myth of the Population Explosion," Sun., March 11, 10 a.m. Class II: "Communists and the Trade Unions," Sun., March 11, 12 noon. Speaker: Tom Leonard, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. 253 E Main. Donation: \$12 for conference. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Party. For more information call (801) 637-6294.

Salt Lake City

Nicaragua: The Meaning of the Elections. Speaker: Paul Mailhot, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers Local 8319. Translation to Spanish. Sun., March 18, 3 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON Seattle

U.S. Hands Off Nicaragua, Cuba, El Salvador! What the Elections in Nicaragua Mean for National Sovereignty in Central America. Speaker: Mark Severs, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., March 10, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

BRITAIN Cardiff

The Crisis of the Tory Government and the Economy. Speaker: Brian Grogan, Communist League National Secretary. Fri., March 16, 7:30 p.m. 9 Moira Terrace, Adamsdown. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forums. For more information call 0222-484677.

In Defense of Socialism: Meeting to Promote the Book of Speeches by Fidel Castro. Speakers from Cuban embassy, African National Congress of South Africa, Pathfinder Bookcentre. Fri., March 23, 7:30 p.m. Rumney College, The Parade. Sponsors: Wales-Cuba Resource Centre, Pathfinder Bookcentre.

London

From a Free Mandela to a Free South Africa. Speaker: Doreen Wepler, Communist League.

Fri., March 16, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forums. For more information call 01-928 7947.

The Crisis of the Tory Government and the Economy. Speaker: Brian Grogan, Communist League National Secretary. Fri., March 23, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forums. For more information call 01-928-7947.

Manchester
Nicaragua: What the Election Result Means for Sovereignty in Central America. Speaker: Pete Clifford, recently returned from Nicaragua. Wed., March 14, 7:30 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forums. For more information call 061-839 1766.

Eastern Europe and the Fight for Communism Today. Speaker: Jonathan Silberman, Communist League National Organizational Secretary. Wed., March 21, 7:30 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forums. For more information call 061-839 1766.

CANADA Montréal

What's Behind the Defeat of the Sandinista Government? Speaker: John Steele, Communist League Central Committee. Sat., March 10, 7:30 p.m. 6566, boul. St-Laurent. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière. For more information call (514) 273-2503.

Toronto

Hands Off Cuba! U.S. Escalates Attacks Against Cuba. Speakers: Michel Dugré, *Lutte ouvrière* reporter, just returned from Cuba; Christianne Malet, member of International Solidarity Committee of Québec teachers' federation. Sat., March 10, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

Vancouver

The Pathfinder Mural: Artistic Freedom Under Attack. Speakers: Todd Davis, artist, curator; Julius Fisher, member Musicians Union Local 145; Karen Knights, Coalition for the Right to View; Terence Long, *The Gleaner*; Mark Severs, former coordinator, Pathfinder Mural Project; Jeff Wall, artist and teacher, Fine Arts Dept. of Univ. of British Columbia. Sun., March 11, 2 p.m. Pitt Gallery, 36 Powell St., Gastown. Sponsors: Pathfinder Mural Project and Pitt Gallery.

After the Elections: Defend Nicaraguan Sovereignty and Independence. Speaker: member Central Committee Communist League. Sat., March 17, 7:30 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (604) 872-8343.

NEW ZEALAND Auckland

The Soviet Crackdown in Azerbaijan. Speaker: Brendan Grainger, Communist League. Sat., March 17, 7 p.m. 157a Symonds St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Socialist Forum. For more information call (9) 793-075.

Christchurch

The Legacy of Malcolm X. Video and talk by Eugen Lepou, Young Socialists. Sat., March 24, 7 p.m. 593a Colombo St. Sponsor: Socialist Forum. For more information call (3) 656-055.

SWEDEN Stockholm

Welcome Nelson Mandela. Meet Mandela at Arlanda airport. Mon., March 12. Public meeting to be announced. Sponsor: Nelson Mandela Welcome Committee. For more information call (08) 21 63 43.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

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

UNITED STATES

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

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

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

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

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

ILLINOIS: Chicago: 545 W. Roosevelt Rd. Zip: 60607. Tel: (312) 829-6815, 829-7018.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 3165 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699, 797-7021. **WASHINGTON: Seattle:** 5517 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118. Tel: (206) 723-5330.

WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston: 116 McFarland St. Zip: 25301. Tel: (304) 345-3040. **Morgantown:** 221 Pleasant St. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 181 Glebe Point Rd., 2nd floor, Glebe. Postal address: P.O. Box 153 Glebe, Sydney NSW 2037. Tel: 02-692 0319.

BRITAIN

Cardiff: 9 Moira Terrace, Adamsdown. Postal code: CF2 1EJ. Tel: 0222-484677.

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

Manchester: Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Postal code: M4 4AA. Tel: 061-839 1766.

Sheffield: 2A Waverley House, 10 Joiner St., Sheffield S3 8GW. Tel: 0742-729469.

CANADA

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

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

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

ICELAND

Reykjavik: Klappargstíg 26. Mailing address: P. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. Tel: (91) 17513.

NEW ZEALAND

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

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

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

SWEDEN

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

First things first — Junk bond peddler Drexel Burnham said top execs took \$260 million in bonuses before shutting down, not the \$350 million initially reported. Mean-



Harry Ring

while, employees are waiting for promised severance pay (max, 16½ weeks for 10 year's seniority.)

