

Machinists at United face blow if buyout occurs

BY MATILDE ZIMMERMANN
AND PATTI HIYAMA

On May 10 nearly 26,000 members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) who work at United Airlines will vote on a new five-year contract proposing a buyout of the airline through an employee stock ownership plan, or ESOP. Included in the pact is the IAM's "share" of the \$2 billion in concessions being pressed on United employees to make the buyout of the second-largest U.S. airline possible.

If approved, and if the ESOP goes through, it will constitute a blow to the workers and unions at United, to the Machinists union as a whole, and to the entire labor movement.

The Association of Flight Attendants, representing 12,700 workers, has already approved the buyout plan by mail vote. The leadership of the 6,300 Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) members at United has also ratified the proposal.

Last month the board of directors of UAL — United's parent company — accepted the \$4.38 billion buyout offer made by officials of the IAM, ALPA, and Flight Attendants and by representatives of United's noncontract employees.

If the plan goes through, United employees will have to borrow \$3.5 billion for the cash purchase of United stock shares and \$1 billion to refinance existing debt. If bank financing can be obtained, the deal may be closed by the end of 1990.

The buyout loan would add \$400-500 million to United's annual interest payments. Company profits, however, have never exceeded \$350 million in one year, and United just reported a loss of \$36.4 million for the first quarter of 1990, a period when other major airlines also posted losses.

National and local IAM officials are strongly urging acceptance of the contract. In an April 25 letter to Machinists at United, IAM District 141 President Louis Schroeder said, "The ESOP that is being offered to you is a viable and workable plan. It will give

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Cuba May 1 marches protest U.S. threats

U.S. Navy's latest maneuvers denounced

BY JON HILLSON

HAVANA, Cuba — On May 1 more than 3 million Cubans marched in dozens of cities throughout the country to demonstrate their commitment to the defense of Cuba's sovereignty.

The following day, Operation "Escudo Cubano" — Cuban Shield — began in response to U.S. naval maneuvers in the region. News of Washington's latest provocations had appeared April 30 on the front page of *Granma*, Cuba's main daily newspaper.

The announcement by Cuba's Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (MINFAR) noted the arrival of several U.S. ships off Guantánamo, the U.S. naval base maintained against Havana's wishes on the southeastern tip of the island.

Cuba's countermeasures will involve exercises headed by the country's top military leaders, general staffs, and the national defense system in "diverse regions of the national territory," the MINFAR stated.

Participating in Cuban Shield are regular troops of the Cuban armed forces, Territorial Troop Militia, and production and defense brigades.

News of the U.S. maneuvers reached hundreds of thousands of Havana residents as they prepared to march on May Day.

The May Day march was led by 2,000 hard-hatted members of the Blas Roca contingent, whose units of volunteer workers are currently building hotels and a railroad connection. The procession was dotted with minibrigade units of men and women construction workers involved in a variety of voluntary labor projects. Festive and creative floats depicted the daily work of Havana's residents — from shoe factories to biotechnology centers to housing construction. Most marchers were members of Cuba's 17 national labor unions.

Members of the African National Congress of South Africa, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front of El Salvador, and an international delegation of unionists from Europe, the Soviet Union, Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the United States participated in the march. A contingent from the

Venceremos Brigade, a U.S. organization in solidarity with Cuba, also marched.

Signs, banners, and floats denounced TV Martí, one of Washington's latest anti-Cuba projects. Successfully jammed by Cuban technicians when it began broadcasting in March, TV Martí transmits from Florida to the island over Cuban airwaves.

One float portrayed a huge television set, with a caricature of Uncle Sam cursing the inability of TV Martí to penetrate Cuba.

Chant after chant echoed from the crowd, "Pa'lo que sea, Fidel, pa'lo que sea" — "Ready for anything, Fidel, ready for anything" — ready for anything in defense of socialism.

"We are not alone," read one popular placard. "Principles, morale, and truth accompany us."

Similar marches took place across the island on May Day: 250,000 in Santiago, 200,000 in Caimito, 200,000 in Ciego de Ávila, and 100,000 in Guantánamo, among others. The demonstrations served notice to "our enemies that we can never be surprised," explained Pedro Ross Leal, general secretary of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, to the huge throng in Havana.

"We live in unprecedented moments," the former construction worker explained. "We advance firmly in the process of rectification."

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Miami cops attack Eastern strikers on picket line



Militant/Susan Zárate

Cops, escorting scabs (in white shirts), attacked picket line of 500 Eastern Airlines strikers and supporters held in Miami April 25. Following appointment of trustee to run Eastern, strikers in New York, Pittsburgh, and other cities are moving ahead with new round of actions.

BY ZENA McFADDEN

MIAMI — Nearly 500 Eastern Airlines strikers and supporters swelled the picket lines April 25 for a "Farewell to Lorenzo" action, held at the 36th Street gates to Eastern's headquarters at Miami International Airport. The action came one week after Frank Lorenzo, head of Eastern's parent company Texas Air Corp., was removed from Eastern management by a federal bankruptcy court in New York.

The strikers, who hold expanded picket lines each Friday, were joined by four bus loads of delegates from the International Association of Machinists National Transportation Conference, which was taking place in nearby Hallandale.

The picket line reflected strikers' determination to keep fighting until an acceptable contract is won at Eastern. The militant chants were echoed by honking and cheers from

passing cars and trucks along busy 36th Street, where scabs cross over from Eastern's gates to their parking lots.

The demonstrators jeered as scabs poked their heads out of hangar doors to see what all the commotion was about. As quitting time neared, union members formed a gauntlet along the sidewalks where the scabs had to pass to reach their cars. Some 30 club-wielding cops, including a number on horseback, stood ready to escort the scabs through.

Eastern dismissed the scabs in packs, and a chorus of boos and jeers went up from strikers and other Machinists. Angered, one scab poked his finger in the face of Bobby Depace, an IAM conference delegate from New York who happened to be in the front ranks of the picket. As Depace moved to defend himself, cops rushed him, threw him to the ground, handcuffed him behind his

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Nicaragua: Chamorro forms bloc with Sandinista Front

BY LARRY SEIGLE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — In her first days in office, Violeta Chamorro has formed what is in effect a coalition government with the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). The president and her advisers view the collaboration of the FSLN as essential to keeping the struggles of workers and farmers in check and to maintaining the army as a reliable instrument of the capitalist state.

The emergence of the pact between the Chamorro forces and the Sandinista Front led immediately to the breakup of the bloc known as the National Opposition Union (UNO). Chamorro was elected on the UNO ticket in February. A wing of the defunct alliance, headed by Vice-president Virgilio Godoy, has now gone into open opposition, accusing the Chamorro group of betraying the fight against *sandinismo*.

The contras have taken the Chamorro-FSLN coalition as their latest pretext for refusing to disarm. "We feel betrayed," contra chief Israel Galeano told a correspondent of

the ACAN-EFE news service. "It isn't normal that only 48 hours after the inauguration Mrs. Chamorro should have negotiated with the Sandinistas to the point that right now they are sharing the government."

The mercenary troops abandoned their encampments in Honduras last month and have been moving into so-called security zones inside Nicaragua, established by an accord signed April 19. They were supposed to start turning in their weapons to United Nations monitors April 25, with the disarming to be completed by June 10.

But instead of demobilization areas, the security zones — from which all government troops have been withdrawn — are becoming contra-dominated territory. From these new positions, the counterrevolutionaries are posing an increasing serious military and political problem for the new government, and a danger to working people.

The major institutional expressions to date of the Chamorro-FSLN coalition are the re-

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Britain team sells at every mine in South Wales

BY FRANK ALEXANDER

CARDIFF, Wales — Beginning with the first week of the international circulation drive, supporters of the *Militant* have been canvassing the British coalfields introducing the

and others bought copies of the *Militant* and 10 subscribed.

On April 21 several hundred miners, members of the National Union of Mineworkers working at the Blaenau colliery in South Wales,

"At the present moment we are fighting the Coal Board," said Phil Bowen, NUM lodge secretary at Blaenau. The miners decided to meet again soon to discuss whether or not to pursue the review procedure on the closure. This would give them five more months of work before any ruling could be handed down.

At the meeting 13 miners picked up copies of the *Militant*, and five who didn't have the money on them gave supporters their addresses to be visited later. The team was confident that many of these miners could be convinced to sign up for an introductory subscription.

Resistance continues

Despite the shutdown of most pits in South Wales, resistance continues day by day against further job losses, contracting out of work, and attempts to undermine union rights.

At the Betws colliery contractors employ 120 workers, one of the highest numbers of contract workers in the coalfields. Fighting further encroachments on the work done by NUM members is an ongoing struggle, said Betws NUM Secretary Mike Reynolds. Twelve miners at the Betws pithead bought copies of the *Militant*, and six gave their addresses for future visits.

South Africa coverage

During the course of the week the struggle to end apartheid in South Africa featured in many discussions. Many miners were interested in reading the *Militant's* firsthand reports and one NUM lodge at the Maerdy colliery told supporters about their plans to introduce a motion on the fight against apartheid at the next NUM national conference. Union members planned to propose the lodge take advantage of a special

offer and get *The Struggle Is My Life* by Nelson Mandela, *New International* No. 5, and an introductory subscription to the *Militant*.

Other coalfield teams

Other sales teams throughout the coalfields in Britain have also reported a good response. In Yorkshire at a housing estate in Knottingley, 11 copies of the paper were sold along with two subscriptions. Three people subscribed to the paper at Grimethorpe near Barnsley, 13 bought copies, and two asked team members to return to pick up subscriptions.

Pithead sales to miners going to and from work have been a highlight of the coal teams' activities. In Britain's north western coalfield 41 miners bought copies of the papers at pitheads; on the Durham coalfield team, 22 papers were sold at pitheads.



GETTING THE MILITANT AROUND

paper to miners and other workers.

A team traveling through the South Wales mine region the week of April 16 visited all seven pitheads (mine portals) in the area and went door to door in coal communities. During the week 153 coal miners

met and voted to oppose the closure of their mine by government-owned British Coal. Since the 1984-85 national miners' strike, the government has been shutting down coal pits and has plans to close several more in the South Wales coalfield.

New Jersey socialist tours polluted Arthur Kill

BY MARY ROCHE

NEWARK, N.J. — Hardly a week goes by without some new revelation about the extent to which the land, water, and air — and people — are being poisoned by toxic wastes and industrial pollutants in the United States and around the world.

Since January 1 four major petroleum accidents, mostly from Exxon Corp. operations, have dumped more than 500,000 gallons of oil into the Arthur Kill waterway, which separates New Jersey from Staten Island, New York. Experts estimate the spills have reversed at least 25 years of cleanup work.

The Arthur Kill is located in a major industrial area, which includes such corporations as Exxon, American Cyanamid, Phelps Dodge, DuPont, GATX, Merck, and Hess. On April 19 Socialist Workers Party congressional candidate Georges Mehrabian toured the waterway. He is a chemical operator at Merck pharmaceuticals in nearby Rahway.

A retiree from the American Cyanamid plant along the Kill talked to Mehrabian about the pollutants discharged by corporations into the water and air.

"We can't continue the way we are," he said. "Something should be done about it. They should use more scrubbers, but they don't want to spend the money."

Mehrabian agreed. "Money and technology is available to prevent despoliation of our air and water," he said. "But the corporations, which make massive profits off wealth produced by wage laborers and farmers, are not concerned with preventing ruination of the air, water, soil, forests, and other natural resources. Capitalists look only to the short term."

"The exploiters are driven by one aim," Mehrabian added, "squeezing more profits out of working people."

"Pressure should be brought to bear to have the federal government enforce laws so that Exxon and other companies meet safety requirements, and the regulations should be strengthened."

Joining with others

A recent demonstration at the American Cyanamid plant in Bound Brook, New Jersey, was held to protest the corporation's dumping of mercury wastes in South Africa and its polluting the community. Among the sponsors of the demonstration were the environmental group Greenpeace, the New Jersey Anti-Apartheid Mobilization Coalition, and representatives of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

"This is a good example of the way working people can fight back, joining with others in the struggle to force the employers to implement safeguards against hazardous conditions — on the job and in the environment, here and internationally," Mehrabian said.

"It's important to bring union power to bear," he explained. Mehrabian is a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 8-575. As an example, he cited the victory by OCAW against the BASF Corp. in Louisiana, which locked out the union workers in 1984. A part of their five-year fight was a campaign to make the truth known about the petrochemical company's habitual polluting. OCAW won a new contract in December 1989, and state pollution regulations were also strengthened by the struggle.

"Workers and farmers are exposed every day to toxins and have the greatest interest in eliminating pollutants," Mehrabian said. "We need to be empowered to deal with production processes that pollute."

"We don't need to counterpose saving jobs to protecting the environment," the socialist candidate added. "This is a trap set by the corporations to justify their refusal to spend the money needed to protect the environment."

Plants that cannot be operated safely should be shut down, Mehrabian explained, and the companies should be made responsible for hardship caused to workers whose jobs are eliminated. "The call for a shortened workweek with no reduction in pay, would provide jobs for those displaced by such plant closures," said Mehrabian. This demand, he pointed out, is part of the SWP's Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis, which is available in a Pathfinder pamphlet.

A building superintendent in the area explained to the socialist candidate that he and others fished the Arthur Kill years ago.

"Fishing is not like it used to be," he said. "You can't eat the fish. You see dirt in the water."

Barges with garbage come down the Kill heading for offshore dumps, and garbage gets in the water. "I don't even like it here anymore," the man said.

As Mehrabian spoke to people along the Kill, plastic bottles and other debris could be seen washing up along the shore. According to a recent study, dioxin has been found at the "highest level ever detected in any food

product" in the flesh of finfish and shellfish from the nearby Newark and Raritan bays and in the ocean off Sandy Hook.

The socialist candidate asked Chris, a Black woman walking her dog near the Kill, what she thought about the recent oil spills.

Beaches closed down

"I am concerned," she said. "I went down to Colonial Beach in Virginia last year and we couldn't even get in" because of pollution in the water. Ecologists knew about this situation for a long time, she said. And the corporations "are well aware of what they're doing."

"What strategies are we going to use to protest this?" she asked Mehrabian.

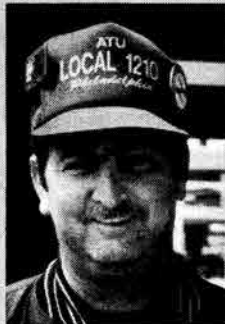
The socialist candidate pointed to the struggle of the Machinists at Eastern Airlines and the fight of the South African people against apartheid as the way forward — working people taking unified action through their unions and other organizations to link up with others in struggle.

"Only by waging a fight against the exploiting class can the polluters be forced to implement safeguards," Mehrabian explained.

"But as long as the private profit system remains," he said, "the limits imposed on the employers can only be temporary and uncertain. There will be more spills, more Bhopals, more waste of our natural resources."

"To reverse the deadly course the capitalists are taking us on," the candidate explained, "working people must take political and economic power out of the hands of the capitalists, eliminate the profit basis, and establish our own rule."

'The Militant tells our side, the working-class side. We've got no government officials or courts on the side of laboring men and women. But we do have ourselves and our solidarity and the Militant tells our story.'



BILL LONG

shop steward, Machinists Local 1776, Philadelphia, on strike at Eastern Airlines

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Cuban economist on socialism, trade with Soviet Union

CLAUDIA HOMMEL
AND CAPPY KIDD

CHICAGO — "Che taught us that the construction of the human being, and not simply the increase of economic indicators, is the principal goal of socialism," Carlos Tablada explained to a meeting of 150 at the University of Illinois here.

Tablada, a Cuban economist, is the author of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*. He is on a six-week U.S. tour speaking on the Cuban revolution, the meaning and significance of Cuba's current rectification process, and Guevara's ideas and work in the building of socialism.

Guevara, a leader of the Cuban revolution, was murdered in Bolivia in 1967. Pathfinder publishes Tablada's book in English and is sponsoring the author's 12-city tour.

Tablada explained at the meeting that "Che Guevara and Fidel [Castro] imagined a different type of socialism than what they saw in the Eastern European countries." A revolution is made, he said, not only to create more material goods, but "to end individualism and to develop individuality; to end base materialism, consumerism, and to develop spirituality; to combat selfishness and develop solidarity."

The meeting was opened by UIC Prof. Otto Pikaza, chairman of the Latin American Studies Department. Professors, students, and members of the United Mine Workers of America from Sheridan, Wyoming, who were in Chicago to build support for their fight against the Decker Coal Co., also came to hear Tablada. UMW Local 2295 member Maurice Moorleghen brought greetings.

During an interview on Chicago's National Public Radio affiliate WBEZ, Tablada was asked, "To what extent does planning actually work given the shambles of Eastern Europe?"

"The difference between a planned economy and a capitalist economy," he said, "is that instead of the profits going to a few, it goes to the whole people. That is why we have free health care and education for all the people of Cuba."

Cuba and the Soviet Union

A second meeting, held at the University of Chicago, drew an audience of 90, mostly students. One asked Tablada if Cuba can "lead an independent economic course" since it "depends on the Soviet Union to the tune of \$5 billion a year?"

"The Soviet Union" he added, "depends on us the same way we depend on them. It costs them 970 rubles per ton of beet sugar. They pay 720 rubles for Cuban sugar, and cane sugar is much better than beet sugar. To buy it on the world market, it costs three or four hundred dollars per ton. Where does the Soviet Union come up with the dollars? Eighty percent of the sugar they consume comes from Cuba and 40 percent of their citrus," Tablada pointed out.