Historical prognosis — Because their hospital is being shut down to save money, 24 elderly

British mental patients are being shipped to West Middlesex Hospital, a crumbling establishment described in a 1987 study as "fit only for demolition." Health officials said this was meant as a long-term description and didn't refer to suitability for short-term use.

Don't forget — There are a few remaining copies of the transcript of the video testimony of Ron (What's his last name?) in the Poindexter Iran-contra trial. \$219.75.

Not your usual policeman — "We were too anxious to give the company the benefit of the doubt and too forgiving." — A Food and Drug Administration official on why the agency let a Pfizer subsidiary stonewall for seven years on

providing data on a defective heart valve responsible for some 2550 deaths.

Keeping up with inflation? — The Israeli military raised the fine for parents of children under 14 who throw stones. The penalty went from US\$750 to \$2,500.

Good as the name brand — Two Connecticut women are being tried for accepting fees to get rid of demons. Their lawyers contend they can't be convicted unless the state proves evil spirits don't exist. Observed a defense lawyer, "The Catholic church recognizes exorcism. Who are we to say they didn't get those demons exorcised?"

Bountiful system — We re-

ported incorrectly that Perrier was a subsidiary of Evian Waters. Actually, they're rivals. Evian's top exec saw the recall of Perrier's benzene-tainted water as "serendipity." (According to the dictionary, that's the gift of finding good things not sought for.)

They're Silberites? — "Seventeen and a half percent of our kids are weird, not capable of being educated under normal circumstances." — John Silber, ice-age reactionary and racist president of Boston University and candidate for governor of Massachusetts.

Enjoy — A Kansas sausage company has recalled 106,000 pounds of frozen pork pizza topping be-

cause it may contain light bulb fragments.

For a richer complexion — To stimulate your skin, check out Cavitar Extract Rejuvenating Cream. \$35 a half ounce.

The fast track — The Lafayette, a posh New York beanery, offers a \$25 lunch special, with a guarantee that if you're in a rush, they'll have you out in under 30 minutes.

Thought for the week — "Enjoy nature's natural gift! — Furs are a renewable natural resource and nonpolluting. They do not overburden and destroy the environment." — Ad by New York furriers' association.

Mandela salutes Zambians' support to struggle

Continued from front page

itors to Zambia," an editorial in the *Times of Zambia* explained. "But, with due respect to them, none has captured the imagination of the very ordinary Zambians the way Nelson Mandela has."

Meeting with Arafat

Mandela also met with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yassir Arafat and reaffirmed his support to the Palestinian struggle. "I sincerely believe that there are many similarities between our struggle and that of the PLO," he said. "We live under a unique form of colonialism in South Africa, as well as Israel, and a lot flows from that," the ANC leader added.

ANC leaders urged the U.S. congressional delegation, headed by Rep. William Gray (D-Pa.), to help block an application by South Africa for \$250 million from the International Monetary Fund. They also condemned the planned visit of U.S. Vice-president Danforth Quayle to South Africa and that of South African President F.W. de Klerk to the United States. Mandela told the delegation that pressure on the regime in the form of economic sanctions, political isolation, and ending of ties with the regime is still needed.

"The coming years are the most crucial in our history, and if there is a time we need more support and massive resources to mobilize our people in South Africa, it is now," Mandela told the delegation, according to the *Zambia Times*.

Several days earlier Chief Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi, chief minister of the "homeland" of KwaZulu, met with U.S. President George Bush and urged him to lift sanctions against the apartheid regime.

Visits Zimbabwe

From Zambia, Mandela went to neighboring Zimbabwe for a three-day visit. There, he held discussions with President Robert Mugabe. Mugabe attempted to host talks between the ANC leader and representatives of the Pan Africanist Congress, an organization that came out of a split in the ANC in

1959. But the PAC, whose main exile base of operations is Zimbabwe, declined to participate. In a communiqué issued March 5, the PAC executive committee rejected the ANC's call for negotiations with the Pretoria regime.

Mandela left for Tanzania on March 6 for a six-day stopover. From there he will go to Sweden to meet with Tambo.

Press de Klerk to 'remove obstacles'

The NEC statement issued after two days of discussions in Lusaka pressed forward the initiative to hold talks with de Klerk to begin "removing obstacles" to negotiations, such as releasing political prisoners, lifting the state of emergency, and a range of other steps.

"The NEC decided that it was necessary to initiate contact with the regime immediately to seek agreement on the dates of the meeting, the venue, and other matters," the statement said.

Walter Sisulu, who heads up a committee inside South Africa that is working to reestablish the ANC as a public organization, gave a report to the meeting. The ANC, banned in 1960, became a legal organization again on February 2.

The ANC leaders announced that the organization's headquarters "will be opened in Johannesburg without delay." Regional and local offices and organizations "will be put in place as soon as possible."

ANC Secretary-General Alfred Nzo told the local *Daily Mail* that Mandela's visit "showed the depth of support the ANC has amongst the people of Zambia and the international community, who received him with unprecedented enthusiasm."

Hunger strikers

As the leadership meeting was taking place, 343 political prisoners at Robben Island, a maximum security prison near Cape Town in South Africa, went on a hunger strike. The hunger strikers demanded the release of 3,000 political prisoners now in apartheid's jails. Robben Island is where Mandela was imprisoned for much of his 27½ years in jail.

The ANC statement noted that "the majority of political prisoners are still in jail. It is urgent that this matter be resolved. The urgency is emphasized by the fact of the heroic hunger strike on which our comrades in prison have now embarked."

A communiqué issued by the prisoners stated, "We are convinced that there is no more legal, political, security and moral justification for our further imprisonment and incarceration when our organisation [the ANC] is now a legal political organisation."

The NEC meeting also discussed implementing the body's "earlier decision to send into the country some of its members who would, together with the ANC leaders inside the country, carry out an extensive process of consultation with all democratic and anti-apartheid forces."

The first ANC leaders to return home, Ray Alexander and Jack Simon, were greeted by 500 ANC members at the Johannesburg airport, the *Zambia Times* reported. The two veteran leaders, 76 and 83 years old respectively, told the supporters, "We must see that the breakthrough in South Africa is widened and our people take power in an orderly manner."

Death squads

A deepening crisis of the regime over exposure of the government-organized death squads, and a coup against the pro-apartheid ruler of Ciskei, are signs of the continued weakening of apartheid rule.

A retired South African police captain, Dirk Coetzee, told the media in Harare, Zimbabwe, that he commanded a "hit squad" that killed anti-apartheid activists.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

March 14, 1980

As the election results announcing a sweeping victory for the Zimbabwean liberation movements were released on March 4, tens of thousands of Blacks in Salisbury and other parts of the country poured into the streets in celebration.

Factories and offices emptied out, as Black workers took the day off to join the demonstrations. Youths danced in the streets, shouting slogans of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), the biggest winner in the elections.

Despite all the efforts of the British colonialists, the Rhodesian white settler minority, and the racist South African regime to impose their own favorite candidates, the anti-imperialist parties had won.

ZANU, led by Robert Mugabe, received 63 percent of the popular Black vote, winning 57 out of the 80 seats reserved for Blacks in the new parliament. (The other 20 seats had previously been set aside for whites.)

With a clear majority of seats, Mugabe will become the first prime minister of a Black-ruled Zimbabwe when the country gains its independence from Britain in several weeks.

Bishop Abel Muzorewa, who closely collaborated with the white settlers and who received substantial backing from the apart-

heid regime in neighboring South Africa, was trounced. Although he spent nearly \$30 million during his lavish campaign, his party managed to retain just three seats.

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

March 15, 1965

Price 10c

With the U.S. position in South Vietnam rapidly deteriorating militarily and on the verge of collapse politically, President Lyndon B. Johnson has taken another step to escalate the war by openly committing U.S. infantry to the civil war in South Vietnam for the first time.

Three thousand combat-ready U.S. marines arrived by sea and air March 8 in South Vietnam and took up positions around the Da Nang air base 80 miles from North Vietnam. They joined 1,200 marines already manning Hawk antiaircraft missiles at Da Nang. The base has been surrounded by the revolutionary guerrilla forces, and it had become clear that the army of the puppet regime in Saigon — increasingly weakened by mass desertions — would not be able to defend it. Da Nang is the base from which U.S. air strikes on North Vietnam have been launched.

With this move, Johnson has already taken a big step toward beginning a Korean-type war in Vietnam.

West Germany presses reunification

Continued from Page 3

East Germany, which are regarded as a plebiscite on reunification. *Bild*, a West German newspaper, predicted that the West German mark could be introduced in East Germany as early as July.

Common stakes for workers

The prospect of monetary union has already set off fears among workers in East and West Germany.

East German workers are concerned that savings and pensions will be wiped out in one stroke by the conversion to the West German mark, which is worth seven times more than the East German mark. For example, a savings account of 700 East German marks would suddenly be worth 100 West German marks. West German officials are discussing special rates of exchange that would soften the blow.

Belt-tightening measures — including layoffs and slashing state subsidies for basic commodities in the East — brought about by reunification will sharply increase unem-

ployment and hardships. At some weekly East German demonstrations, signs which once read "Reunification" or "Communists Out" are now being replaced with posters that read "Protect Our Social Benefits" and "No Unemployment," the February 2 *New York Times* reported.

The massive pool of cheap skilled labor in East Germany is already being used to pressure West German workers to moderate wage demands. *Business Week* reported that the 2.6 million-member IG Metall labor union is tempering its demands for a 9 percent wage increase. A member of the Institute for East Market Research in Hamburg predicts that West German employers will be emboldened and attempt to cut the wages of their workers by as much as 30 percent.

West German officials are also preparing to raise taxes on working people in the West to foot the estimated \$29 billion tab for immediate direct annual subsidies to the East after reunification to cover pensions, housing and unemployment benefits, and transportation improvements.

Hands off British miners' union!

A scurrilous slander campaign against leaders of the British National Union of Mineworkers and the International Miners Organisation, unleashed by the big-business media, is being used in an attempt to oust the union leaders, discredit the miners' groups, and divide union miners in Britain and internationally. The employers and their press have seized on public statements of a former NUM staff member attacking NUM and IMO officials.

The entire labor movement in Britain, miners worldwide, fighting Eastern strikers, and all working people should immediately condemn this frame-up of mine union leaders Arthur Scargill and Peter Heathfield.

Allegations made by former NUM officer Roger Windsor — backed by media billionaire Robert Maxwell, journalist Roger Cook, and a chorus of anticommunist and antilabor politicians and union officials — are a fraud.

By charging Scargill and Heathfield with misuse of union funds supposedly received from the Libyan government and with the squandering of money donated by unionists to British miners on strike, Windsor and his accomplices hope to slander the union leaders and compromise them in the eyes of miners and other workers in Britain and internationally.

Far from giving a tinker's damn about the plunder of workers' money as they claim, the racist anti-Libyan bile spewed by Windsor and billionaire union-haters is really an attempt to undercut the NUM leadership and the international solidarity British miners and their leaders have spearheaded.