The Soviet Union, he said, needs first-class pharmaceuticals and certain biotechnological products, such as the epidermal regeneration factor for burn victims, which is produced by

only five countries. The United States sells it for over \$1,400 a gram. We can sell it to the Soviet Union for much less, and they need thousands of grams," Tablada noted.

The Cuban economist's tour stop in Chicago was endorsed by Frank Rosen, president of Region 11, United Electrical Workers of America; Prof. John Coatsworth of the University of Chicago; the National Lawyer's Guild, Chicago chapter; Pathfinder Books; and the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador. He was welcomed to the city by the City Council in a resolution that urged the U.S. State Department to "grant more visas to scholars from Cuba."

The president of United Steelworkers of America Local 1014, Larry Regan, sent a message to the meeting, adding his voice to the call for lifting the travel ban and saying he hoped Tablada's visit "brings closer the time when union delegations from the United States and Cuba can visit one another freely to exchange ideas."

Twenty-three copies of Tablada's book in English and four in Spanish were purchased during the tour. Some \$560 of Pathfinder literature was snapped up during the course of the one-day tour.

BY KATE BUTTON

BOSTON — More than 150 people attended a citywide meeting at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology campus here to kick off the Boston leg of Tablada's national tour.

The meeting was opened by Charles Welch, chairperson of MIT's Committee on Central America, which cosponsored the event along with Pathfinder Books.

Ed Clark, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers vice-President and the union's New England Regional Joint Board manager, brought greetings and encouraged "everyone here to read Dr. Tablada's book." Trodville Roache, a member of the National Committee of the Venceremos Brigade, denounced the U.S. government ban on travel to Cuba. Mary Ensara, an executive board member of the Center for Cuban Studies, called for a lifting of the U.S. blockade of Cuba.

Tablada opened his remarks by explaining that prior to the 1959 revolution, "capitalism had many years to solve the problems in my country. But it proved incapable of doing so."

In the early years of the revolution, he said, "We began to organize society along different lines than either the capitalist or socialist countries had ever done."

However, following the worldwide recession in 1973-74, the majority of the Cuban leadership began looking to the economic policies pursued in Eastern Europe as the solution to the economic difficulties facing Cuba, he said.

"This policy was a disaster. The working class became corrupt, the bureaucracy grew corrupt, the women's movement retreated along with the fight against racism." He stressed that the economic ideas of Guevara are key to confronting these problems today.

Cuba marches protest U.S. threats

Continued from front page

with the aim of advancing the revolution." Rectification refers to the process through which Cuba's working people are being mobilized and organized to combat bureaucracy, solve pressing problems, and take on greater responsibility and decision-making in all aspects of social, economic, and political life.

More than any May Day in recent memory, participants said, Havana's youth — led by the city's Union of Young Communists (UJC) — put their stamp on the event.

Young people spilled into the procession staging areas from spirited feeder marches. They participated as union members, high school and college students, military cadets, soldiers, and veterans of Cuba's internationalist missions in Africa and elsewhere.

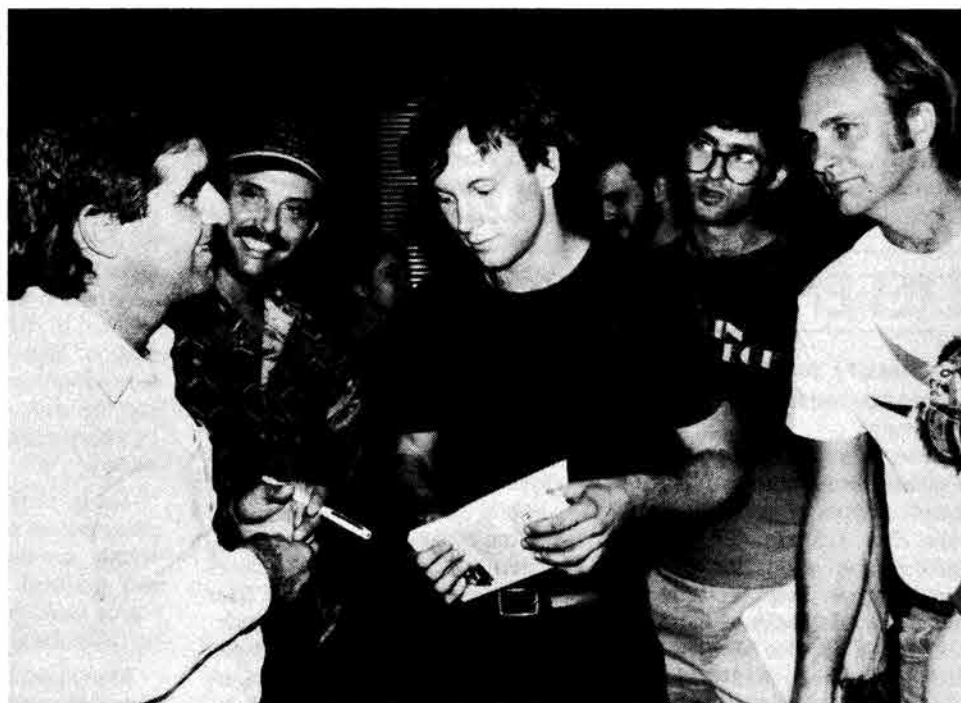
The Young Communists closed the march with a contingent of 10,000, led first by

youths snake-dancing in roller-skates, others sailing colored banners, still more riding bicycles and unicycles, followed by youth in karate outfits demonstrating their skills.

As they passed the huge image of Ernesto Che Guevara, which adorns the Ministry of the Interior, a blizzard of confetti fluttered across Guevara's face, igniting an immense roar from the crowd. Guevara was a prominent leader of the Cuban revolution who was murdered in Bolivia in 1967.

The youth cheered, chanted, and whistled as they streamed by the reviewing stand, saluting guests and leaders of the Cuban revolution, including UJC First Secretary Roberto Robaina and Felipe Pérez, president of the Federation of University Students.

The procession ended with crack military units marching in formation, closed by a women's unit of the Territorial Troop Militia, and the singing of the *Internationale*.



Militant/Selva Nebbia

Students at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, speaking with Tablada (left) after April 24 meeting. Fifty-five participants attended the event sponsored by the Center for Critical Theory and the Marxism and Society Program. At the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, a meeting of 100 people was opened by Dr. Lars Schoutz, director of the Institute of Latin American Studies. Richard Lefteris, president of Machinists Local 641, and Burly Page from the Black Cultural Center also spoke.

During the discussion period Tablada was asked why "capitalist governments" have been voted into power in several Eastern European countries. He responded that the Communist Parties in Eastern Europe "were divorced from the people."

"In Cuba it is very different from this. For example, when I was elected to membership in the party, as a communist militant, it was not based on any vote by the membership of the party. I was elected by my coworkers."

The economist pointed out that if "I am no longer functioning as a militant, they can vote to that effect. And it would definitely not be the first time that this has been done."

In response to the last question of the evening, Tablada said that there was no contradiction between the use of capitalist accounting and organization techniques, as proposed by Guevara, and the aims of the rectification process. Human beings, he said, are not little animals, nor are they like capitalists themselves who are solely motivated by greed.

"What motivated the 400,000 Cubans who volunteered to serve in Angola? All they

received was a medal and the satisfaction of defeating the army of apartheid, not once, but twice. Che believed that this spirit motivated people daily, in the factories and everywhere," he concluded to applause.

Twenty-two copies of Tablada's book in English, and four in Spanish, were purchased at the meeting.

Tablada's New York-area tour will include meetings at: Brooklyn College, Alumnae Lounge, Student Union Building (SUBO), Monday, May 7, 1:00 p.m.; Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, Olin Center, May 7, 7 p.m.; Yale University, New Haven, Dwight Hall Conference Room, Tuesday, May 8, noon; Hunter College, Manhattan, May 8, 7:30 p.m.; Adelphi University, Garden City, Long Island, Prof. Sergio Roca's class, Wednesday, May 9, 1:00 p.m.; New School, Room 217, 65 5th Ave., Manhattan, May 9, 8:00 p.m.; and Princeton University, Third World Center, Thursday, May 10, noon. A New York citywide event will take place Friday, May 11, 7:00 p.m. at Local 1199 Hospital Employees union, 310 West 43rd Street, Manhattan.

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Curtis wins support at Appalachian miners' event

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who is serving a 25-year prison term in the state

Under a large sign saying "Support a Framed-Up Union Brother," activists from the Mark Curtis Defense Committee talked with hun-

dreds of coal miners and other trade unionists at an April 21-22 event held in Wise, Virginia. Held at the county fairgrounds, the weekend celebrated the 1989-90 United Mine Workers' strike against the Pittston coal company.

Some 1,900 UMWA miners struck Pittston in April 1989 after working 14 months without a contract. Their hard-fought strike pitted the union against Pittston, its private security thugs, and the organized disruption effort by an antilabor outfit known as the Workers League. Hundreds of state police

were sent into the coalfields of southwest Virginia, where they harassed and arrested strike supporters and escorted scabs through the union's picket lines. The miners faced hostile judges, whose injunctions barred effective picketing and resulted in fines of more than \$64 million. Hundreds of miners and their supporters were arrested during the strike, which ended last February when a new contract was signed.

Their strike experience led many miners and union activists to readily see how a union militant and political activist like Mark Curtis could be framed and jailed on false charges.

Many people here have already been following Curtis' fight for justice. Curtis supporters have shown the video *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis* at house meetings and to the Daughters of Mother Jones, a UMWA auxiliary set up during the strike. Miners have met Curtis supporters at strike rallies and picket lines. In January defense committee leader Kate Kaku, who is Curtis' wife, visited the union's Camp Solidarity to learn about the strike and to win new support for Curtis.

At the fairgrounds in Wise, Daughters of Mother Jones activists crowded around the Curtis display to find out the latest developments in Curtis' fight. Unionists from the UMWA, United Auto Workers, and Communications Workers signed up to work with the defense committee to take Curtis' case to their locals and union officials.

Defense committee supporters explained that Curtis has continued to be politically active inside Anamosa state prison. Prison officials

have tried to silence him through a series of phony charges and arbitrary restrictions on prisoners' rights. Last January Curtis was falsely accused of illegal gambling on the Super Bowl football game, a charge that led to his loss of certain privileges. Over 190 people signed petitions protesting these charges and calling upon the warden to restore Curtis' previously held status.

A second petition protested prison officials' ban on inmates receiving written materials in languages other than English. One retired miner took the petition to other display tables to get signatures. Fifty dollars was donated to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Jim Altenberg from Charleston, West Virginia, contributed to this week's column.

DEFEND MARK CURTIS

penitentiary in Anamosa on a frame-up conviction of rape and burglary.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is leading an international campaign to fight for justice for Curtis. For more information about the case or how you can help, write to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311; telephone (515) 246-1695.

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

Immigrants, unionists hear Kate Kaku in Sweden

BY HILDING EKLUND
AND BIRGITTA ISACSSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Kate Kaku, a leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, recently completed a two-week tour here April 11-25 to win support for imprisoned Iowa political activist Mark Curtis.



Militant
Kate Kaku, Curtis defense committee leader and wife of Mark Curtis, is currently on European tour.

More than 60 people attended an April 22 meeting for Kaku, who is Curtis' wife. "I am not an expert in the law, but that is not necessary in this case," Annika Åhnberg told the meeting. "Everyone that studies this case can easily find out what it is all about — stopping political and trade union struggles in the United States. The continuing assaults and frame-ups against Curtis in prison make this even more clear." Åhnberg is a member of Swedish parliament representing the Left Party Communists.

"Mark is not a rapist, but is a fighter for the rights of women," Rafiq Khan, a former Amnesty International prisoner of conscience from Pakistan said. Khan closed his remarks by calling on the Swedish section of Amnesty International to adopt Curtis as a prisoner of conscience.

The Stockholm local of Amnesty Interna-

tional hosted a dinner for Kaku during her tour and leaders of Amnesty met with Kaku to discuss developments in Curtis' fight for justice.

Greetings to the meeting came from Frances Tuuloskorpi, chairman of the union at the Skogaholm Bröd bakery here, and the foreign department of the Iranian Communist Party. Afterward seven people attending the meeting pledged their help and endorsed the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Some \$180 was contributed to the defense campaign at the meeting.

Refugees from Iran, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and several other countries met Kaku when she visited their refugee camp in Pärby near Ludvika April 21. Many of them thanked Kaku for coming, saying, "Mark was trying to defend people like us, so we understand a lot about the case."

In France, she is interviewed by labor federation, CP press

BY RAYMOND DEBORD

PARIS — Mark Curtis Defense Committee leader Kate Kaku toured France April 25-30. The tour was built around three meetings — in Amiens in the north of France, in Paris, and in Rouen in the west. Each meeting attracted a young and attentive crowd, ranging from 35 to 80 people, even though schools had already closed for the summer.

"So that's what they call democracy in the United States!" was the reaction most often heard from the young people present. Now many are ready to do more for Curtis' defense campaign.

The meetings were attended by young socialists, communists, and defenders of human rights. In Paris, participants included members of the Revolutionary Communist League (LCR), students from the Ivory Coast, and members of the Movement for a Workers' Party (MPPT).

During her visit, Kaku was also able to meet with journalists and representatives of important organizations in France. *l'Humanité*, the newspaper of the Communist Party of France interviewed Kaku, as did *Vie ouvrière*, the newspaper of the General Confederation of Labor. Representatives of SOS Racisme, an antiracist and pro-immigrant rights group, met with Kaku.

Kaku was invited to France by the National Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Youth (JCR), which has decided to conduct an active campaign in defense of Curtis. The JCR believes that Curtis did not have a fair trial, that nothing was ever proved against him, nor was he granted even the minimum of rights, including the presumption of innocence.

The General Confederation of Labor (CGT) is one of the main union federations in France. On March 12, the CGT International Department sent the following message to Warden John Thalacker at the Iowa

State Men's Reformatory where Curtis is incarcerated:

"Our organization has been informed of the situation confronting Mr. Mark Curtis, a trade-union activist serving a 25-year sentence in the penitentiary you are responsible for.

"Mr. Director, we demand that you rapidly rescind the measures affecting Mr. Mark Curtis, including, for example, those that prohibit him from receiving documents in Spanish or in any other language other than English.

"Furthermore, the prison population as a whole should have the right to exchange books, periodicals, and so forth."

The CGT protest was a response to the campaign being conducted by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee to win Curtis and other prisoners the right to receive non-English literature and to share it. Iowa prison authorities prohibit these rights, because they consider them a "security risk."

The Committee for the Defense of Liberties and the Rights of Man in France and the World has also sent a similar message. The president of the committee is Georges Marchais, who is also a leader of the Communist Party of France.

Another prominent human rights group in France, the League for the Rights of Man, came to Curtis' defense during his recent fight against frame-up charges for gambling. Curtis was falsely accused by prison authorities of gambling on the Super Bowl football game in January and lost several inmate privileges as punishment. Curtis' appeal of the charges was turned down by the Iowa Department of Corrections in April.

"We urge that this decision be revoked," Robert Verdier wrote Warden Thalacker. "We are moved to do so above all by humane considerations. But we would also like to be assured that these measures do not reflect an effort to break the moral resistance of this prisoner and to punish him for having inspired a worldwide movement of protest." Verdier is the president of the League's Commission on International Questions.

Kaku was also welcomed at a weekly meeting sponsored by 10 Iranian organizations where 200 people heard about Curtis' case. Several people endorsed the defense campaign and one volunteered to translate the brochure *Who is Mark Curtis* into Farsi, the principal language of Iran. One of the meeting's coordinators is also a leader of SOS-Asylum, an antiracist and pro-immigrants' rights organization. He endorsed the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

One of the first stops of Kaku's tour was a union-sponsored meeting at the high school in Brunsvik. Some 60 people heard Kaku explain the stakes in Curtis' fight and contributed \$140. Later that day a public meeting was held in Borlänge, an industrial town in the middle of Sweden. The local Social Democratic newspaper *Dalademokraten* featured an article about Curtis' fight.

Kaku ended her tour by attending a meeting for unionists at the Saab-Scania auto plant in Södertälje, a town south of Stockholm. The factory is one of the largest in Sweden with more than 5,000 workers. Some 50 unionists from all departments in the plant heard Kaku during the lunch break. Kaku was able to answer several questions despite limited time and afterward a union leader volunteered to make additional copies of defense committee literature for distribution.

from *PATHFINDER*

The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis A Packinghouse Worker's Fight for Justice by Margaret Jayko

This pamphlet tells the story of Mark Curtis, a unionist and fighter for immigrant rights, who is serving a 25-year sentence in an Iowa prison on trumped-up rape charges. 71 pp., \$2.50.

THE FRAME-UP OF
MARK CURTIS



A packinghouse worker's fight for justice

BY MARGARET JAYKO

Available at Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12 or by mail from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. (Please include \$.75 for postage and handling.)

Funds needed in Curtis defense

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

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is leading an international campaign to fight for justice for Curtis. The committee is currently on a drive to raise \$60,000 this spring to meet the rising legal costs of Curtis' defense effort and to publicize his case. More than \$11,800 has been raised so far.

Contributions can be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Tax deductible contributions should be made out to Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc.

President Chamorro forms bloc with Sandinista Front

Continued from front page

tention of Humberto Ortega as army chief and the establishment of a majority bloc in the National Assembly, Nicaragua's parliament.

In the February election, UNO won 51 seats and the FSLN 39. But when the assembly met to elect its presiding officers, the UNO deputies divided into two factions, one allied with Chamorro, the other backing Godoy.

On April 24 the Chamorro forces struck a deal with the FSLN caucus to form a new majority, which elected six of the seven members of the presiding body. The seventh, Miriam Argüello, a Godoy ally, was elected by acclamation as part of the maneuvering.