The IMO was born out of one of the most significant labor battles to unfold in Western Europe or North America in a decade — the British miners' strike of 1984–85.

While the strikers didn't win their demands, they mounted a massive fight, reaching out and winning allies among working people and unionists throughout Britain, Europe, and the world. In the course of this battle hundreds

of British miners were transformed and began to develop a greater international awareness. The understanding and commitment of these working-class fighters continues as a definite trend in the labor movement in Britain and internationally.

In September 1985, several months after the strike ended, miners formed the IMO in an attempt to continue the international solidarity demonstrated during the British miners' fight.

Today the IMO encompasses miners' federations and organizations from 43 countries. The IMO is a real conquest of battle and continues to hold international conferences, bring together miners to discuss common challenges, and spearhead solidarity with fighting miners from Australia to Namibia.

During the recent strike by union miners at Pittston Coal Group in Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky, the IMO launched a solidarity campaign appealing to its affiliates to support the fight. The May–September 1989 *IMO Journal* carried an update on the Pittston strike and an interview with United Mine Workers of America President Richard Trumka.

All working people stand to suffer a blow if a police "inquiry" to investigate Scargill, Heathfield, and the miners' groups is allowed, opening the entire memberships of both labor organizations up to scrutiny and victimization by the frame-up artists.

Working people and defenders of democratic rights should join with Scargill, Heathfield, and the NUM and IMO memberships in denouncing the false charges and slanders.

Messages of solidarity should be sent to the National Union of Mineworkers, Holly Street, Sheffield, South Yorkshire S1 2GT, England, and to the International Miners Organisation; 119, rue Pierre-Semard; 93000 BOBIGNY, France.

African revolution and the fight for women's freedom

BY DOUG JENNESS

Two weeks ago in this column I urged readers to get a copy of the *New International* magazine featuring the article "The Coming Revolution in South Africa" by Jack Barnes. That recommendation bears repeating because the immensity of what's going on in South Africa today and the scope of the openings for freedom fighters there dictate that we develop as thorough an understanding of these events as we can.

Reading, studying, and discussing this article — along with the Freedom Charter and the speech by African National Congress President Oliver Tambo that appear in the same issue — are essential for appreciating the class forces, aims, and trajectory of the national, democratic revolution in South Africa.

In this spirit the Young Socialist Alliance has decided to organize classes around the *New International* article and

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

activists selling *The Struggle is My Life* by Nelson Mandela are also carrying with them copies of the *New International* to sell. (See article on page 3.)

Along with these materials on South Africa there is another excellent publication I would like to suggest readers get. Pathfinder has just published a pamphlet, *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle* by Thomas Sankara, who was the central leader of the popular, democratic revolution in Burkina Faso until his murder in October 1987. (See ad on page 10.)

The principal piece in this pamphlet is a speech Sankara presented to a rally of several thousand women in Burkina's capital city of Ouagadougou on March 8, 1987, celebrating International Women's Day.

A section from the revolution's basic programmatic document, Sankara's 1983 Political Orientation Speech is also included. Both items have already appeared in English in Pathfinder's collection, *Thomas Sankara Speaks*. Presenting them in a short pamphlet, however, makes these important contributions more accessible to a broader audience.

There are three main elements to Sankara's 1987 speech.

The first is his explanation of the origins of women's oppression. He states that the unequal and oppressive conditions women face emerged with the birth of class society. Frederick Engels, the 19th century communist and political collaborator of Karl Marx, traced "the historic enslavement of women," Sankara said, "which occurred with the appearance of private property, when one mode of production gave way to another, and when one form of social organization replaced another."

Sankara added, "Humankind first knew slavery with the advent of private property. Man, master of his slaves and of the land, became in addition the woman's master. This was the historic defeat of the female sex."

The communist leader from Africa noted that "inequality can be done away with only by establishing a new society, where men and women will enjoy equal rights, resulting from an upheaval in the means of production and in all social relations," that is by eliminating "the system that exploits them."

Sankara explained that under capitalism both the majority of women and of men are exploited, which "binds them together historically" and provides the basis for united struggle against common exploitation. But this "must not cause us to lose sight of the specific reality of the woman's situation." If the oppression of women is not recognized and addressed, especially by men, it can lead to "waging a sex war when what we need is a war of classes or parties, waged together, side by side."

The second component of Sankara's speech is his concrete description of the way women are oppressed in Burkina Faso. He deals with conditions of a particularly underdeveloped country that are not familiar to most people from Europe and North America or even a good many semicolonial countries. In addition to staggering illiteracy, heavy domestic burdens, and widespread prostitution, women are victimized by food taboos, dowries, forced marriages, female circumcision, the filing of teeth, tattoos, and other forms of bodily mutilation. You "do violence to your body to be acceptable to men," Sankara told the mobilization of women. "You hurt yourselves so that men can hurt you even more!"

The third element is Sankara's perspective for women to organize themselves to fight. In this regard, he pointed out, one of the biggest conquests of the revolution was the formation of the Women's Union of Burkina (UFB). He then discussed a plan of action for the UFB and the revolutionary government.

These were all presented within the framework that "the struggle of the Burkinabè woman is part of a worldwide struggle of all women and, beyond that, part of the struggle for the full rehabilitation of our continent. Thus, women's emancipation is at the heart of the question of humanity itself, here and everywhere." That succinct description could well go on our banner in every country as we mark this week the 80th anniversary of International Women's Day.