In her inaugural speech the following day, Chamorro announced that she would retain Humberto Ortega as chief army officer, while she would take the positions of defense minister and armed forces commander-in-chief. Chamorro said Ortega would be kept on "while the agreed-upon demobilization of the resistance [contra] forces, the demobilization of the youth from military service, and the recovery of arms now in the hands of civilians are completed."

The army general, brother of former president Daniel Ortega, had been a member of the ruling nine-member National Directorate of the FSLN. Prior to Chamorro's inauguration, the directorate announced that Humberto Ortega and other Sandinista Front members in the armed forces had been relieved of all leadership positions in the FSLN. This step was in harmony with a previous agreement between FSLN officials and the Chamorro forces that no one in uniform could hold office in a political party.

Virgilio Godoy immediately denounced the decision to retain Ortega. Chamorro's advisers, he said, "argue that General Ortega is the guarantor of peace in Nicaragua. They don't know that to keep this gentleman in his post is to keep the spider whose web will trap the new government."

For his part, Ortega spoke warmly about his new commander-in-chief. He told the Madrid daily *El País* that the legacy of Nicaraguan liberation fighter Augusto César Sandino belongs to the entire nation, and Chamorro is a Sandinista too, even though she does not belong to the Sandinista Front.

'National stability'

In assuming its place as partner in the government coalition, the FSLN leadership is continuing on the course it had followed prior to losing the election. This consisted of trying to forge a social pact between capitalists and working people, in which workers and peasants would subordinate their demands to the maintenance of "national unity" on the basis of a capitalist economy. The FSLN leadership saw its role as that of a

mediator between the capitalists and working people.

In an April 24 editorial headlined "The Front and national stability," the FSLN daily *Barricada* stressed that the organization, now out of office, would not deviate from the line it followed before the election. The editorial was written on the eve of the shattering of UNO and the appearance of the de facto coalition government.

"Under current conditions," *Barricada* said, "national stability is the sine qua non for preserving and defending the socioeconomic transformations carried out in the last 10 years and the democratic space conquered by the masses."

"The Sandinista Front, even without being part of the new government and strictly from the terrain of a thoroughgoing opposition, cannot renounce playing the role of national arbiter and a deciding force in the face of the budding crisis of the new government."

Disagreements on strikes

The ranks of FSLN members and supporters are not unanimous on all aspects of the course being followed by party officials, but so far there has been no challenge apparent to the basic approach. However, some disagreements became visible during the strike wave in the final week of the FSLN government.

The walkouts, mainly in the public sector, demanded improvements in wages and benefits, as well as the disarming of the contras. According to figures compiled by pro-FSLN unions, 118 strikes took place in the week before April 25. In addition to major stoppages in Managua, the movement was particularly strong in Region II, centered in the city of León, and Region VI, which includes Matagalpa.

Sandinista Front officials openly criticized the work stoppages, calling on workers to end them. Nonetheless, few unionists heeded the instructions, and a number of victories were scored. The movement subsided after the installation of the new regime.

The unions were "slipping out of the hands of the Sandinista Front," said the FSLN political secretary at one major Managua factory. "A lot of leaders stopped paying attention to the National Directorate. The directorate said 'No more strikes,' but the strikes continued."

Activists are more inclined than in the past to disregard such instructions from top FSLN leaders, he added, "because they have lost a little bit of confidence in the analyses of the National Directorate."

On the eve of May Day marches by pro-FSLN unions in Managua and other cities, Daniel Ortega and Luis Carrión, both members of the National Directorate, met with 100 union leaders to discuss the character of the demonstrations and per-



Nicaragua President Violeta Chamorro embraces Gen. Humberto Ortega at her inauguration ceremony April 25.

spectives for the unions.

According to a brief account in *Barricada*, the closed-door meeting "extensively debated the forms of the struggle." Union representatives "protested the leaders' declarations that strikes lead to anarchy," reported the FSLN daily. The response, if any, from Ortega and Carrión was not reported.

The May Day actions featured renewed demands for disarming the contras, an issue that is growing in importance as the mercenaries not only refuse to turn in their weapons, but take advantage of the freedom of movement they have been given to make their weight felt.

Nicaraguan toilers, whose revolutionary mobilization during the war defeated the U.S.-backed army in battle, have been shocked to hear accounts of contra units brazenly marching through towns in some areas. In addition to the withdrawal of government forces from the security zones, the accords called for the disarming of peasant militias in these areas. In some cases where residents have resisted efforts by the Nicaraguan army and the UN officials to get them to give up their guns, the mercenaries have been taking the weapons under threat of force.

Terror and intimidation

Although there have been no reports of killings by the contras in recent days, the picture that emerges from reports published here is one of widespread terror and intimidation in and around the security zones.

On April 24 a group of 600 contras descended on Mancotal, in Jinotega Province. At one cooperative farm, in addition to seizing cattle, tools, and cash, the mercenaries took weapons from the peasants. The co-op had been attacked five times during the war, and the members were armed. But

they had put the weapons away in their homes following the signing of the recent accord. "They caught us unarmed," explained one of the cooperative leaders.

A unit of 50 heavily armed mercenaries marched into the northern town of San Rafael del Norte April 25. They occupied the local school building, where they spent the night.

On April 27 a group of 150 contras walked into San Pedro de Lovago, in the mountains of Chontales Province, east of Managua. They held a meeting in front of the town cathedral and remained in the area for 24 hours before agreeing to requests to leave from UN representatives.

Peasants in a cooperative known as Las Colinas, north of Jinotega, were told by UN officials they had to turn in their arms. Less than an hour after they surrendered the weapons, a contra unit appeared at the farm.

The mercenaries told the UN observers that they only wanted to "talk" and were allowed to enter the co-op, where they have remained ever since. As a result, the peasants have stopped working the fields. In 1987 seven of the cooperative's members were killed in a contra attack.

Although these contra actions are in violation of the accords, UN observers have declined to act. "Our mission is only to be here, nothing more," a Spanish army officer told a *Los Angeles Times* correspondent.

The sole function of the UN forces, said another officer, from Ireland, is to collect arms. "We don't enforce the accord. We don't separate the forces. We only receive arms," he added.

But according to Angelica Hunt, a spokesperson for the UN military observer mission, the only arms received so far have been from peasant militias. "Not a single contra has disarmed," she told reporters.

British appeals court overturns Winchester Three frame-up

BY CLIVE TURNBULL

LONDON — The Court of Appeal in London on April 27 quashed the 1988 convictions of two men and one woman of conspiracy to murder then Northern Ireland Secretary Tom King.

The defendants — Martina Shanahan, Finbar Cullen, and John McCann — are known as the Winchester Three. They were sentenced to 25 years imprisonment at Winchester Crown Court in October 1988. Their frame-up became a cause célèbre along with the cases of the Guildford Four and the Birmingham Six.

The appeal court found that their case was overwhelmingly prejudiced by King's statements during the trial. The day after the three defendants had chosen to exercise their democratic right not to testify and to remain silent, King announced that the Conservative Party government was proposing legislation to curb this right, claiming its exercise meant that guilty people were being acquitted.

Later interviews with King — and former Lord Chief Justice Denning — concerning this proposed legislation were prominently publicized in the media. Kevin McNamara, the Labour Party's Northern Ireland spokesperson, pointed out after the appeal court ruling, "The government took a deliberate decision to announce it [the proposed legislation] at that particular time. They knew the trial was in progress."

The Winchester Three, all from Dublin in the south of Ireland, were arrested in August 1987. Two of them had been spotted sitting on a wall chatting near King's country home. Forty minutes later when the police arrived, they were still there.

The prosecution conceded there was not one piece of evidence which proved intent to murder. It argued that the "totality" of tiny shreds of circumstantial evidence was conclusive. Given the weakness of the prosecution case, King and Denning's intervention played a major, and maybe even a decisive, role in the convictions.

By ruling that the trial procedures had been abused, the three appeal court judges short-circuited the political damage that would be done to the government by admitting the case was a frame-up. In an editorial reply to Lord Denning, who claimed that the appeal court ruling is a denial of his right to freedom of speech, the *Times* criticized the court for not recognizing the injustice against Irish defendants. "To be acting suspiciously and to be Irish is not sufficient proof of involvement in an IRA [Irish Republican Army] conspiracy. The Court of Appeal should have questioned that instead," said the paper.

After the three were released, they were immediately rearrested by the police under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and held pending a government exclusion order deporting them to the Irish republic.

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Seattle striker welcomed in British Columbia

Some 8,500 International Association of Machinists members struck Eastern Airlines March 4, 1989, in an effort to block the company's drive to break the union and impose massive concessions on workers.

As of the *Militant's* closing news date, Wednesday, May 2, the strike was in its 425th day.

The Eastern workers' fight has won broad support from working people in the United States, Puerto

whose 3,000 members work at Canadian Airlines International, one of Canada's two major airlines. The local has actively backed the Eastern strike from the beginning.

"I'm here to talk to as many unionists as possible," Washington said, speaking to 70 delegates at the Vancouver and District Labour Council meeting. "No matter who you are, what country you come from, what language you speak, what color you are, it makes no

we'd come crawling back to him. But that didn't happen."

Canadian Airlines workers are involved in contract negotiations themselves. The Eastern striker "is right in everything he says," said Local 764 Vice-president Dave Park, who thanked Washington for coming. "The company he is dealing with is no different from the company we're dealing with."

In answer to a question about the difficulties of being on strike for a year, Washington responded, "Don't feel sorry for me. My being here talking to you is a victory."

The U.S. government and legal system are fighting as hard as Frank Lorenzo to defeat the strikers, Washington explained. "We've got the best government money can buy, and Frank Lorenzo has spent lots of money." Lorenzo heads Texas Air Corp., which owns Eastern and Continental airlines. He was ousted from Eastern's management April 18 when the bankruptcy court installed a trustee to run the airline.

Union members approved a motion from the local executive committee to "adopt" three Eastern strikers by donating \$90 per month to IAM District 100, which represents all the Eastern strikers.

"I'm asking unionists in Canada,

in the United States, or wherever, to stand together," said Washington, speaking in a radio interview. "At IAM District 100, we've drawn a line to Frank Lorenzo and said, 'This is where we stop.' And lo and behold, there have been a lot of other people who've gone and grabbed that paintbrush and continued to draw the line somewhere else."

Eastern strikers from Baltimore-Washington International Airport, members of Machinists Local 846, are planning a "Family Day" on the picket line May 5. The expanded picket line, to which area unionists are also invited, will go from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Everyone is then invited to a luncheon-reception at the nearby G&M Restaurant.

IAM Local 846's strike committee, which includes local members from United Airlines, USAir, and Eastern strikers, to organize outreach and fund-raising.

Between March 2 and April 4, Eastern strikers spoke at nine union meetings in the Baltimore area, including Steelworkers, Communications Workers, Longhoremen, and United Food and Commercial Workers. More than \$1,000 was raised in contributions. In addition,

United Transportation Union Local 1591 donated \$656 to the strikers, and Machinists at USAir are taking weekly collections for the strike fund.

The Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild also recently voted to "adopt" both the Baltimore and Washington striking IAM locals by sending monthly contributions.

A Local 702 member from Miami reports that a group of strikers, joined by pilots and flight attendants who had been on strike at Eastern, drove up to Coral Springs early April 16 to "welcome" former Eastern chairman Frank Borman, who had been invited to speak at Nova University's breakfast symposium.

The group's signs expressed their anger at Borman's 1986 "giveaway" sale of Eastern to Lorenzo, the striker writes. When they saw Borman, the 40 pickets forced him to retreat into his car.

The words of encouragement and honking of horns showed that many Coral Springs residents support the Eastern strike.

Colleen Levis from Vancouver, British Columbia, and Peggy Kreiner from Baltimore contributed to this column.



SUPPORT EASTERN STRIKERS!

Rico and the Caribbean, Canada, Bermuda, Sweden, New Zealand, France, and elsewhere in the world. Readers — especially Eastern strikers — are encouraged to send news of strike solidarity activities to this column.

Bill Washington, a striking Eastern mechanic from Seattle, traveled to Vancouver, British Columbia, April 17-18, to meet with unionists there. He made the trip after being invited by IAM Local 764, most of

difference. Those who are doing the job are losing the wages. Stay off Eastern and Continental. Stick with the union. The same thing that happened to us is coming for you." Delegates voted to contribute \$100 to the Eastern strike fund.

Washington also spoke to 40 Local 764 members at their monthly union meeting.

"Lorenzo never thought that more than 8,000 IAM members would stay out on strike for over a year," Washington explained. "He thought

Miami Machinists picket line attacked by cops

Continued from front page

back, and took him to jail. This provoked angry chanting from the unionists, who then moved their picket line one block over to another route scabs were using to get to the parking lot.

Cops club Machinists

At that point police began pushing people back, using their clubs as well as horses. Bill Schenck, a 70-year-old retired IAM Grand Lodge Representative from Greensboro, North Carolina, could not move out of the way fast enough. Hundreds of pickets saw one of the cops club him, sending him flying backwards until he landed on his back — where he stayed, unable to move, until an ambulance came and paramedics carried him off on a stretcher.

Horrified pickets started chanting, "Nazis, Nazis" at the cops. One striker holding a U.S. flag got up on a car and shouted, "No freedom of speech, no freedom of press. This is just like Kent State" — a reference to the students protesting the U.S. war in Southeast Asia who were gunned down by the National Guard at Kent State University in Ohio 20 years ago.

As union officials, including IAM District 100 President Charles Bryan, went to complain to the top police officers present, other cops tried to push the numerous TV cameramen trying to film the scene out of range.

Nonetheless the major television stations carried news of the cop violence that night, showing the retired union leader lying on the ground. Police department spokespeople later termed the attack on Schenck an "accident." Schenck was back at the union hall a few hours after the picket, after being checked out at the hospital and released.

Despite the police violence, the expanded picket line was a big boost to the strikers' morale and illustrated to the visiting Machinists the determination and fighting spirit of the Miami strikers.

On Friday, May 4, between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., members of three Communications Workers of America locals in Miami will participate in the "Stand Up to Lorenzo" action that day.

Zena McFadden is a member of IAM Local 702, on strike at Eastern in Miami.

BY SUSAN LaMONT

Following the victory won with the April 18 removal of Frank Lorenzo from Eastern Airlines management, striking Machinists in New York, Pittsburgh, Washington, D.C., and other cities are moving ahead with plans for rallies and expanded picket lines over the next two weeks. Lorenzo, chairman of Texas Air Corp., which owns Eastern, was forced out when the bankruptcy court overseeing

Eastern's financial affairs appointed a trustee to run the airline, following the rejection of Lorenzo's latest "reorganization" plan by the company's creditors.

In New York, a "Stop Union-Busting" rally is planned for May 3. Eastern strikers are teaming up with workers on strike at Greyhound and Domsey Trading Co. — where garment workers are fighting for union recognition — for the event. That same day, the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO is hosting a solidarity rally in downtown Pittsburgh to back Eastern Machinists, United Mine Workers on selec-

tive strike, and other unionists on strike in the area. Expanded picket lines are set for Washington, D.C.'s National Airport on May 2; Baltimore-Washington International Airport, May 5; and at Eastern's Miami headquarters on May 4. A broadly sponsored "Stand Up for Working People" rally, featuring support for the Eastern strikers, is set for Marhsalltown, Iowa, at 1:00 p.m., May 12.

The IAM's April 27 strike bulletin reports that shortly after the new trustee, Martin Shugrue, indicated his willingness to talk to the Machinists union, he "asked the court for

permission to retain a labor and government relations law firm with strong ties" to Lorenzo.

While the IAM had hailed the appointment of the trustee, the bulletin notes, "now Shugrue appears to be sending us a clear message that our good faith may have been misplaced and that our fight against Frank Lorenzo may continue with the trustee."

Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Transportation approved the proposed sale of Eastern's Latin American routes to American Airlines for \$335 million, clearing the last obstacle to their transfer.

Alabama Greyhound strikers reach passengers



Picket line at Birmingham bus depot, March 17. Strikers there are meeting success in turning away passengers.

BY BETSY FARLEY

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The 78 bus drivers on strike here against Greyhound Lines Inc. are stepping up efforts to broaden support for their fight. They are part of the 9,000 Amalgamated Transit Union members — drivers, mechanics, cleaners, and clerks — who went on strike March 2 after Greyhound management refused to budge from a contract proposal that included the unrestricted right to contract out maintenance work and routes, gutting of the union's grievance procedure, elimination of seniority, cuts in medical benefits, and no wage increases.

Greyhound's chairman, Fred Currey, is violence-baiting the strikers, using incidents of shootings at scab-driven buses to block negotiations with the union. Several strikers have been arrested on frame-up charges stemming from these incidents, including two in the Birmingham area. Others have been fired for picket line "misconduct."

ATU Local 1493 Committeeman Saul Neville, a leader of the strike here, recently explained, "Currey's plan all along has been to divide and conquer — to pit the former Trailways and Greyhound workers against each other." After Greyhound bought Trailways in 1987, Greyhound became the only nationwide bus company. Some former Trailways drivers have received letters and phone calls aimed at luring them across the picket lines. "It hasn't worked," Neville stressed. "We are united and standing strong." Only one local member has crossed, he said.

Strikers here maintain round-the-clock picket lines at the bus depot. Although only six are assigned for each four-hour picket shift, it is not unusual to see many more strikers and supporters on the line. Several solidarity rallies have been held that have drawn in striking Eastern Airlines Machinists, steelworkers, and coal miners, as well

as the families of the Greyhound strikers.