Keep sanctions against S. Africa

"The coming years are the most crucial in our history, and if there is a time we need more support and massive resources to mobilize our people in South Africa, it is now," Nelson Mandela told a delegation of U.S. congressmen in Zambia on March 1.

Mandela's appeal comes as the South African people enter a period of decisive battles for a democratic, nonracial republic in South Africa. Important gains have already been won, including the unbanning of the African National Congress (ANC) and other anti-apartheid organizations and the freeing of Mandela himself.

The exposure in South Africa of the existence of government-sponsored death squads, the rising tide of revolt in the bantustans or "homelands," and the growing protests of jailed anti-apartheid fighters demanding their freedom are signs that the struggle against apartheid is gaining momentum.

In the midst of these advances, a movement among capitalist politicians and governments internationally to lift economic and political sanctions against the racist regime has begun to stir debate as apartheid's allies look for justification to aid the ailing outlaw regime.

Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has spearheaded this drive by lifting a ban on new British investments in South Africa.

Chief Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi, chief administrator of the homeland of KwaZulu and an opponent of sanctions,

met with President George Bush in Washington to urge him to lift sanctions as soon as he legally can. Bush has already decided to send Vice-president Danforth Quayle to South Africa soon and has invited South African President F.W. de Klerk to visit the United States.

The U.S. congressional delegation, composed of seven Democrats and two Republicans, that met with Mandela is weighing whether to recommend to the U.S. Congress lifting aspects of the 1986 Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act.

Moves are also afoot to change the International Monetary Fund policy of denying loans to South Africa, which has applied for a \$250 million loan.

The ANC is countering these moves with a broad appeal for existing sanctions to remain in place and for increased efforts to isolate the Pretoria regime. The six leaders of Africa's Frontline States have backed the ANC's appeal after meeting with Mandela February 28, calling for "comprehensive, mandatory sanctions against racist South Africa."

Opponents of apartheid worldwide should heed this appeal and step up demands on Washington, London, Paris, and other imperialist governments. Applying the maximum international pressure against the apartheid regime now will be decisive in helping to push forward the historic opportunities that have opened up in South Africa to rid the world of the heinous apartheid system.

'Militant' raises its cover price

Beginning with this week's issue, the cover price of the *Militant* is now \$1.25.

The costs of printing, mailing, and shipping the *Militant* have increased on all levels since the last time we raised the price of the paper three years ago.

Postage rates in the United States are ever-rising, and on March 6 the U.S. Postal Service announced plans for yet another rate hike to take effect at the end of this year. Postage rates are rising internationally as well.

In addition, the rates for express mail services and couriers, which we use to ship bundles of the *Militant* so that distributors can begin selling the paper the Saturday following the printing, have also gone up.

We now send subscriptions by special air freight couriers directly to post offices in many parts of the United States. This method is expensive but necessary because of the continuing deterioration of second-class mail. If steps like this are not taken, readers often will not receive the paper for up to two weeks after it's printed.

The increase in the cover price of the *Militant* is essential to continue publishing the kind of newspaper readers want and expect. Readers depend on the *Militant* for a weekly source of information and a weekly guide to activity.

Unlike big-business dailies owned by wealthy families and sustained by millions of dollars of paid advertisements, the *Militant* is supported by working people.

It's workers and their allies who buy and read the paper around the world and who volunteer their time writing, taking photographs, designing, editing, producing, shipping, and distributing the *Militant* every week.

The *Militant* doesn't have a millionaire benefactor bankrolling its operation. In fact, millionaires aren't known to be backers and supporters of the workers' press — they invest their riches in their own newspapers that tell their side of stories.

To be able to publish the *Militant*, a paper that unconditionally stands on the side of working people the world over — and tells the truth about their struggles — workers must be the backbone of its support.

Many appreciate the value of the *Militant* and are willing to do what is necessary to see to it that the paper is published professionally; that reporters can go to the scene of the action — whether it's Eastern picket lines at the local airport, or Johannesburg, South Africa; and that the paper gets into the hands of those who need it on time.

Human rights can't get Washington's signature

BY ERLING SANNES

BISMARCK, N.D. — Many *Militant* readers are perhaps unaware that had the U.S. government ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Covenant, jailed unionist and political activist Mark Curtis would not have had to depend on a delegation of supporters to present the injustice of his trial and conviction to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

As a response to the Nazi atrocities in the 1930s and 1940s and widespread human rights violations in other countries, including the internment of U.S. citizens and

AS I SEE IT

residents of Japanese ancestry in the United States, the United Nations in 1948 adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Following the adoption of this declaration, the UN Commission on Human Rights, after many years of discussion and debate, agreed on a draft of the remainder of the International Bill of Rights, one part of which is the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and an Optional Protocol.

The Covenant and Protocol were both adopted by the UN General Assembly on Dec. 16, 1966. After ratification by the requisite number of world states — 20 — the Covenant and Protocol entered into force as international law on March 23, 1976.

The Covenant is, in effect, a treaty requiring governments which have signed the document to ensure numerous specified human rights. Some of these rights are the right to life, a fair trial, freedom from arbitrary arrest, and freedom of

conscience, expression, and association. For example:

- Article 6 provides that in countries that have not abolished the death penalty, the death penalty may be imposed only for the most serious crimes, and no death sentence may be imposed for crimes committed before age 18 or be carried out on pregnant women.

- Article 7 provides that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

- Article 10 provides that all persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person.

- Article 14 provides that all persons shall be equal before the courts and everyone shall be entitled to a fair and impartial trial. Everyone charged with a criminal offense shall have the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty.