"We've been about 80 percent successful in turning away passengers," Neville continued. "We hand out our own leaflets to passengers explaining our side of the story, since they only get the company's side in the press and on TV."

Their latest flier answers the company's violence-baiting charges against the union. "Our union, the ATU, has never promoted violence of any sort and we do not condone it," the leaflet says. "We want the public to know that the real cause of disruption and violence is the attempt by Greyhound's management to destroy our union."

Neville recalled that during the second week of the strike a vanload of people from Detroit were dropped off to catch a bus. "When they saw the picket line, they took their tickets in to get refunds. It turned out they were auto workers, and they understood what solidarity was all about." They helped convince several other passengers to turn in their tickets as well.

This had a big impact on strikers, Neville explained. It helped convince them they could have an impact on passengers if they approached them as fellow workers.

Strikers have spoken to meetings of the steelworkers' and auto workers' unions, at community and Black rights gatherings, at church services, and at Jobs With Justice meetings.

"The Eastern strikers' victory over Lorenzo has uplifted our spirits," said Neville, after Texas Air Corp. Chairman Frank Lorenzo was removed from Eastern Airlines management on April 18. "We're more optimistic about winning. Now our pickets have a reason to hold their heads up high."

Greyhound strikers are working with Alabama Jobs with Justice and area unions to organize a traveling solidarity rally for May 12 that will start with a picket line of Eastern at the airport and then head down to the Greyhound bus depot.

High gear needed in final weeks of drive

BY RONI McCANN

Militant supporters internationally are driving ahead in the next 17 days to sign up 2,308 new readers to the paper and win 722 readers to *Perspectiva Mundial*, *New International*, and *Nouvelle Internationale*. The worldwide goal for the French-language quarterly *Lutte ouvrière* is over the top by 39.

Efforts by supporters in Miami, France, Sweden, and Wellington, New Zealand, having already topped their goals, will help boost the world goal by winning as many new readers as possible in the final two weeks.

Several cities in the United States have raised their goals, and nine are on schedule. Supporters in every city need a day-to-day plan — fanning out in working-class neighborhoods, getting onto campuses, and approaching coworkers in the plants and factories where they work — to sell subscriptions every day. Supporters need to win a total of 2,482 new readers — that's five new readers per day in every city — to make the drive. An all-out effort is needed to organize this and score a victory in the international campaign.

Our biggest challenge is making the *Militant* goal. During the recent target effort, 604 new readers were won — the highest in the drive by far — keeping up this kind of pace is crucial. This past week subscription sales to the paper dipped down to 384.

To help boost the sales of the paper special teams will be fielded over the next several days. A week-long team of supporters from Austin, Minnesota; Detroit; and New York hit the road April 30 in Iowa. A day and a half in Sioux City netted 11 new readers; more than half are workers at the big IBP packinghouse there.

'Our best week ever'

Supporters in Stockholm, Sweden, called in to report their best week ever. A total of 39 new subscribers, including 17 new *Militant* readers, were won.

A highlight of the week were successful

sales teams to housing communities in Södertälje, where the Saab-Scania truck plant is located. Six Scania workers subscribed to the socialist press during the week.

On May 1, a team returned to Södertälje to participate in May Day activities and six more subscriptions were sold. At a big Pathfinder Press literature table in Stockholm the same day, 10 new readers subscribed. On Saturday four more signed up at the new Pathfinder bookstore.

In Lyons, France, some 300 participants attended an all-day conference on Cuba. There, 17 participants signed up for subscriptions to the socialist press, one bought a copy of the French-language magazine, *Nouvelle Internationale*, and one signed up to get *Granma Weekly Review*, a newspaper of the Cuban Communist Party published in Havana. Conference-goers also purchased \$400 of Pathfinder literature, including 25 copies of the pamphlet *Socialism and Man in Cuba* by Ernesto Che Guevara, in three languages.

Victory against Lorenzo

Supporters in several cities report that the victory of striking Machinists — lasting one day longer than Eastern Airlines chairman Frank Lorenzo — has upped the confidence of many workers.

In Miami at an expanded Eastern picket line April 25, held during a national Machinists' conference, seven participants signed up to get the *Militant* every week and 18 pickets bought copies of the paper.

At a Charleston rally for construction workers in a union organizing drive, three workers bought subscriptions to the *Militant*, adding to the 24 new readers won there in the last nine days. Supporters in Greensboro also had one of their best weeks — 25 new readers won, including five from meetings featuring touring Cuban author Carlos Tablada, two from a conference on the struggle of the Palestinians, and three at a Raleigh, North Carolina, abortion rights rally.



Militant/Lisa Ahlberg

Sales at March 25 demonstration in Los Angeles protesting U.S. war in El Salvador. Supporters of the socialist press are pushing ahead to win thousands of new readers in the final two weeks of the nine-week campaign. A team hit the road in Iowa for one week as part of special efforts to make the drive goals. They won 11 new subscribers in a day and a half in Sioux City, a major meat-packing center.

Subscription Drive SCOREBOARD

| DRIVE GOALS | | Total | | Militant | | New Int'l | | Perspectiva Mundial | | Lutte ouvrière | |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|---------------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| Areas | Goal | Total Sold | % Sold | Goal | Sold | Goal | Sold | Goal | Sold | Goal | Sold |
| UNITED STATES | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Miami | 200 | 228 | 114% | 110 | 97 | 40 | 46 | 30 | 18 | 20 | 67 |
| New York | 500 | 457 | 91% | 280 | 181 | 95 | 102 | 110 | 73 | 15 | 101 |
| Austin, Minn.* | 100 | 80 | 80% | 65 | 51 | 10 | 11 | 23 | 18 | 2 | 0 |
| Kansas City | 122 | 86 | 70% | 78 | 49 | 32 | 30 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| Boston* | 205 | 144 | 70% | 125 | 86 | 25 | 14 | 40 | 32 | 15 | 12 |
| Brooklyn* | 400 | 279 | 70% | 200 | 125 | 60 | 55 | 60 | 34 | 80 | 65 |
| Omaha, Neb. | 110 | 76 | 69% | 80 | 57 | 15 | 5 | 13 | 14 | 2 | 0 |
| Greensboro, NC | 115 | 78 | 68% | 90 | 61 | 15 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 0 |
| Phoenix | 85 | 57 | 67% | 53 | 33 | 10 | 4 | 20 | 20 | 2 | 0 |
| Des Moines, Iowa* | 190 | 126 | 66% | 145 | 93 | 20 | 14 | 23 | 18 | 2 | 1 |
| Los Angeles | 400 | 257 | 64% | 210 | 113 | 75 | 44 | 110 | 99 | 5 | 1 |
| Birmingham, Ala.* | 172 | 107 | 62% | 145 | 88 | 20 | 16 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Portland, Ore. | 100 | 60 | 60% | 75 | 41 | 13 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 2 | 0 |
| Atlanta | 165 | 97 | 59% | 117 | 66 | 30 | 22 | 15 | 8 | 3 | 1 |
| Washington, DC | 145 | 85 | 59% | 100 | 53 | 20 | 14 | 20 | 17 | 5 | 1 |
| Seattle* | 200 | 115 | 58% | 115 | 62 | 30 | 12 | 52 | 39 | 3 | 2 |
| Newark, NJ | 385 | 217 | 56% | 210 | 84 | 95 | 68 | 65 | 41 | 15 | 24 |
| Price, Utah | 75 | 41 | 55% | 53 | 30 | 10 | 6 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| Cleveland | 93 | 50 | 54% | 78 | 33 | 20 | 13 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| Philadelphia* | 170 | 91 | 54% | 108 | 51 | 25 | 26 | 35 | 13 | 2 | 1 |
| Twin Cities, Minn. | 210 | 108 | 51% | 162 | 85 | 30 | 14 | 15 | 8 | 3 | 1 |
| Oakland, Calif. | 185 | 95 | 51% | 120 | 61 | 25 | 19 | 35 | 12 | 5 | 3 |
| St. Louis | 200 | 96 | 48% | 162 | 72 | 25 | 18 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| Charleston, WV | 115 | 55 | 48% | 88 | 41 | 20 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| Baltimore | 150 | 69 | 46% | 112 | 37 | 25 | 22 | 10 | 10 | 3 | 0 |
| Salt Lake City | 190 | 86 | 45% | 138 | 57 | 30 | 16 | 20 | 12 | 2 | 1 |
| Morgantown, WV | 150 | 67 | 45% | 113 | 49 | 30 | 18 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Pittsburgh | 140 | 62 | 44% | 113 | 40 | 20 | 16 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Detroit | 250 | 104 | 42% | 200 | 72 | 30 | 25 | 15 | 5 | 5 | 2 |
| Chicago | 280 | 116 | 41% | 185 | 66 | 45 | 36 | 45 | 12 | 5 | 2 |
| Houston | 145 | 54 | 37% | 98 | 32 | 20 | 16 | 25 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| San Francisco | 220 | 67 | 30% | 150 | 40 | 30 | 15 | 35 | 11 | 5 | 1 |
| Anamosa, Iowa | 15 | 4 | 27% | 13 | 4 | 2 | 0 | - | - | - | - |
| Cincinnati | 7 | 0 | 0% | 7 | 0 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Las Vegas, Nev.* | 12 | 1 | 8% | 12 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Louisville | 10 | 2 | 20% | 10 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other U.S. | - | 29 | - | - | 26 | - | 2 | - | 1 | - | - |
| U.S. TOTAL | 6,228 | 3,746 | 60% | 4,120 | 2,139 | 992 | 748 | 894 | 567 | 222 | 292 |
| AUSTRALIA | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BRITAIN | 50 | 30 | 60% | 25 | 22 | 8 | 4 | 15 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| Manchester | 74 | 40 | 54% | 50 | 25 | 20 | 14 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| London | 162 | 80 | 49% | 105 | 56 | 30 | 21 | 25 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Cardiff | 59 | 28 | 47% | 40 | 22 | 10 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Sheffield | 107 | 32 | 30% | 65 | 25 | 30 | 3 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| Other Britain | - | 57 | - | - | 10 | - | 47 | - | - | - | - |
| BRITAIN TOTAL | 402 | 237 | 59% | 260 | 138 | 90 | 90 | 45 | 8 | 7 | 1 |
| CANADA | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vancouver | 115 | 95 | 83% | 75 | 57 | 20 | 19 | 15 | 14 | 5 | 5 |
| Toronto | 190 | 122 | 64% | 120 | 63 | 30 | 19 | 30 | 37 | 10 | 3 |
| Montréal | 184 | 110 | 60% | 65 | 31 | 20 | 13 | 45 | 20 | 54 | 46 |
| CANADA TOTAL | 489 | 327 | 67% | 260 | 151 | 70 | 51 | 90 | 71 | 69 | 54 |
| FRANCE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ICELAND | 40 | 45 | 113% | 10 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 5 | 7 | 20 | 20 |
| NEW ZEALAND | 41 | 38 | 93% | 35 | 27 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Wellington | 70 | 70 | 100% | 54 | 56 | 11 | 13 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Auckland | 100 | 80 | 80% | 80 | 72 | 15 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Christchurch | 55 | 42 | 76% | 45 | 38 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Other N. Z. | 14 | 4 | 29% | 10 | 4 | 4 | 0 | - | - | - | - |
| N. Z. TOTAL | 239 | 196 | 82% | 189 | 170 | 36 | 21 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 0 |
| SWEDEN | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PUERTO RICO | 76 | 76 | 100% | 45 | 39 | 5 | 4 | 25 | 31 | 1 | 2 |
| Int'l teams | 20 | 10 | 50% | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 16 | 7 | 1 | 0 |
| Other Int'l | 155 | 36 | 23% | 75 | 15 | 25 | 20 | 50 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| TOTAL | 7,740 | 4,749 | 63% | 5,021 | 2,713 | 1,235 | 959 | 1,153 | 707 | 331 | 370 |
| DRIVE GOALS | 7,500 | | | 4,950 | | 1,200 | | 1,100 | | 250 | |
| TO BE ON SCHEDULE | | 5,000 | 67% | | 3,300 | | 800 | | 733 | | 167 |
| *Raised goal during drive | | | | | | | | | | | |

Framed miners sentenced

BY JIM ALTENBERG

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Seven of ten union coal miners were sentenced in mid-April to jail terms on trumped-up charges stemming from July and September 1989 explosions at the Milburn Colliery mine facilities in southern West Virginia.

Michael Woodson, Alan Ray Sharp, and Darrell Ray Sharp were sentenced by U.S. Judge Elizabeth Hallanan to 27 months in prison and three years supervised release. Billie Lafferty was given 30 months and Jesse Harvey 25 months along with three years supervision.

Douglas Stover and Raymond Thomas were sentenced to 18 and 15 months in prison along with two years supervised release. Thomas was also fined \$1,500.

Additionally, the miners are being forced to reimburse Milburn Colliery \$112,058 for damages claimed by the company. The court must okay any credit the men take on.

Two more miners, Russell Delung and Julian Bryant Wriston, have not yet been sentenced.

The tenth union miner, Larry Massey, was cleared of all charges March 1 when Danny Fout, a miner-turned-government-witness, told the court that he, not Massey, had set off a bomb at the Milburn Colliery.

Fout had agreed to meet with other miners while wired for sound after Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms agents raided his house Oct. 12, 1989. The cops claimed to have found an illegal machine gun and bomb-making equipment there. Fout admitted that he had burned down the homes of two people he disliked, as well as his own car in hopes of collecting insurance money. Fout, no longer a union member, was also sentenced to 27 months.

The members of the United Mine Workers of America Local 5948 were arrested by U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms agents and state police in October 1989. Each was charged with six federal counts of conspiracy, destruction of mine property, and destruction of property used in interstate commerce. The miners pleaded innocent to all charges in a Beckley, West Virginia, fed-

eral court November 3.

UMWA Local 5948 struck Milburn Colliery in October 1984 after the company refused to sign the national coal contract between the UMWA and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association. The miners have been on strike since. In July 1989 Milburn leased the mine to Mountain Minerals, Inc., which reopened the mine nonunion.

At a series of federal court hearings in Beckley last February, miners Lafferty, Harvey, Woodson, Thomas, Delung, Wriston, and Darrell Ray Sharp changed their pleas to guilty on two counts: destruction of property (a mine ventilation fan) by means of explosives, and destruction of an energy facility (an electrical transformer used at the mine). The remaining four counts were dropped by the prosecutor, U.S. Attorney Dwayne Tinsley. At a later hearing, Stover changed his plea to guilty as well. Alan Ray Sharp agreed to charges of conspiracy and destruction of property with an explosive.

Meanwhile, five activists from UMWA Local 1812 at Mine 29 in eastern Kentucky still face rioting and criminal mischief charges from a supposed attack on a company security guard February 23.

Several charges against Pittston coal company miners — who were recently on strike in Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky — have not been dropped. Government agents are holding further investigations and questioning Pittston miners in southwest Virginia. And the UMWA still faces fines of \$64 million levied by Russell County (Virginia) Judge Donald McGlothlin, Jr., during the Pittston strike, which ended in February after 11 months.

Four miners active in the UMWA's 1984-85 strike against A.T. Massey, which was defeated, were framed and jailed. Donnie Thornsby, David Thornsby, Arnold Heightland, and James Darryl Smith are serving long jail terms after being convicted in 1987 of killing scab coal hauler Hayes West. A fifth member, Paul Smith, was framed and cleared of federal charges and now faces state charges of murdering West.

South African youth discuss new

BY GREG McCARTAN

KANYAMAZANE, South Africa — Some 1,200 delegates gathered here April 13-16 for the Second Congress of the South African Youth Congress.

With clenched fists held high, youths from across the country chanted "ANC! ANC!" as African National Congress Deputy President Nelson Mandela rose to present the opening address.

The struggles by youth in South Africa "evoke our greatest admiration for your courage and determination," Mandela told the delegates. "You have been the backbone of the struggle for a people's education. You have been at the heart of the heroic efforts of the oppressed and exploited workers of our country. You have played a leading role in the glorious reawakening of our downtrodden rural masses."

The ANC leader added that the youth "are the combatants and commanders of our beloved people's army, Umkhonto we Sizwe. The people's movement, the ANC, belongs to you," he said.

The delegates listened carefully as Mandela outlined some of the challenges before the liberation movement. He encouraged them to continue to build "a broad democratic front to challenge the apartheid regime in united action." One of the "primary responsibilities," he said, is "the task of organizing the mass of our people into the struggle."

The 1.5 million-member Sayco belongs to the anti-apartheid coalition, the United Democratic Front (UDF). Due to the state of emergency declared in 1986, the youth organization was launched at an underground meeting in 1987. Many of its leading activists were imprisoned and the government banned it from organizing political activity.

Determined to continue the fight, young people joined protests which forced the apartheid regime to release central leaders of the ANC from prison, unban the ANC and other organizations, and lift the restrictions on the UDF and its affiliates in early February.

"This is a victory congress," said Sayco President Peter Mokaba in his keynote address. "This congress is an historic one." It is the "first public meeting of Sayco's highest decision-making body."

The meeting had the air of a victory celebration of the hard-won gains of the struggle. Delegates in the packed meeting hall repeatedly broke out in freedom songs and chants.

The congress, Mokaba said, "must celebrate the victories we have won in battles, but still mindful that the war is yet to be won." The meeting must discuss "committing our youth as a component of our fighting people to the fastest route towards dismantling apartheid."

Tradition of struggle

The youth organization is built upon the rich traditions and legacy of decades of struggle by young people in the country. In the 1940s a new generation of fighters, many of whom — such as Mandela, Walter Sisulu, and Oliver Tambo — are part of the central leadership of the ANC today, won the ANC

to adopt a more militant and active approach to struggle.

In the 1970s, following a decade of widespread terror by the regime, a new wave of struggles, pressed by mobilizations of youth, broke out. They stood up against the jailings, bannings, and executions and opened a new stage of the fight. Many young people from this generation swelled the ranks of the ANC and its armed wing.

Sayco affiliates have been at the center of the growing anti-apartheid mobilizations today. Known as the "young lions," Sayco members are involved in student groups, trade unions, community associations, the unemployed league, and organizations in rural areas.

At many marches and rallies youth are the bulk of the disciplined marshals. Wearing khaki pants and shirts — symbols of the armed struggle — they are in charge of crowd control at mass rallies and of defending protests from the police.

National, democratic revolution

At anti-apartheid events around the country, young people make up the majority, and they are fighting to win more youth to the banner of the national, democratic revolution to bring down the hated system.

The youth congress was the first such meeting of an anti-apartheid organization since the unbannings were announced in early February. The congress was addressed by leaders of the UDF and ANC and trade union representatives.

KaNyamazane is located in northeastern South Africa and is part of the nominally independent KaNgwane "homeland." Its leaders, long opposed to the apartheid regime's plans to force "independence" on

'Unbanning of ANC is most significant development in liberation struggle.'

the territory, welcomed the delegates.

Representatives from the Cuban Union of Young Communists (UJC), the Swedish Social Democratic Youth, and the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA) from the United States brought greetings. Other international delegations were denied visas by the South African government. Representatives of the ANC Youth Section, which operates in exile in Lusaka, Zambia, were also denied entrance into the country.

For the membership of Sayco, the congress "was the first time in a very long time we have been able to have something like this," a delegate from the western Cape region said. "Being able to openly discuss, hear leaders of our organizations, and share experiences and ideas without fear of repression" would strengthen the organization in continuing the fight against apartheid, she said.

Two days of closed-door discussions on the political perspectives and organizational structure of Sayco followed the opening day of speeches. Prior to the congress, resolutions

on Sayco's policies, goals, and structure were discussed in local areas.

A new national leadership was also elected. At the conclusion of the congress a day-long cultural festival, featuring some of the country's most popular performing groups, drew some 8,000 spirited youth.

World is 'changing fast'

In his opening address Mokaba placed the struggle inside South Africa in the context of a world that is "changing fast." Pointing to the developments in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, he said, "The world socialist system is experiencing a major crisis. . . . Undemocratic communist regimes are now the victims of mass anger and continue to be swept aside by popular action."

In these countries, "the essential element is the demand of the people to take part in the administration of their lives and their country." The toppling of the repressive regimes is a process of "strengthening, rather than weakening, the socialist ideal," he added.

South African youth, he explained, should "unreservedly support all efforts in that part of our planet to those struggling for democratic socialism."

Mokaba pointed to the "deep, structural, and worsening crisis" of the world capitalist system. "The majority of the people of the planet, including us, continue to suffer exploitation and oppression premised on this social system," the youth leader said. "Unemployment, inflation, lack of good health, education facilities, and housing shortage are the lot of millions of the poor everywhere in the capitalist world," the youth leader stressed.

Encouraging "all-round support" for national liberation, anti-imperialist, and class struggles "by millions of people of the colonies," and "within the advanced capitalist countries themselves," Mokaba noted, "We are part of those struggles."

In the region of southern Africa, we are in the "post-Cuito Cuanavale era," he said. In 1988 Cuban internationalist volunteers, Angolan troops, and members of the Namibian liberation organization, the South West African People's Organisation, dealt a stinging defeat to the South African regime's invasion of Angola at the battle of Cuito Cuanavale.

"It is an era characterized by retreats on all fronts on the part of apartheid colonialism. Alongside this, the people of our country are scoring major victories," the Sayco president said. "The balance of forces has shifted in favor of the ANC."

Cuban youth bring greetings

Teresita Trujillo brought greetings to the meeting on behalf of the UJC. She was met by a thunderous standing ovation and chants of "Viva Cuito Cuanavale!" and "Viva Fidel Castro!"

Trujillo said the Cuban youth "are bound to the South African youth not only through our Latin-African identity but also through our common struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, and racism in all its manifestations."

Trujillo saluted the "battle-hardened young people who are writing the contemporary history of this heroic nation." The determination of the people to continue their struggle has led the apartheid "system to an irreversible crisis," she said.

Explaining recent aggression by the U.S. government against Cuba, Trujillo said to cheers from the delegates, "The imperialists are wrong if they believe it is possible to reverse the process of socialist construction in Cuba."

Representing the YSA, Greg McCartan told the delegates that "millions around the world support your struggle. Many see it as their own in part because the existence of apartheid reinforces racism, national oppression, and divisions among working people" in the United States and elsewhere.

He pointed to the new resistance among workers in the United States who are defending themselves against union-busting and attacks on wages and working conditions, such as the strikes by Eastern Airlines workers, coal miners, and Greyhound workers. A cheer went up when McCartan told about the April 7 protest by 1,500 in New York demanding



Participants in youth festival at conclusion

the "U.S. government keep its hands off Cuba."

While continuing to build mass organizations and hold protests and rallies, Sayco supports the process of negotiations slated to begin May 2 between the government and the ANC.

"But," Mokaba noted, South African President F.W. de Klerk "is trying to deny the reality that there are only two sides confronting each other in the South African political equation: the side of nonracialism, democ-

Cubans give

The following greetings were presented by Teresita Trujillo, a representative of the Union of Young Communists of Cuba, to the Second Congress of the South African Youth Congress held in KaNyamazane, South Africa, April 13-16.

Subheadings are by the Militant.

Comrades all:

Militant greetings and solidarity from the Cuban youth to this extraordinary congress of the South African youth and to the battle-hardened young people who are writing the contemporary history of this heroic nation in their daily confrontation against racist violence.

It is an honor for the Union of Young Communists of Cuba to participate in this congress. We are bound to the South African youth not only through our Latin-African identity but also through our common struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, and racism in all its manifestations.

The Cuban youth is deeply identified with the struggle of the South African people against the ignominious apartheid regime in which the participation of this heroic youth has been decisive.

Throughout the history of this courageous nation, both youth and students have shared the front ranks with the working class in the struggle under the banner raised for over 70 years by the African National Congress — the political, militant vanguard in the struggle for their people's legitimate rights.

The number of young people who have given their lives in the struggle to end national and social oppression forever increases day by day as a result of racial oppression.

The firm decision of the people to continue the struggle mounts with each new crime committed by apartheid and leads the system to an irreversible crisis. The increasing momentum in the people's struggle has forced the regime to make concessions and adopt



ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela addressing opening of congress

New stage of liberation struggle



Militant photos by Greg McCartan of the April 13-16 meeting

racy, peace, and social progress as led by the ANC and the racist side led by him. He wants to shape the table to be round and filled with his own puppets," he said, referring to de Klerk's attempts to woo Black "homeland" and township officials to the negotiating table on the side of the government.

Mokaba stressed that a democratically elected constituent assembly on the basis of a common voters' roll is "necessary for a democratic future."

Noting that "the unbanning of the ANC

and SACP [South African Communist Party] is undoubtedly the most significant development in the history of the liberation struggle," Mokaba proposed to the delegates that "the most immediate task facing us is the one of building the ANC and SACP structures." He also encouraged the Sayco members to join Umkhonto we Sizwe.

The congress decided to continue building Sayco as a broad youth organization that includes all who are fighting to get rid of apartheid. Representatives from the Congress of South African Students, the South African National Student Congress, and the predominantly white National Union of South African Students and the Youth for South Africa attended.

Sayco is seeking to bring all youth organizations in the country together in a "youth parliament." Such a forum could include the ruling National Party's youth organization. Problems facing youth in education, housing, employment, and other areas could be discussed in a broadly representative way in the parliament.

Sayco members are also preparing for the rebuilding of the ANC Youth League, which was formed by Nelson Mandela and other young ANC members in the 1940s. Due to repression and the banning of the ANC, the Youth League no longer exists. Today, the ANC has a Youth Section, to which all young members of the ANC belong.

Mokaba encouraged the delegates to learn about the ANC and "teach the youth in our structures" in preparation for relaunching the ANC youth organization.

Black youth in South Africa are fighting for a "people's education," says Sayco's policy document. Rejecting the segregated educational system designed to "entrench racist domination and monopoly in all spheres of life," students have organized strikes and protests demanding better educational facilities and more teachers.

The student strikes became so widespread that the ANC and Sayco leadership called for students to return to school to continue their education. Although many have returned, the

conditions of overcrowding and teachers taxed by large class sizes and overwork still persist, Mokaba said.

Another challenge facing the youth organization is the "lack of women's participation in our structures," Mokaba noted. The struggle for women's emancipation "cannot be separated from the class struggle, the national liberation struggle, and the struggle for peace and social justice," the policy document states. Mokaba urged the delegates to "come up with definite ways and modes of tackling" the winning of more women to the ranks of Sayco.

Debates rather than weapons

In order to counter government assertions that "Black-on-Black violence" justifies continuation of the state of emergency, Sayco must "uphold the principle of political tolerance and differences as long as that does not mean reconciliation with racism," Mokaba said.

Activists should "prefer to engage those opposed to us politically in debates rather than with weapons," he said. The slogan of the struggle should be "Peace among our people and war against the enemy."

The Sayco leader also called for the maintenance of international economic and political sanctions against the regime until apartheid is abolished. Countering the claim by Washington and London that sanctions only hurt Blacks, Mokaba said, "The sacrifices our people are making are part of their freedom struggle." He encouraged material support be raised internationally to aid the liberation organizations.

Louis Pilusa, a delegate from the Northern Transvaal, said following the congress that "we have just started to build. We have more opportunities now, but the regime is unleashing more violence. The struggle needs to be intensified."

Maxwell Moss, from the western Cape, explained how he had been jailed and then kept under 24-hour house arrest for nearly two years. He thought the congress "helped clarify issues" and provided "needed regional interaction." The "discussions with interna-



South African Youth Congress (Sayco) President Peter Mokaba.

tional comrades, like the Cuban delegates, was especially good. We learned about the rectification process in Cuba and were able to discuss the purposes of perestroika."

A delegate from the Venda "homeland," Harry Masisi, was also optimistic about being able to press the anti-apartheid fight. "Everyone in South Africa is mad about Mandela," he said. "They all want him as their leader. From the experience we had this weekend we will all be able to lead better back in our local areas," he said.

Masisi and other delegates from Venda have been part of massive mobilizations in the "homeland" which forced out the regime's handpicked puppet, Frank Ravele. "We are going to struggle until apartheid is abolished," he added.

Our greetings to Sayco: 'You are writing history'

measures aimed at disguising its reactionary essence.

The release of several outstanding leaders of the anti-apartheid struggle — among them Comrade Nelson Mandela, a living symbol of rebellion and an infinite source of inspiration — as well as the unbanning of the African National Congress and the other democratic organizations, are absolute victories in the constant struggle of the anti-apartheid forces.

Democratic, nonracial South Africa

Nonetheless, this is just the beginning of a new stage of confrontation with the segregationist regime which must continue until apartheid is totally dismantled and a new democratic and nonracial South Africa comes into being, as proclaimed in the Freedom Charter, wherein whites and blacks, Indians and coloured, will make the sovereign people's power a reality.

These profoundly humane objectives are not romantic nor idealistic dreams; they reflect the noblest aspirations of equality and justice. And that is why more sectors within the white community itself are demanding a structural change in South African society.

Comrades, the Cuban youth has also made beautiful and fruitful contributions to the building of a better and happier life for our people and to the defense of these attainments. Our country's current reality shows youths' active participation in pressing tasks which will guarantee continued development towards a better future: enhanced economic awareness, efficiency, and productivity as essential features of our rectification process; constant preparedness for the defense of our socialist country against increasing threats and aggression by U.S. imperialism; and the strengthening of political and ideological education to face the serious ideological confrontation and to defend the loyalty of the

socialist principles. These are the basic elements in our daily work with the young people.

Recently the U.S. administration started with the tests of an aggressive TV project against Cuba with openly subversive objectives. This is a flagrant violation of our sovereignty and of the international standards for the use of telecommunications.

It is also an insult to the dignity of the Cuban people because it has used the name of our national hero, Jose Martí, for such reactionary purposes. But the Cuban response has been an immediate jamming of the TV signal, and we are prepared to impede the implementation of this illegal project at whatever price.

The imperialists are wrong if they believe it is possible to reverse the process of socialist construction in Cuba, as our country is involved in a titanic struggle for development, using creative solutions to the problems we face as a Third World country which has undergone the most criminal economic

'We are proud of our participation and sacrifice at Cuito Cuanavale.'

blockade for more than 30 years and suffers the impact of the world economic crisis.

This arrogant attitude of U.S. imperialism may be a prelude to large-scale aggression against our territory. But the Cuban youth, as part of a people who have willingly chosen the building of socialism, are ready to defend loyally both the principles of Marxism-Leninism and our revolution to the ultimate consequences. If necessary, they are ready to die in the endeavor rather than returning to

an ignominious past which would be an insult to our martyrs and an outrage to our nation.

For Cubans, socialism means everything: independence, liberty, dignity. What we are and what we have today we owe entirely to socialism, and we firmly believe in its unlimited possibilities. That is why to rectify our mistakes and deficiencies we implement socialist solutions.

Today more than ever, our youth support our revolution, our party, and Fidel. The feelings of Cuban youths, reflected in the recent demonstrations in support of our revolutionary process, are clearly expressed in the current slogan: "Socialism or death!"

No peace for Third World

Comrades, we are living through a particularly complex international situation. It is true that the first steps have been taken towards nuclear disarmament, yet one cannot talk about peace.

Nowadays the issue of peace only involves the big powers, while imperialism continues attacking Third World countries and fanning the flames of regional conflicts, as, for example, the Yankee invasion of Panama, its interference in Central America, its support of the antidemocratic and criminal government of El Salvador which is tottering from the impact of the offensives by the FMLN [Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front], its brazen material support to UNITA despite the successful peace accords on southwestern Africa, and the Afghan counterrevolution in defiance of Geneva agreements — all of which shows their hypocrisy and total scorn for the international agreements they subscribe to.

We demand fair peace for all the peoples, peace with respect, security, and sovereignty; and these cannot be attained through nuclear disarmament alone. Imperialism does not need nuclear weapons to attack the Third World countries.

The Third World's economic situation, worsened by its unpayable external debt, becomes increasingly desperate. Every three days hunger and curable diseases kill as many poor children as bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but imperialism is now more inclined to invest in Eastern Europe than in our countries — so the Third World cannot expect any resources for its development.

There will never be true peace while there is hunger, poverty, illiteracy, sick people without hospitals, homeless children, forsaken old people, prostitution, unequal exchange, social injustice and repression, and imprisonment and death for those who struggle for their right to an honorable life and a better world for all.

Despite the present challenges, we are convinced that this human mass who suffers these consequences shall continue struggling for the defense of its legitimate and undefeatable rights as the South African, Saharan, Palestinian, and Salvadoran patriots are doing now.

As a victorious milestone we cannot but mention that far-reaching and relevant event which transcends the boundaries of this country: the proclamation of Namibia's independence and the triumph of SWAPO [South West Africa People's Organization].

We are extremely proud to have offered our modest contribution to the present reality through the participation and sacrifice of our young people in Cuito Cuanavale and elsewhere.

We wish you success in this congress and in your struggle and we say:

Forward! Cuba is with you!

Long live the friendship between Cuban and South African youth!

Long live Sayco!

Long live the ANC!

Down with apartheid!

How French promoted divisions using system of religious and class privilege

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN
AND HARRY RING

(Second of four parts)

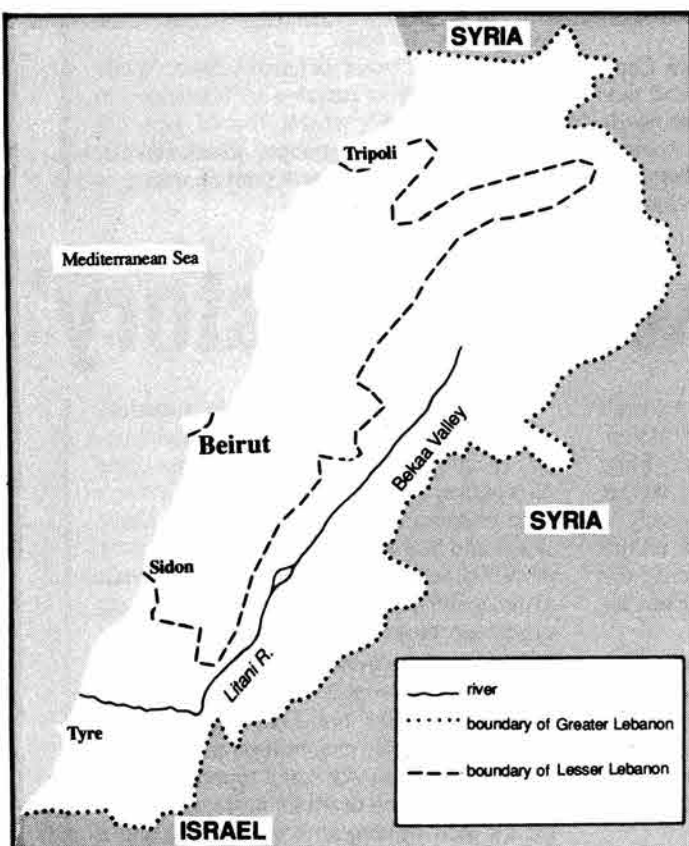
Toward the close of the 19th century, the Maronite Catholics, who were the local rulers of Lebanon, increased their ties with the French colonialists who dominated the country. More and more, the Maronite elite looked

CONFLICT IN LEBANON: The historical background

to France as the source and protector of their privilege. Less and less, they considered themselves part of the Arab world.