There are many other guarantees written into the 53 articles of the Covenant for those charged with criminal offenses.

The Optional Protocol is a separate treaty that establishes a procedure for individuals to submit written complaints of violations of any of the rights set forth in the Covenant. There is also established under the Protocol an 18-member Human Rights Committee (not to be confused with the United Nations Commission on Human Rights) to act on such complaints. Only states that have ratified the Covenant are entitled to membership on the Human Rights Committee. Individual complaints may be made only against a state that ratified the Optional Protocol.

The membership of the Human Rights Committee includes experts on a wide range of political, social, and legal systems.

Ninety-four countries of the world have signed or ratified the Covenant and 48 have either signed or ratified the Protocol. The revolutionary government in Nicaragua ratified both the Covenant and Protocol in 1980. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter signed the Covenant in 1977 but did not sign the Protocol.

Carter sent the Covenant to the U.S. Senate, where it still lies, never acted upon. In a letter to the U.S. Senate, Carter proposed that the United States, when it finally approves the Covenant, reserve for itself the right to impose the death penalty on any person, including children and pregnant women. The right to execute people for insignificant crimes was also among the Carter recommendations.

However, even though Congress has not approved this human rights accord, Washington is still considered a party to it on the basis of an earlier UN treaty. The Vienna Convention of Laws and Treaties, which Washington has ratified, provides that the United Nations shall hold a member state to be a party to UN treaties when they are signed by the chief executive of the member state, irrespective of the ratification process the various world states go through.

But because the U.S. government does not consider itself party to the UN's human rights covenant, complaints of individuals like Mark Curtis cannot be submitted directly. Washington tries to present itself to the world as being a bastion of human rights, while reserving for itself the right to pick and choose to live up to only those treaties which best serve its own interests and flagrantly ignoring and violating the rights of its own citizens, such as Mark Curtis, Leonard Peltier, Geronimo Pratt, and a host of others.

LETTERS

Retain King's name

The fight to retain the name Martin Luther King, Jr. on a major Portland avenue was launched at a spirited rally February 11. More than 300 people, mostly Blacks, cheered religious leaders and elected officials who pledged to support the fight.

A racist campaign, which collected thousands of signatures on petitions, has forced a public referendum on the issue, scheduled for May 15. Organizers of the initiative, Walter and Rosalie Huss, claim they are merely protesting an "undemocratic procedure" by the city council in naming the street for King.

The Husses are no newcomers to racist politics. In the 1960s they published racist articles and attempted to smear King, calling him a "communist." In the 1980s they campaigned against a state holiday in King's honor.

City Commissioner Mike Lindberg pointed out at the rally that racist violence is on the rise in Portland, reviewing the 1988 murder of an Ethiopian worker, Mulugeta Seraw, by skinheads.

The Retain MLK Blvd. Committee is raising \$165,000 to open an office and begin door-to-door canvassing of the city to counter the Huss campaign.

Joe Kear
Portland, Oregon

Panama protest

A recent speak-out at the University of Alabama in Birmingham involved a number of activists protesting the U.S. invasion and occupation of Panama. Participants included speakers from the Young Socialist Alliance, Veterans for Peace, National Organization for Women, several Central America solidarity groups, and the 21st Century Youth,

an organization active in the Selma school boycott.

Merriam McLendon, who chaired the event, pointed out the role of the media in distorting the facts about the invasion and withholding information from the U.S. public. Jane Schrimpf of the YSA explained the attacks on trade union offices since the invasion. "Instead of exporting democracy, the United States is exporting good old American-style union-busting," she said.

Some 35 people attended, and several expressed interest in the Pathfinder literature table.

Laura Telquist
Birmingham, Alabama

Salute Mandela

We need to understand why the African people are suffering today and in the past in "South Africa."

The Dutch were the first invaders in South Africa, setting up a Dutch East India Company to control trading by stealing the Africans' wealth.

The British also wanted control, so they attacked the Dutch. Throughout the years they capitalized off the Africans' labor through exploitation, making the Africans work the mines while the British reaped the profits. The Africans' forced labor was cheap, and Africans' minerals — gold, diamonds, iron, vanadium, coal, chrome, asbestos, antimony, manganese, uranium, and platinum — were sold to supply Europeans throughout the world.

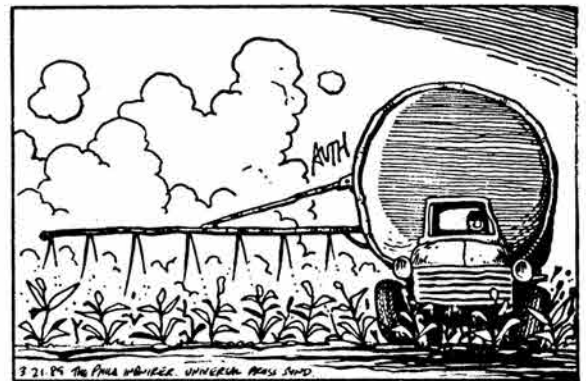
The Europeans have enslaved Africans in their own land and racially divided the wealth of the country only for the benefit of the Europeans.

On February 11 Nelson Mandela left maximum security prison to return to the minimum security prison of neocolonialism and economic exploitation.

But we freedom fighters and political prisoners salute you Nelson Mandela with a clenched fist, saying, "Uhuru sasa. Umoja sasa." (Freedom now. Unity now.)
An African freedom fighter
Indiana State Prison
Michigan City, Indiana

Censorship in Texas

First, let me thank you for renewing my subscription. The *Militant* gives me the opportunity to keep informed of the struggle going on by the workers of this world, a struggle that I'll believe in until we have won.