In 1982 Kamal Jumblatt, founder of Lebanon's Progressive Socialist Party, charged that the Maronites "seek to isolate Lebanon, to cut it off morally, politically, socially, and perhaps even nationally, from the Arab world." He added, "They were the spoilt children of the colonizers. For them France was 'our beloved mother.'"

The first world imperialist war marked the final defeat of the Turkish Ottoman Empire, which had allied itself with the loser, German imperialism. With that, French imperialism established unchallenged rule over what is now Syria and Lebanon. The British rulers won domination of Iraq, Palestine, and what is today Jordan.



The fall of the Ottoman Empire also sparked a massive rise in Arab nationalism and the anticolonial movement. In 1918 an independent Arab government was declared in Damascus, now Syria's capital. This won support throughout the area.

In Beirut, an Arab national expeditionary force took power. In the Mount Lebanon area, the Druze and Orthodox Christian masses supported the nationalist cause. The anti-colonial struggle was undermining the religious divisions.

Damascus defeated

But French forces were able to crush the Arab government in Damascus, dealing the anticolonial movement a devastating blow. To straitjacket the defeated movement, the French carved up the region. An entire area was amputated from Syria. This was combined with the Mount Lebanon area ("Petit Liban" — Lesser Lebanon) to constitute "Grand Liban" — Greater Lebanon.

Included in Greater Lebanon were the port cities of Beirut, Tripoli, Sidon, and Tyre. Also included was the Bekaa Valley, with its largely Shiite Muslim population. Another area was incorporated that added to the new

country's Druze population.

Greater Lebanon was about twice the size of the Mount Lebanon area. In it, the Muslims and Druze constituted a small majority. With French rule, all these areas and religious denominations came under Maronite domination.

In 1926 a Lebanese constitution was enacted by French decree. But the colonial power continued under a League of Nations mandate.

Throughout, the French persisted in promoting religious division. Election districts were allocated on a sectarian basis. Public posts and parliamentary seats were distributed the same way. Those selected for such posts enjoyed a share of the privileges. This developed a vested interest among government officeholders in perpetuating religious divisions.

Maronite privileges

But the French rulers saw to it that the bigger share of the privileges went to the Maronite elite. Their allotment of government jobs was always disproportionately greater than their number. Their districts enjoyed a greater portion of government funding for schools, roads, and other services.

Moreover, the system of taxation was heavily weighted to the benefit of the Maronites. The people of the regions annexed to Petit Liban protested that they paid 83 percent of the taxes, as compared to 17 percent paid by the Mount Lebanon district. And their tax money supported a bureaucracy that was, in its big majority, Maronite.

The French did not tolerate deviations. In 1932, for example, the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies was dissolved by the French colonialists to prevent it from naming a Sunni president. "Tradition" had it that the presidency was reserved for the Maronites.

From the outset, Muslim, Druze, and Orthodox Christians had strongly opposed annexation of their areas to establish Greater Lebanon. Fearful of Maronite and French domination, many became supporters of Syrian nationalist movements.

The system of allocating posts along religious lines made it possible to win the landlords of the various religions to the new regime. Although the pie may not have been divided evenly, all of them were assured a slice.

In 1943 when Lebanon won full formal independence from

France, this system became the constitutional framework for the new government. A National Pact — never committed to writing — was agreed upon by the capitalists and landlords of all sects. The presidency and army command went to the Maronites; the office of prime minister to the Sunnis; and the presidency of parliament to the Shiites. All other posts were also allocated on a religious basis.

Even though a minority in the country, Christians were given a 6-5 majority in the parliament.

The army was divided along religious lines. Recruitment was strictly regulated. For years no Muslim recruit was accepted unless he brought in a Christian volunteer. If, during the training period, the Christian quit, the Muslim was dismissed.

In all aspects of social life, Muslims got the short end of the stick — particularly the Shiites, who were mainly poor farmers and workers.

Accommodating Christian practice, Sunday closing of business was strictly enforced for all. Muslim shopkeepers, who did not work on Fridays in observance of their religious traditions, found themselves at a disadvantage being closed two days a week.

Colonial regime, crushing Arab nationalists, takes power after World War I.

Discrimination was also blatant in education. Tests for college degrees were given in French or English, none in Arabic. Medicine, engineering, and other professions were taught at the expensive foreign universities, accessible only to the wealthier Christian population.

Protests against censors grow; Ohio art show is hotly debated

BY VALERIE LIBBY

CINCINNATI — A special board meeting of the Association of Art Museum Directors was held here April 23 to add its voice to the growing support for the Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center and its director, Dennis Barrie. The CAC and Barrie have been indicted by the Hamilton County grand jury on two misdemeanor counts each of "pandering obscenity" and "illegal use of a child in nudity related material." The charges stem from the CAC's showing of an exhibit by photographer Robert Mapplethorpe called "The Perfect Moment," which includes some homoerotic images.

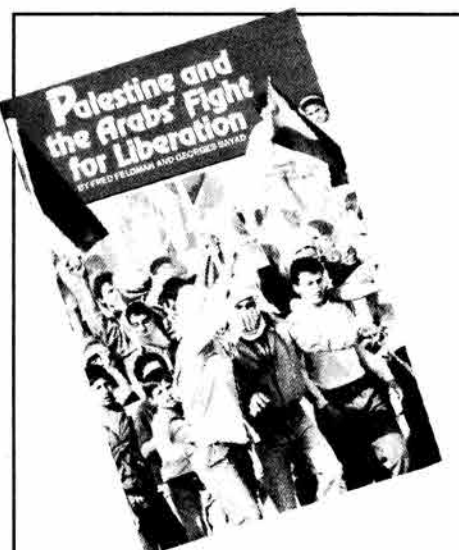
Association President John Walsh, who is also the director of the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, told the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, "We think what has been going on in Cincinnati is very important and not at all limited to Cincinnati. . . . Something of national significance is going on here and we're worried enough to come here and talk about what action we need to take."

The association, which is comprised of more than 170 directors from art institutions in the United States and Canada, adopted a resolution backing the stand of the CAC in pressing ahead with the Mapplethorpe exhibit. The association also voted to pay all fines if Barrie and the CAC are convicted.

Other recent expressions of support include:

- Walden Books at its downtown store here put up a window display of books that have been banned or censored in the past.

- A full-page ad titled "An uncensored letter to America's readers" appeared in the *Enquirer*. It read in part, "We believe attempts to censor the ideas to which we have access — whether books, magazines, plays, works of art, television, movies, or song — are not simply isolated instances of harassment by diverse special interest groups. Rather, they are part of a growing pattern of increasing intolerance, which is changing the fabric of America." The ad was signed by 50 publishers, wholesalers, librarians, and booksellers from around the United States.



Palestine and the Arabs' Fight for Liberation

a pamphlet by Fred Feldman and Georges Sayad. 62 pp., \$2.50

Order from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Include 75 cents for postage.

From the outset large numbers of Muslims in the newly created state were disenfranchised. When Greater Lebanon was created, thousands of Muslims found themselves residents of the new state. But many were never granted citizenship and their position always remained vulnerable.

Again, the most rank discrimination was directed against the Shiites. In 1926 they were recognized as a separate religious community from the Sunnis, but they did not have a spokesperson until 1967.

(Next: Workers and farmers fight back and find a new ally — Palestinian refugees)

- Two and a half weeks into its six-week stay, the Mapplethorpe exhibit has shattered all attendance records for any art exhibit at any museum or showing in Cincinnati's history.

Intimidation campaign

Dennis Barrie and the CAC have been waging a fight to defend the Mapplethorpe exhibit since mid-March when they held a news conference to expose a campaign of threats and intimidation to force censorship or cancellation of the show.

A group called Voice Against Censorship organized to back the CAC and its right to put up the display.

Hamilton County Sheriff Simon Leis declared some of the photographs to be "criminally obscene" and on April 7, the opening day of the exhibit, a Hamilton County grand jury indicted Barrie and the CAC on the claim that seven of the 175 photos were obscene.

The Cincinnati cops then enraged museum-goers by abruptly ordering the packed gallery cleared so they could videotape the exhibit. Chants of "Gestapo go home!" and "Say no to Simon Leis; say no to the art police," broke out from the crowd of 1,000 who formed a demonstration outside the gallery. The exhibit was reopened in an hour, but the police raid stunned the residents of the city.

The CAC was able to get a federal district judge to prevent further police action against the show pending the outcome of the trial.

Exhibit debated

For weeks everywhere you went in Cincinnati the Mapplethorpe exhibit was being debated. In factories and other workplaces, at union halls, in restaurants and bars, at sporting events, and on campuses and in the high schools, people discussed the exhibit, freedom of speech and artistic expression, homosexuality and gay rights, and the police-state tactics of the authorities.

Most people are for the show proceeding and are against censorship of the exhibit. The pro-censorship group Citizens for Community Values (CCV) did not get very far using an antigay focus for their attacks on the exhibit and shifted their emphasis to condemnations of several of Mapplethorpe's photos of nude children.

The CCV board of directors includes Carl Lindner III (the son of the owner of the United Brands conglomerate) and Catholic Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk. The CCV was formed in the tradition of Citizens for Decent Literature founded in the early 1970s by Charles Keating of California savings and loan fame. This group waged a campaign to ban adult bookstores and a wide variety of literature they decided was pornographic.

Despite the efforts of these self-proclaimed protectors of community values, the most authoritative poll here, conducted by the University of Cincinnati Institute for Policy Research, showed 59 percent were for the show going on, 38 percent for it being closed, and 3 percent offering no opinion.

For now, the exhibit is open and uncensored. The legal charges are pending.

Sheriff Leis is now being challenged in Cincinnati's Black community for launching a new attack, this time to ban the sale of the music of the rap band called The 2 Live Crew.

Machinists face blow if United Airlines buyout goes through

Continued from front page

you total control over your future. As the company grows and prospers in the future, all of the benefits will be yours."

There is widespread opposition among IAM members, however, to the proposed concessions and buyout proposal, although many say they see no alternative to voting for the contract. Many IAM members are angered by the union officials' reversal of their position from last fall when they opposed a joint ALPA-United management buyout proposal. The IAM's opposition at that time led to the collapse of the buyout offer and contributed to the second-largest one-day fall in the stock market in history.

Six-year no-strike pledge

Among the many problems with the proposed contract are:

- It will run for five years instead of the usual three, with a no-strike pledge to extend for a sixth year.
- All A-scale workers (those with more than five years' seniority) will take a 3.7 percent cut in wages the first year. Wages will return to current levels in the second year and remain frozen for the rest of the contract. B-scale workers will get a 1.5 percent raise the first year and 4 percent the second year, after which their wages will also be frozen. An airplane cleaner who is hired at the end of this contract, in December 1995, will be paid \$7.24 an hour — 41 cents more than a starting cleaner was paid in January 1989, seven years earlier. With inflation, United workers will sink further and further behind the rising cost of living.
- Wages may not be renegotiated until the fourth year, when IAM officials suggest that raises might be possible. But, according to a contract summary put out by the IAM in early April, the ultimate decision will rest with a "neutral professional" who will decide based on "industry trends, United's financial performance, United's ability to pay its ESOP debt," and wages at "comparable carriers." If the "neutral professional" decides to cut wages instead of raising them, IAM members will not have the right to vote on this — much less the right to strike.

The contract allows small improvements in pensions and medical benefits. It also has increased transfer rights between job classifications. Recently United has been hiring 200 mechanics a month at the big San Francisco maintenance base where 8,500 Machinists work and many ramp workers, cleaners, kitchen workers, and storekeepers see transferring as a way to get better-paying jobs.

Much has been made of a "no layoff" clause. But, another contract summary mailed to all IAM members April 25 says this protection applies only to workers laid off as a result of contracting out work, and even then not to workers with less than one year seniority, not to "short-term" layoffs, and not to situations where the company "completely ceases to perform" certain types of work.

There is a clause supporting the right to refuse to do work for other airlines where unionists are on strike. But this only applies, however, if the struck carrier does not have a preexisting contract with United, is not in bankruptcy proceedings, and the work is not "of an emergency nature."

Only way to save jobs?

Most workers don't want to become owners of the airline. Nor do they think they will grow rich on UAL stock. But many are persuaded by the union officials' argument that this is the only way to save their jobs. Proponents argue that only an ESOP can stop a speculator like Marvin Davis from carrying out a leveraged buyout of the company and imposing an even worse contract.

As was shown last October, however, when IAM opposition led to the last-minute collapse of the ALPA-management buyout bid, any investor who does not have the IAM's agreement on wage concessions and a no-strike pledge will have a hard time getting bank financing for a buyout.

Current UAL stockholders have threatened to sell off planes and other assets to give

themselves a massive payoff if neither the employees nor an outside investor buys the airline. So Machinists are "buying our jobs" with these concessions, say supporters of the ESOP.

Employee stock ownership, however, cannot guarantee that planes and routes will not be sold if, for instance, there is an economic downturn and the company cannot pay the interest on its huge debt. There simply is no way to assure there won't be layoffs — no matter what the contract language says.

A letter from IAM members in Philadelphia who oppose the contract is being circulated widely among United Machinists. "A highly leveraged company does not have the financial capabilities to weather a downturn in the economy," the letter says. "Higher fuel prices and aviation fuel tax are the future realities, and most economists project a recession with reduced profits. Where will the money come from to meet the needs of the added operational cost? ... It does not take a genius to figure out where the money needed to operate will come from. There are two options — sell off assets or make more wage concessions."

Eastern strikers join discussion

"I've been through this," said an Eastern Airlines striker who now works at United in San Francisco. "I know where it ends when you start voting on concessions." About 150 Eastern strikers from Miami and Atlanta have hired on at the maintenance base, and they are some of the strongest opponents of the ESOP. (There are also some Eastern strikers who support the United plan because, unlike the Eastern ESOP, it involves 100 percent employee ownership.)

Former Eastern workers are not the only IAM members who are nervous about United demanding further cuts if there is an economic downturn. "If I buy a fancy car," said one San Francisco mechanic, "and the car is totaled and I don't have insurance, I still have to pay the bank. The car doesn't exist any more, but I still have to pay for it."

"If the economy goes up," said another, "the company just makes more money because we're stuck with wage freezes. If it goes down, they hit us with more cuts and we have no protection."

"We won't really own the company anyway until we finish paying off the banks," explained a cleaner from John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. "In a certain way, it's like the mortgage on your house — the bank will own and control the company, not us."

'Like not having a union'

Some workers are worried that the union will be weakened by an ESOP. "It will be like not having a union if this goes through," said one San Francisco Machinist. "Will we still have to pay dues when the union becomes the company?" asked another.

"I would like to see them just go in and negotiate us a good three-year contract with decent raises and forget about the ESOP," one shop steward in San Francisco said. He was planning to vote against the contract-buyout proposal.

Some Machinists who are worried about not having real union protection under an ESOP say they will vote for the contract anyway, however. One reason is because IAM officials say that if they are forced to go into "traditional" collective bargaining negotiations with the current management, they might get an even worse contract.

UAL Chairman Steven Wolf sounded the same theme at a meeting with several thousand mechanics at the San Francisco maintenance base in March when he said workers were going to have to pay with wage cuts no matter who bought the company, so they might as well end up owning it.

Divisions among union members

Many A-scale mechanics who say they will vote against the pact because they don't want their wages cut are concerned that B-scale workers will support it. The majority of mechanics at United are in the lower scale,



Militant/Alicia Merel

Many Machinists at United Airlines are inspired by fight at Eastern. Above, United workers in New York joined Eastern strikers' rally March 4. "Steve Wolf" is UAL Chairman Steven Wolf.

and this is also true of other IAM-organized job classifications.

Mechanics now start at \$14.45 an hour and progress over five years to the A-scale rate of \$20.05. Almost three-quarters of the \$5.60 increase comes in the last six months. Currently food service employees start at \$6.49 and progress to \$9.73 over 10 years.

Under the proposed contract there are several small improvements for B- and C-scale workers. They would continue to get the progression wage increases, but with 50 percent coming in the last six months. Workers in all classifications would advance to A scale in five years.

Many B-scale mechanics say that even with the cuts and the uncertainty, these are still the best jobs they have ever had. "I have waited and worked a long time for this job," said a Black woman who hired on as a mechanic a year ago, "and I just have to hope this works out."

The new contract pits workers in different tiers against each other, but some are trying to figure out how to overcome these divisions. Some A-scale mechanics say this shows it was wrong to vote in the B scale in the first place. At JFK International, some A-scale mechanics went on a campaign to convince B-scale workers that everyone would be worse off if the contract passed.

Other workers are worried that if workers become owners, the conflicts among individual union members will become even worse. "What am I supposed to do?" asked one San Francisco mechanic, "Watch to make sure you come back from break on time and so-and-so doesn't loaf around? It will be like having a department full of foremen."

AMFA opens campaign at United

At the San Francisco maintenance base, the procompany Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA) has opened up a campaign to exploit these divisions and take advantage of opposition to the ESOP to try to destroy the IAM. A six-page AMFA tract passed out on April 24 argues that the problem is that "many mechanics are being paid considerable [sic] less than unskilled" ramp, stores, and fleet service workers. It implies that mechanics could be making \$40-\$70 an hour if the ground services were just contracted out to service companies, many of which pay little more than minimum wage.