Since writing to you, the censorship here in Texas has grown even worse. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice is violating the constitutional rights of prisoners by denying us the right to send unopened inmate-to-press correspondence to the editorial staffs of legitimate media organizations. Delivery of unopened media mail is denied by officials unless the media organization is listed in the Gale directory of publications.

The use of only one directory restricts the opportunity to send and receive correspondence and publications. It sanctions a device for suppression of communications between the media and prisoners.

Access to the media without fear of retaliation or the threat of censorship gives the incarcerated person an opportunity to communicate with the general public. This is a right under the First Amendment.

A prisoner
Loveland, Texas

More repression

As we enter the 1990s, conditions in prison are becoming more deplorable and repressive. In New York, deaths resulting from suicide, poor medical care, and beatings by guards have risen since the 1971 Attica uprising. New identification procedures for visitors that unnecessarily invade their privacy are being implemented.

Harassment and isolation of po-

litical prisoners is proliferating. At the Iowa State Men's Reformatory, where framed political and union activist Mark Curtis is being held, prisoners are subjected to new phone-call and incoming-mail restrictions, as well as being denied the right to receive literature and correspondence in languages other than English.

The Close Supervision Unit at the Marion federal penitentiary in Illinois is used to intimidate and isolate political prisoners and those who protest racist and unjust conditions.

After more than a year, ex-Black Panther Bashir Hameed (James York) remains in the segregation unit at Shawangunk State Prison in Wallkill, New York, for trying to get the Close Supervision Unit shut down. Although the Lexington Control Unit in Kentucky was closed, a new women's control unit has been built in Marianna, Florida.

There is evidence of an effort to increase the persecution and control of political activists and prisoners to be able to exploit their labor. In 1989 the federal prison system earned more than \$200 million from prison labor.

Conditions can be expected to get worse, not better. The new frame-up against Curtis shows how far prison officials will go.

As officials step up the repression, prisoners must organize against any attempt to treat them as less than human beings. Allowing oppression

to go unchallenged sends a dangerous signal to officials. As one prisoner recently said to me, "If we don't challenge racism and oppression in prison, we can expect some pretty tough years ahead."

Kenya Nkrumah
Bronx, New York

'Give blood'

A worker at a Siemens plant in North Manchester, England, tells us that on the manager's door — in a department notorious for its poor conditions, and low pay and safety standards — appears another, new demand: "Give Blood!"

What else do they want?
Pete Kennedy
Manchester, England

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.

Correction

In the February 16 issue of the *Militant* an article on a chemical leak at the Rhône-Poulenc plant in Institute, West Virginia, misnames a committee of unionists and environmentalists as Safety and Full Employment. The name of the group is Safe and Fair Employment (SAFE).

Salvador students hold rally

University group begins to reorganize after gov't crackdown

BY SELVA NEBBIA
AND SETH GALINSKY

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — La Rotonda at first glance looks like an abandoned building. It has no windows, most of its roof is missing, and the walls are full of cracks and holes. Once inside, though, the structure is full of life, as young people sit on old school desks, pieces of wood, and bricks or mill around in its halls.

Students at the University of El Salvador have been using this building as their campus for the past couple of months. They moved in after the main campus of the UES was occupied on November 12 by the First Infantry Brigade of the Salvadoran army, part of the government crackdown during the military offensive by the forces of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN).

The UES student government, the General Association of University Students (AGEUS), was forced into hiding during the crackdown. It is just now beginning to reorganize itself.

Arrests, disappearances

In the first weeks after the university was taken over by the military and closed, several students and university personnel were arrested, including some 13 custodial workers. Dagoberto Aguirre Cornejo, the editor of the student paper *El Universitario*, disappeared in mid-November; his body was found on December 21.

Vinicio Peñate, president of AGEUS, was arrested last December and released on February 12 after an international campaign was organized in his behalf.

As a result of the occupation, the campus facilities have suffered considerable damage, explained UES Acting President Wilfredo Barillas.

"At the medical school, for example, all the doors in the building were broken. The fourth floor was damaged by fire," he pointed out. "Many typewriters were missing and many damaged. The file cabinets had all been



Militant/Selva Nebbia
Popular folkloric group Xolotl plays February 23 at first public rally held by University of El Salvador student association since November.

forced open and their contents scattered all over."

On February 23, 300 students at La Rotonda attended a rally sponsored by AGEUS demanding the withdrawal of all troops from UES and the immediate turning over of the campus to university authorities. The rally was followed by a concert by a popular folkloric group, Xolotl. Banners on the walls read, "The UES refuses to die."

In an interview on February 24, Juan Antonio, organizational secretary of AGEUS, said, "Yesterday's rally was our first public event since the state of siege was decreed

November 11. The rally gave us in AGEUS a big boost to know so many students are behind us," the 23-year-old law student added.

Under the current state of siege, the student leader pointed out, all guarantees of constitutional rights have been suspended. For example, meetings of more than five people need authorization from the army. Those arrested can be held up to 15 days before being brought before a judge, he said. It used to be 72 hours.

Juan Antonio described the current situation facing UES students. "This building you see here," he said, gesturing to the decaying Rotonda, had to be abandoned after it was

damaged by the army during a wave of repression in 1981. The building, which has not been repaired since, is today shared by the UES medical school and the department of economics.

"Other departments hold classes in buildings throughout the city," said Juan Antonio.