AMFA heaps special scorn on the cleaners, ramp workers, secretaries, and others who have been allowed "to enter the mechanics' ranks and collect mechanics' pay." At United there is a much higher percentage of women, Blacks, and Asians among new mechanics than among A-scale workers, and this is especially true for those who have bid up from other job classifications. Few of those who actually work at the maintenance base will fail to see the racism that underlies AMFA's appeal to "qualified" mechanics. The pamphlet urges mechanics to join AMFA in order to "kill the buyout at UAL and help you rid yourselves of the unskilled who have been riding on your coattails all these years."

AMFA is getting a hearing because there is no other organized opposition to the buyout. But this procompany outfit's approach in fact has a lot in common with the

ESOP. The proposed cuts, concessions, and inevitable weakening of union protection under an ESOP will be hardest on those at the lower end of the wage scale, the newest workers, those who need a strong union the most. The way to fight these concessions is by uniting all workers, not by telling senior mechanics to "sign an AMFA card and protect your craft, class, and career." Where would the Eastern strike — which AMFA opposes — have been without the ramp workers and cleaners?

Officials reverse position

The Philadelphia IAM members' letter says the IAM tops are proposing this buyout deal to win company neutrality for the union's current organizing drive among ticket agents and reservation clerks. This arrangement, the letter says, would net the officialdom more dues money.

But this organizing drive is an effort that opponents of the ESOP should support. If carried out seriously, it can strengthen the IAM and begin to reverse the erosion of union organization among airline workers. That's the direction IAM members need to be looking in.

In the last decade, the owners of the airlines — pushing to bolster their profit rates — have carried out an offensive against airline workers and unions. Union members have accepted, or had forced on them, two- and three-tier wage scales, speed-up, cross-utilization, use of temporary and part-time workers, and other sweeping concessions. Strikes have been lost and unions broken. The union officialdom has been in the forefront of pushing concessions, including ESOPs, in the name of "saving jobs" and keeping "our" companies profitable.

What is different now is the changed attitudes of union members. With the Machinists strike at Eastern Airlines, the pattern of accepting concession demands — so deep in their case that it would have broken the union — has begun to shift.

The Eastern strikers' victory in forcing Texas Air Corp. Chairman Frank Lorenzo out of Eastern's management, has strengthened the entire labor movement. The Eastern Machinists have shown that by remaining firm and reaching out for solidarity, workers can stand up to the employers. Their fight has made many airline workers, including at United, more confident in their own strength and capacities.

"Our strike shows it is possible to fight," argued one San Francisco mechanic who worked at Eastern for more than a decade. The Eastern strike is an example of workers uniting to defend their interests, while the United ESOP asks us to put our own interests aside in order to make the company more profitable and stable.

We are voting no on the contract May 10 and encourage other IAM members to do the same.

Matilde Zimmermann is a sewing machine operator at United Airline's maintenance base in San Francisco and a member of IAM Local 1781. Patti Iiyama, a member of IAM Local 1322, is a cleaner for United at JFK International Airport in New York.

ALABAMA

Birmingham

The Struggle for National Self-Determination in the Soviet Union. Speaker: John Hawkins, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., May 12, 7:30 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Should Workers Support the United Airlines Buyout? Panel discussion with members of International Association of Machinists at United, including former Eastern workers. Sat., May 5, 7:30 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

U.S. Hands Off Cuba! March and rally, Sat., May 19. Assemble 11 a.m. at 24th and Mission. Rally 1:30 p.m. at UN Plaza. Sponsor: U.S. Hands Off Cuba Coalition. For more information call (415) 255-7296.

FLORIDA

Miami

The Destruction of the Everglades. Panel discussion. Sat., May 12, 7:30 p.m. Translation to Spanish. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis. Speakers: Maceo Dixon, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor; Elizabeth Ziers, candidate for lieutenant governor. Sat., May 5, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: 1990 Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

The Truth Behind South Africa's Withdrawal from Namibia. Video showing of Cuban documentary on battle at Cuito Cuavale, Angola. Opening remarks: Janett Brammer, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers Local 6787. Sat., May 12, 7 p.m. 545 W Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018.

IOWA

Marshalltown

Stand Up for Working People! Rally to Support Eastern Airlines Strikers. Speakers: Nick Angelos, member International Association of Machinists Local 561 on strike at Eastern, Kansas City; Annetta Fox, president Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1471, Greyhound, Des Moines; Mike Gardner, president United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-3, Farmstead, Cedar Rapids; Chuck Gifford, president Iowa State CAP Council, United Auto Workers; Larry Ginter, secretary Iowa American Agriculture Movement; Jon Laughlin, president Central Iowa Labor Alliance; Don McKee, International vice-president, AFSCME; Jim Olesen, president UFCW Local 1149, IBP, Perry; Don Winter, acting vice-president Iowa Federation of Labor. Sat., May 12, 1 p.m. UAW Union Hall, Highway 30. Sponsor: Central Iowa Labor Alliance. For more information call (515) 752-9766.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Labor Fights Back! Speakers: Kip Hedges, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists Local 1726 at Northwest Airlines; Mike Holden, vice-president Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1205 on strike at Greyhound; Bill Wilder, president International Union of Electronics Workers on strike at ADT Alarm Systems. Sat., May 12, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

In Defense of Socialism: Eyewitness Report from Cuba. Slide presentation by members of Young Socialist Alliance who just returned from participating in 21st contingent of Venceremos Brigade. Sat., May 19, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Mandela Is Free — The Struggle Continues. Speaker: Lindiwe Mabuzza, chief representative of the African National Congress to the United States. Fri., May 11, 7:30 p.m. African-American Heritage Room, 91 Manoojian Bldg., 3d and Warren streets, Wayne State University. Sponsors: Michigan Anti-Apartheid Coordinating Committee, Michigan Coalition for Human Rights, Museum of African-American History, Nelson Mandela Reception Committee, Pan-African Student Union, South African Student Committee. For more information call (313) 831-4576.

MINNESOTA

Austin

U.S. Hands Off Cuba — No to TV Marti! Speaker: Craig Honts, Socialist Workers Party, member United Auto Workers Local 2125. Sun., May 13, 7 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Stop Union-Busting! Support Eastern and Greyhound Strikers. Speakers: Nick Whitaker, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 202; Nick Gruenberg, Eastern strike activist. Sat., May 12, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Malcolm X. Video and discussion with David Novak, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., May 5, 7:30 p.m. 464 Bergen. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (718) 398-6983.

TEXAS

Houston

Why Mexican Workers Are Not to Blame for U.S. Unemployment. Speaker: Randy Warren, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America. Sat., May 12, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

BRITAIN

Cardiff

The Fight for a Free South Africa: Firsthand Account. Speaker: Rich Palser, *Militant* correspondent recently returned from South Africa. Sat., May 12, 7:30 p.m. 9 Moira Terrace, Adamsdown. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forums. For more information call 0222-484677.

London

South Africa: The New Situation. Speaker: Rich Palser, *Militant* correspondent recently returned from South Africa. Fri., May 11, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forums. For more information call 01-928 7947.

Manchester

British Injustice and the Fight for Democratic Rights. Speakers: Rick Sumner, NW Justice for Mineworkers Campaign; Andy Buchanan, Communist League. Wed., May 9, 7:30 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forums. For more information call 061-839 1766.

The Fight for a Free South Africa: Firsthand Report. Speaker: Rich Palser, *Militant* correspondent recently returned from South Africa. Sat., May 19, 7:30 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forums. For more information call 061-839 1766.

Sheffield

Defend Cuba! Speakers: Sue Reid and Rich Palser, Communist League. Wed., May 9, 7:30 p.m. 2A Waverley House, 10 Joiner St. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forums. For more information call 0742-729469.

CANADA

Montréal

Defend Mark Curtis! Framed-Up Unionist from Des Moines, Iowa. Speakers: Kate Kaku, leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and

Pathfinder Bookstore
Grand Opening

Defending the
Cuban Revolution Today

Speakers: **Elizabeth Stone**, editor **Women and the Cuban Revolution** and **Joseph Antionne-Zimbabwe**, Black Bird Bookstore; **Marcy Bloom**, exec. director Aradia Women's Health Center; **Greg Castilla**, co-coordinator Philippine Action Network; **Skipp Kerekes**, International Association of Machinists Local 1351, on strike at Eastern Airlines; **Colleen Levis**, Communist League of Canada; **John Linder**, Portland Socialist Workers Party; **Katalina Montero**, Venceremos Brigade national committee member; representative United Farm Workers of Washington State; **Michael Nixon**, South African student; **Bob Tuttle**, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1384, on strike against Greyhound. **Sat., May 12; reception, 7 p.m.; program, 8 p.m.; donation: \$5.**

Pacific Northwest
Socialist Education
Conference

Che Guevara's
Revolutionary Heritage

Speaker: representative of **Communist League of Canada**. Sun., May 13, 10 a.m.

Logging, Jobs,
and the Environment

Speaker: representative of **Socialist Workers Party**. Sun., May 13, 1 p.m.

All events at new **Pathfinder Bookstore, 1405 E. Madison, Seattle, Washington**. For more information call (206) 323-1755 in Washington, (503) 287-7416 in Oregon, (604) 872-8343 in British Columbia.

Curtis' wife; Jean-Claude Bernheim, Prisoners' Rights Bureau; Serge Bouchereau, Committee in Solidarity with the Haitian People; Michel Prairie, editor *Lutte ouvrière*, member of delegation to UN Human Rights Commission on Curtis' behalf; Pierre-Paul Saint-Onge, Students Association at Québec University, Montréal; Fred Sweet, Montréal Central Council (CSN). Translation to English, French, and Spanish. Thurs., May 17, 7:30 p.m. 1205, rue de la Visitation (Metro: Beaudry). Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Friends of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Toronto

The Fight Against Antilabor Disruption: The Case of the Workers League. Speaker: Maggie Trowe, Central Committee of the Communist League, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Sat., May 12, 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 Fight Against Antilabor Disruption: The Case of the Workers League. Speaker: Ned Dmytryshyn, Communist League. Sat., May 5, 7:30 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (604) 872-8343.

Che Guevara and the Fight
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Carlos Tablada

Cuban economist and author of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*, currently on a U.S. speaking tour.

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—THE GREAT SOCIETY—

What about the prime minister? — "The last time the British Government imposed a uniform poll



Harry Ring

tax on its citizens — in 1381 — a mob invaded the Tower of London, where the King's ministers had taken refuge, and beheaded the Chancellor of the Exchequer." — *New York Times*.

Pitch it in front of Parliament

— In Britain, a homeless mother of three asked the government's "social fund" for a crisis loan and got a check made out to a camping store. She explains, "They said they couldn't help, so I jokingly asked if they would pay for a tent. The official said, 'Fill out a form' and the next thing I knew, the check had arrived."

Perhaps the truest thing he's said — "I played by the rules of politics as I found them." — Tricky Dick Nixon on Watergate.

Who wants to walk in radioactive rubble — That religious sect that built underground shelters in Montana in anticipation of a nuclear war was looking ahead. The 31,000

gallons of fuel that leaked from an underground tank was part of a stash of 600,000 gallons. This was so that after the nuclear blast they could fuel the shelter generator and, also, have gas for their cars.

Free-market medicine — In 1985 Health Stop, a doc-in-the-box walk-in chain, put its doctors on commission. Lab tests jumped by 23 percent, and x-rays by 16. And they saw 12 percent more patients in the same time. Declared Health Stop's prez: "We're no different from physicians in any private practice. This is the way the rest of America practices."

Free-market dividends — Moscow's new mayor, who plans to

introduce elements of a free market into the city's economy, said this would require measures "to compensate people with low salaries for the expected drop in living standards." Also, he added, it means Moscow will need "30 to 50 free food canteens and dozens of shops with free clothing."

Free-market testimonial — A higher proportion of the youngest children in the United States live in poverty today than in 1979 or 1969, according to a Columbia University report.

He could paint bonds on cell ceiling — "You don't put Michaelangelo or da Vinci in jail. To lose that mind for even a day would be

a tragedy." — Corporate exec Charles Keating on the possibility that junk bond swindler Michael Milken might do some time.

"Give us your poor..." — With 1,000 homeless families stuck in motels, Connecticut officials are trying to obtain the use of 239 one-family GI homes being dumped by the army. Sixteen of these are in New Britain. Bleated the mayor there, "We feel that placing a transient population in a single-family residential neighborhood is inappropriate."

What housing shortage? — Adnan Khashoggi, Imelda Marcos's larceny codefendant, has a New York duplex created out of 16 apartments.

Indians press right to spearfish Wisconsin lakes

BY TOM O'BRIEN
AND KATIE SMYTH

LAC DU FLAMBEAU, Wis. — Some 250 people rallied here on April 14 in support of Anishinabe treaty rights. The high point of the rally was the arrival of Peace Run 1990, whose runners had come from Pipestone, Minnesota, 500 miles away, in support of the right of the Anishinabe (also called the Chippewa or Ojibwe) to hunt, fish, and gather on the territories they ceded to the U.S. government in the last century.

Mitch Walking Elk, an organizer of the Peace Run and one of its participants, told the crowd, "We call upon all the peace movements in this country, and all the political and religious organizations, that are truly interested in justice, seeing an end to racism, and maintaining a clean environment to recognize the struggle that is going on here."

Gaiashkibos, tribal chairman of the Lac Courte Oreilles Anishinabe band, was well received when he said, "Our rights are not for sale. These rights weren't given to us by the United States. These are reserved rights that we retained for ourselves."

The Anishinabe have been under attack since they began spearfishing off-reservation in 1986, following a series of federal court decisions beginning in 1983 that reaffirmed their treaty rights. Two antitreaty organizations, Stop Treaty Abuse (STA) and Protect Americans' Rights and Resources (PARR), have organized hundreds of antitreaty protesters at the boat landings when the Chippewa go out to fish. Members of these outfits shout racist slurs, and in the past spearers and their supporters have been attacked.

The antitreaty forces accuse the Chippewa of taking all the walleyed pike in any lake that they fish, leaving nothing for sports anglers. In reality, the Indians have said they will spear 56 percent of what the Department of Natural Resources determines to be a safe harvest in any particular lake. Last year, Chippewa spearers took 16,000 walleye from Wisconsin lakes, while sports fishermen took more than 670,000.

The state government has not put a stop to the harassment of the Chippewa. On the contrary, Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson has tried to negotiate with the racist organizations and has pressured the Anishinabe to give up their rights.

'Concern for environment'

Some opponents of Indian treaty rights claim a concern for the environment. These "environmentalists" have found a strange ally: Exxon.

Last fall, Governor Thompson offered the Lac du Flambeau band of Chippewa \$30 million to give up their fishing rights for 10 years. As Thompson announced the offer, James Klausner — a former lobbyist for Exxon, Union Carbide, and FMC — was seated at his right hand.

Exxon holds mineral rights to \$6 million worth of zinc and copper on land where Indians have hunting and fishing rights. In addition, treaty supporters say that Exxon wants to strip mine uranium in northern Wisconsin. As long as the Chippewa have the right to hunt and fish in the ceded territories, they have legal standing to oppose any mining operation there. Last year, the Lac Courte Oreilles band went into court to block a proposal by Exxon to open a mine in Ladysmith.

PARR and the governor don't see eye to

eye. Thompson wants to buy out the Chippewa, while PARR wants to terrorize them into submission. PARR opposed Thompson's \$30 million offer to the Lac du Flambeau band. Nevertheless, the threat of violence that PARR and STA foment gives the governor an excuse to attack treaty rights by other means.

The PARR people and others like them are not dealing with "the real threat to our lives here," said Lac Courte Oreilles spiritual leader Gene Begay in an interview. The real threat, he said, is the "reckless damage that's being done to our environment by the capitalists, by the big mining companies, and by the military-industrial complex."

Rally participants on April 14 included residents of Lac du Flambeau and other reservations in the Upper Midwest, antiracist fighters, Central American solidarity and women's rights activists, as well as others who came from Milwaukee, Chicago, Minneapolis-St. Paul, and Madison, Wisconsin.



Chippewa drummers during April 14 ceremony and rally. Action supported northern Wisconsin Indian bands that face a racist attack on their 19th century treaty rights to fish and gather off-reservation.

Montréal cops gun down Black at dance hall

BY ROGER ANNIS

MONTREAL — Police claimed the life of a young Black man in an execution-style killing here on April 8. They stormed into the Thunderdome, a popular downtown dance bar among Black people, with guns drawn in the early morning hours and opened fire on Presley Leslie, 26 years old and the father of one child.

Police claimed they responded to an emergency call reporting gunfire in the club. In the only version of events to make the newspaper headlines, the police alleged that Presley had fired a gun at club patrons and that he subsequently opened fire on police when they arrived.

Only the bar owner upholds the police version of events. Scores of other witnesses explained that the police shooting was entirely unprovoked.

Police have not produced the weapon allegedly carried by Leslie, nor any evidence of bullet holes produced by such a weapon.

An eyewitness told the *Militant*, "You have to see the Thunderdome stairs to understand how ridiculous is the police story. There's no way that anyone firing a gun at police coming up those stairs could miss — they're so steep and narrow. And besides, where's the weapon they claim Presley was carrying? Where are the bullet holes?"

The crowd was angry as it poured out of the bar in the confusion following the shooting. "The white police are killing Blacks! Another Anthony Griffin!", cried several people.

In November 1987 Anthony Griffin, a young Black, was shot in the forehead with his arms raised after responding to Montréal police officer Alain Gosset's call to surrender. Griffin's death sparked outrage in the city. A series of community protests succeeded in forcing the police commission to fire Gosset. The cop was later reinstated by the Québec courts and he has never faced criminal charges.

Announcing his candidacy for mayor of

Montréal at a Forum Lutte Ouvrière here April 21, steelworker and Communist League candidate Michel Dugré condemned the failure of Mayor Jean Doré to take decisive action against the killer cops. The election takes place November 4.