Beginning to regroup

"By closing the main campus down, the army high command and the government were hoping to dismember the student body and destroy our organizations. But we have persevered, and our student organizations are beginning to regroup, despite the state of siege imposed following November 11," the AGEUS leader said.

Some 35,000 students attend UES. It is a public university. Tuition is 50 colones (US\$7.25) a semester. "The sons and daughters of El Salvador's poor workers and peasants go to this school," Juan Antonio pointed out. "That is why we have never been indifferent to the struggles of the people."

"The army had been waiting for an excuse to take over the campus," said the student leader. "The campus had in fact been surrounded by the First Infantry Brigade since December 1988. November 11 was their excuse to come in, claiming the offensive was masterminded at the university."

As the interview with Juan Antonio was taking place, students were getting ready to go into the streets to distribute leaflets with the first statement put out by AGEUS since the state of siege was declared.

"The current state of siege has put a big limit on our ability to function," said the law student. "Our political space has been closed, and we must now find ways to open it up again. Yesterday's rally was an example of this."

"The democratic openings we had before November were not given to us by the regime; we had to fight for them. Now we must regain them."

The main question before the UES today, the AGEUS leader pointed out, is to recover the main campus "so we can begin to work as one student body again."

"The minister of education gave us a verbal promise to reopen the campus by the beginning of February," said Juan Antonio. But even after this commitment, the army refused to allow the university administration on the main campus.

Negotiations are now under way for the reopening of UES, explained Barillas. "The first step we have agreed on with the army is to carry out an inventory of the material on the premises," explained the UES acting president. The army has agreed to let in 100 university representatives to carry this out, he said. "The process should take about a month." The inventory is scheduled to begin February 28.

"This university has gone through many difficult times throughout our history," said Barillas. "But we will not give up. The UES refuses to die."

Socialist candidates back Eastern strike

BY BERNIE SENTER

PITTSBURGH — Socialist Workers Party candidates in West Virginia joined a march of 600 Eastern Airlines strikers and supporters here at the Greater Pittsburgh International Airport March 4 celebrating the strikers' one-year battle against Eastern Airlines.

Dick McBride, candidate for U.S. Senate from West Virginia, and Maggie McCraw and Clay Dennison, candidates for state treasurer and attorney general, came here along with other unionists from the region to participate in the strike solidarity event.

McBride, McCraw, and Dennison have been active in building solidarity with the Eastern strike since it began a year ago. They plan to step up their efforts during the election campaign to get the word out across West Virginia about the Machinists members' fight, join picket lines and strike support actions, and collaborate with other workers to widen solidarity in the labor movement for the battle.

After the airport march the candidates went with a delegation of 50 workers to the picket line of unionists on strike against Greyhound Lines and extended their support.

McBride, a garment worker; Dennison, a coal miner; and McCraw, a metal worker, launched their campaign at a conference in Morgantown, West Virginia, on February 25. They will be leading a major petitioning effort to win ballot status for the SWP ticket. The petitioning drive kicks off March 17 and will run through April 7. The candidates and

their supporters will be canvassing the West Virginia coalfields, discussing their campaign with workers, farmers, and students and collecting the 13,000 needed signatures.

Before coming up for the airport action, McBride and Dennison attended a labor solidarity rally in Fairmont, West Virginia, March 3 in support of unionists in struggle in the region. Eastern strikers joined union coal miners, tree-trimmers on strike, fighting laundry workers, fire fighters, and metal workers at the labor event. The candidates met and discussed politics with the participants.

"The Eastern strike and Pittston coal fight have convinced many workers that now is the time to fight," said McBride. "I'm for the miners, tree-trimmers, laundry workers all the way — 100 percent. I will use my campaign to explain to everyone I can what you're fighting for," he explained to unionists as he distributed campaign material.

"I'm a socialist," McBride told people right off. "We need a government of workers and farmers that will put the well-being of all members of society first."

One tree-trimmer responded, "I can go along with that." Others were interested in learning more about the campaign. A steelworker agreed with the candidate that conditions were getting worse for working people. "Homeless people, people sleeping in cars — we've got to take care of them too," he said.

Dennison explained to fellow miners that he would use every platform he could get

during the campaign to defend framed-up union miners facing criminal charges from strike activities.

During the first week of the socialist campaign, McCraw began talking about it with her coworkers at Elkem Metals in the town of Alloy, just outside Charleston. One of her opponents showed up to tour the plant.

"I'm running against you for treasurer," McCraw told Democratic Party candidate Dee Caperton, who then laughed. "I'm quite serious," said the socialist candidate. "We need working people to run for office, not millionaires."

A coworker later commented, "Doesn't Caperton know this is a free country? Workers can run for office."

Protest U.S. war in El Salvador

Join March 24 actions in . . .

Washington, D.C. — Assemble 10 a.m. at Capitol building for march to the White House.

San Francisco — Assemble Jefferson Square Park, corner of Gough and Turk streets, for march to Civic Center Plaza.

Seattle — Assemble 2 p.m. at Seattle Center Flag Plaza for march and rally.

For more information call the national coalition for the Archbishop Romero Commemoration and March to End the U.S. War in Central America at (202) 483-3911 in Washington, D.C.

Austin, Texas — Assemble 2 p.m. at Federal Building for march to the Pan American Recreation Center.

Omaha, Nebraska — Assemble 11 a.m. at Creighton University for march to courthouse.

Los Angeles — On Sunday, March 25, assemble 11 a.m. at Olympic and Broadway for march to city hall.