"The racist cop killings of Presley Leslie and Anthony Griffin are part of a pattern of increasing racist police violence across the country aimed at Blacks and Native peoples,"

said Dugré. "The only way to stop them is to build a broad movement, including the unions, to force the government and courts to bring charges against the killers, convict them, and punish them to the full extent of the law."

Some 250 people turned out for Leslie's funeral on April 17. Québec's chief coroner has ordered an inquest into the killing. No date has been set.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

May 9, 1980

The abortive raid by U.S. troops in Iran April 24 was no "humanitarian mission" as President Carter says. It was an act of war against Iran.

It cost at least eight American lives. Yet Defense Secretary Harold Brown repeatedly refused to rule out mounting another such military assault.

Carter undertook this provocation knowing full well that some or all of the Americans held in the U.S. embassy in Tehran would almost certainly die in the "rescue."

Carter knows there is a simple way to end the crisis and save the hostages. Just return the shah to Iran to face justice.

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

May 10, 1965

Fidel Castro delivered a blistering attack on the United States May 1 in response to the U.S. invasion of the Dominican Republic, which began April 28.

"Few actions have so exposed the crimi-

nality and cynicism of U.S. imperialism," Castro stated in reference to the marine landings in Santo Domingo. He pointed out that the invasion violated every treaty that the United States had made with Latin American nations.

Answering the lie that the marines had been landed to save U.S. citizens, Castro pointed out that in the days of civil strife before the landing, while many Dominicans had been killed, not one American citizen had even been injured.

Castro showed that orders for large-scale marine intervention had not been given until the right-wing military junta led by Gen. Elias Wessen was on the verge of collapse and had suffered severe losses at the hands of the Dominican rebels. The rebels were seeking to restore constitutional government and the presidency of Juan Bosch, whom Wessen had overthrown in 1963.

Discarding outright the U.S. claim that the Dominican revolution was being led by Communists, Castro called it a bourgeois democratic revolution, comparing it with the French and American revolutions.

"In Santo Domingo," the Cuban premier stated, "the governments of Latin America and the Latin American people are reaping the bitter fruits of the stupid, criminal, irresponsible policy carried out against our country. They are reaping the fruits of their complicity with imperialism against Cuba."

20 years: Cambodia, Kent State

Twenty years ago nearly 500,000 U.S. troops were in southeast Asia, fighting in Washington's war against the peoples of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Then-President Richard Nixon had recently escalated the war by ordering some of the heaviest bombing in human history over central Laos.

On April 29, 1970, Nixon ordered an invasion of Cambodia by U.S. forces from South Vietnam.

The invasion of Cambodia sparked an immediate and massive explosion of antiwar activity on U.S. campuses. Mass meetings and rallies took place, and the idea of a nationwide student strike to protest Nixon's escalation began to take hold.

A few days later, on May 4, students were gathering on a field in the center of the Kent State University campus in northern Ohio. A speaker called for a campus strike. Ordered to disperse, the students faced National Guardsmen, who had been called onto the campus several days earlier to quell protests that were mounting after the Cambodia invasion. The guardsmen opened fire, and a few seconds later, four students lay dead. Many others were wounded.

The Kent State massacre fired the already growing student revolt. Within a few days some 350 U.S. universities were on strike.

These were not normal "strikes," however. Antiwar activists fought not to shut their schools down, but to open them up as "antiwar universities." As the revolt spread, students transformed their campuses into organizing centers for the broader movement, which was gaining momentum, to end the war in Vietnam.

Five days after the Kent State massacre, six Black youths were gunned down by cops in Augusta, Georgia. On May 14 two Black students were killed and 14 wounded by cops and state troopers who shot into a dormitory at Jackson State College in Jackson, Mississippi, where students had held an antiwar protest the previous day.

These killings also fueled the student protests, which spread to more than 650 colleges and universities. More than 4 million students, out of 7.5 million, were involved. It was, according to Fred Halstead's account in the history of the anti-Vietnam war movement *Out Now!*, "the biggest student strike in world history."

The gigantic wave of student protests deepened antiwar sentiment and activity more broadly, including among unionists and the young soldiers who were being shipped to Vietnam as replacements.

Washington was finally driven out of southeast Asia by the struggle of the Indochinese people — aided by the international movement against Washington's war, above all in the United States itself.

In the course of the war, hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of Vietnamese, Laotian, and Cambodian people were killed by U.S. imperialist forces. Some 60,000 U.S. GIs also perished. Following a 1973 agreement, the last U.S. soldier was finally airlifted out of Saigon on April 30, 1975.

For the people of Cambodia, the struggle was not over, however. Over the next four years, they were the victims of the genocidal terror of the Khmer Rouge, headed by Pol Pot, which came to power after Washington's defeat. These butchers, who murdered more than 2 million, were finally driven from power in 1979 through the joint efforts of anti-Khmer Rouge Cambodians and Vietnamese troops. In 1989, Vietnam withdrew its troops from Cambodia.

Now, evidence is mounting that Washington is backing efforts to return the Khmer Rouge to power by supporting a contra-style war against Cambodia's government — a war in which the Khmer Rouge is the chief fighting force.

Washington's murderous course against Cambodia again must be condemned. No aid to the Khmer Rouge! U.S. hands off Cambodia!

New provocations against Cuba

A series of U.S. Navy maneuvers in the Caribbean are the latest moves in a string of provocations, threats, and attacks against Cuba.

"There is a flow of warships" towards the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo, located in southeastern Cuba, the Cuban newspaper *Granma* reports.

The U.S. government has continued to illegally occupy the base in Cuba since the 1959 revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista.

Cuba's Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (MINFAR), in a statement released April 29, said that three sets of maneuvers by the U.S. military are scheduled to coincide in early May.

One set of "exercises," under the code name "Ocean Venture," includes a sea landing and the drop of paratroopers in a practice assault on Cuba. These maneuvers are to take place in Puerto Rico.

In addition, 12 vessels have been dispatched to Guantánamo, some of the most modern and best equipped in the U.S. naval fleet.

The "Global Shield" operation, involving the U.S. Navy, Army, and Air Force, will also be focused very close or

immediate to Cuban territory.

The extensive military operations follow on the heels of a U.S. warship firing on the Cuban merchant vessel the *Hermann* in January, the start-up of illegal broadcasts to Cuba by TV Martí, U.S. pressure on the UN Human Rights Commission demanding Cuba be placed on the agenda of its next meeting, and an intense anti-Cuba propaganda campaign.

The Cuban people are determined to stand up to these assaults, defend their sovereignty, and not give up one inch of their hard-won independence, including their right to continue building socialism.

The Cuban armed forces have been put on alert, and 3 million of Cuba's 10 million people marched in towns throughout the country May 1 to show their resolute commitment in the face of these assaults.

All those who agree that the Cuban people, not the U.S. empire, should be allowed to decide the future of their country, must add their voices in condemnation of this latest military provocation aimed at Cuba, demanding: U.S. hands off Cuba!

Haitian blood ban prejudiced

In February the Food and Drug Administration voted to ban blood donations from all Haitians, an act they say would protect the blood supply from being contaminated with the AIDS virus. A previous ban prohibited Haitians who arrived in the United States after 1977 from donating blood.

This racist policy sparked immediate protests from Haitians in the United States, who rightly labeled the act as having nothing to do with protecting the blood supply from AIDS. They said it was another abuse in a long line of discriminatory policies aimed at them.

On March 6 in Miami 6,000 Haitians demonstrated against the FDA ban. On April 20 tens of thousands took to the streets in New York demanding the exclusionary policy be lifted.

Even before the New York protest was over, the government began retreating on the ban. Several days later the FDA voted 3-2 to drop the exclusion.

On April 29 the *New York Times* editors criticized the FDA for dropping the ban. "Preventing discrimination is a high priority," the paper stated. "Keeping the blood supply free of a deadly disease and insuring adequate supplies surely rank even higher."

This counterposition is false. A special policy aimed at Haitians is not necessary for an AIDS-free blood supply. Accurate testing of the blood supply, not a blanket ban on an entire group of people that can turn them into ready-made scapegoats, is what is called for.

The responsibility for testing the blood supply in the United States and making available on a wide scale the most modern equipment and technology necessary to do so lies with the federal government.

Their record has not been good. Effective standardized blood testing was unavailable in the 1960s. As the AIDS virus began to spread and more became known about the syndrome, a public outcry resulted, demanding the blood industry implement testing. This was not won until 1985, and even then the blood merchants and the Red Cross were allowed to use up supplies they already had, regardless of the health risk. By the time testing was adopted, many blood recipients — including up to 90 percent of hemophiliacs with severe cases — had been infected by the AIDS virus.

Blood testing is now 99.9 percent effective. The *New York Times* editors argue that the possible .1 percent of tainted donations that might elude detection is a reason for the FDA ban on the blood of Haitians and Sub-Saharan Africans.

Why just Haitians and Africans? Why not many other categories that could be considered "high risk"? All this can do is lead to discriminatory and scapegoating policies.

Every measure established to do what is medically necessary in relation to AIDS has been won through a fight. This includes the fight against discrimination, racist, and antigay policies that have nothing to do with what is needed to treat this health epidemic — like barring all persons from Haiti from donating blood.

Working people and all socially conscious individuals should demand the government move to immediately implement a range of public health measures needed to combat AIDS, including accurate testing, instead of using the AIDS crisis to stigmatize sectors of the population like Haitian immigrants.

International gang-up against Lithuania

BY DOUG JENNESS

Since Lithuania declared its independence from the Soviet Union on March 11, there has been an international gang-up against the small Baltic country. From Moscow to Paris and from Washington to Bonn, the people of Lithuania have received one message: "Don't rock the boat!"

President Mikhail Gorbachev swung into action right away. He ordered a stepped-up presence of Soviet troops, the eviction of Lithuanian civil servants, and a roundup of young men resisting service in the Soviet army. A blockade

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

to prevent goods entering from other countries was imposed. Oil and natural gas, medical supplies, and other necessities from the Soviet Union were sharply reduced.

Moscow's response of was not unexpected. Lithuania — like the other two Baltic countries, Latvia and Estonia — was forcibly annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940. Moscow will do whatever it can to prevent the people there from separating.

If Lithuania goes its own way, tens of millions of other oppressed nationalities confined within the borders of the USSR will get the idea that winning independence is possible. They will be inspired to launch, or in some cases step up, struggles for self-determination.

The specter of deepening nationalist revolts, at the same time that worsening economic conditions threaten to spark labor uprisings, bugs the privileged caste in the Soviet Union. These struggles could bring down Gorbachev and more deeply shake up the entire bureaucratic domination of the country.

The political price then for Gorbachev to permit Lithuania its independence is very high. Yet, he would also pay a high price if he were to launch a full-scale military assault to repress protests there. Coming right after the wave of actions the past year that have toppled police-state rule throughout Eastern Europe, military repression in Lithuania could generate massive protests in those countries as well as in the Soviet Union itself. Gorbachev is attempting to apply heavy pressure short of a more serious crackdown.

The Lithuanian government, headed by Sajudis, a petty-bourgeois nationalist organization, immediately turned to the imperialist "democracies" in North America and Western Europe for help. The imperialists have for decades refused to recognize the Soviet regime's takeover of the Baltic countries and have referred to them as "captive nations."

Despite this stance, the Lithuanian government's appeals fell on deaf ears. Instead of getting aid, the Lithuanians were urged to cool it and try to negotiate a compromise.

President George Bush, for example, has not recognized Lithuania's declaration of independence. On April 24 he announced that he would defer any economic sanctions against the Soviet government for its retaliation against Lithuania.

The *New York Times* editors said Bush "did the right thing — nothing."

"It may be hard to get the full impact of this message across to the Lithuanians," the big-business paper argued. "As long as some leaders in Vilnius think they can establish their independence instantly by precipitating a world crisis, there's little incentive for them to settle even for reasonable dialogue."

To underscore that it would not be deterred by the Lithuanian events from regularizing relations with Moscow, Washington reached a broad trade agreement with the Soviet Union on April 26.

The governments in Western Europe have taken a similar stance. On April 26 Social-Democratic President François Mitterrand and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany sent a letter to the Lithuanian government urging it to suspend application of its declaration of independence, in order to facilitate negotiations with Moscow.

The Lithuanian government responded favorably to the Mitterrand-Kohl letter, and Moscow let up on its blockade, signaling its willingness to negotiate as long as Lithuania's declaration of independence wasn't the framework.

The imperialist governments fear that the Lithuanian independence struggle, like other revolts of oppressed nations and workers' battles in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, will upset political stability and make it more difficult to keep working people there in check.

The capitalists don't like to see workers and oppressed nations mobilizing against oppression anywhere in the world. Such struggles strengthen the self-confidence, solidarity, and experience of working people. They don't bolster capitalist rule where it exists or increase the possibility of capitalist restoration in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Many workers in Lithuania are learning that the imperialist governments not only cannot be depended on for help, but are their enemy. The allies that should be sought internationally are working-class militants and national liberation fighters who have a common interest in ending oppression and exploitation.

ABC special exposes U.S. war against Cambodia

Peter Jennings Reporting: *From the Killing Fields of Cambodia.* An ABC News Special, written by Peter Jennings, Leslie Cockburn, and Tom Yellin. Available on VHS video for \$19.95 by calling (800) ABC-7500. One hour.

BY PETER THIERJUNG

"A question for you. Can you imagine the return of the Nazis? In the 40 years since the Nazis were defeated, only one other group has been as utterly barbaric: the Khmer Rouge, in the killing fields of Cambodia. A decade ago they were driven out of Cambodia by the Vietnamese. What the Khmer Rouge had done to their fellow Cambodians was so

IN REVIEW

unspeakably cruel, it is almost impossible to imagine that the world, especially the United States, would ever tolerate them in power again. This hour is about the return of the Khmer Rouge and American tolerance."

That's how ABC news anchorman and reporter Peter Jennings opened an hour-long broadside against the U.S. government's current policy in Southeast Asia.

The message of the broadcast was direct and simple: the U.S. government is arming and backing the hated Khmer Rouge in a "covert" contra-style war to overthrow the current government of Cambodia. Washington denies this. But ABC's news special revealed the cover-up as transparent and flimsy.

It's unusual for a program this blunt and forthright to be aired on one of U.S. television's three major national networks. It signals that there are divisions within U.S. ruling circles over what to do in Cambodia. Some are openly expressing concern that U.S. backing for the Khmer Rouge, no matter what fig leaf is used for cover, carries a political price too high for Washington to pay.

A more than hour-long ABC News-Time Magazine Forum was aired after the news special and reproduced some of the highlights of this debate. It included several U.S. officials on both sides of the issue. Also appearing was Bobby Muller, executive director of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, who countered liberal Democrat Stephen Solarz, a leading supporter in Congress of Washington's policy.

The Khmer Rouge, headed by Pol Pot, ruled Cambodia

between 1975 and 1979. It came to power claiming to be communist following Washington's defeat in Vietnam, a war that was also waged on Cambodian territory.

Jennings appropriately compares the Khmer Rouge's genocidal crimes with those of the Nazis and Hitler.

During their rule, Cambodia's urban population was forcibly relocated to the countryside to perform agricultural labor. All elementary and high school education was abolished. Child labor became universal. The seven-day work-week became the rule. Religious activity was banned. Buddhist monks were executed. Anyone who spoke English was sentenced to death. Wearing eyeglasses, considered by the Khmer Rouge the mark of an intellectual, was punished with execution.

The only way such a regime could be maintained was through repression on a massive scale. Executions carried out by the Khmer Rouge accounted for the deaths of at least a million Cambodians, Jennings explained, as the screen revealed scenes of their grisly terror. Others estimate as many as 2-4 million died. The population of Cambodia today is estimated at 7 million. At one point, there were reportedly only 45 Cambodian doctors for the country's entire population.

The Khmer Rouge was toppled in 1979 and driven across the border to Thailand by a joint operation of Vietnamese troops and sections of the Khmer Rouge that went into opposition to Pol Pot. A new government was declared and the horror came to an end. The Cambodian government is now headed by Prime Minister Hun Sen.

The U.S. government opposed the Vietnamese action, using it as a pretext to step up the economic and political isolation of the Vietnamese revolution, as well as Cambodia. Only a few years beforehand, Vietnamese liberation fighters drove U.S. forces out of their own country — a blow that the U.S. rulers have never forgotten or forgiven.

Washington claimed the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia was a precondition for establishing normal relations with the Hun Sen government, but the promise was an empty one. At the end of 1989, after a decade of fierce border clashes with regrouped Khmer Rouge forces, Vietnam withdrew its troops from Cambodia. Today, both the United Nations and the U.S. government continue to refuse to recognize Cambodia. Washington also prohibits badly needed humanitarian and medical aid from reaching the country. Even sending pencils for school children is forbidden, one U.S. church worker in Cambodia told Jennings.

The Khmer Rouge currently has more than 23,000 troops in the field operating on the Thailand-Cambodia border and in Cambodia. Together with some 14,000 non-Khmer Rouge troops they are stepping up their campaign to cripple and bring down the Hun Sen government. The prospect of a Khmer Rouge return to power is causing an international outcry. "Cambodia is on the edge of hell again," Jennings said.

Washington claims to have a plan to keep the Khmer Rouge out of power and to allow the Cambodian people the right to self-determination in elections supervised by the United Nations, Jennings reported. But the plan the U.S. supports, he added, would automatically hand the Khmer Rouge an equal share of the political power in Cambodia even prior to the elections. Official Khmer Rouge radio has applauded the U.S. stance as "very correct."

The U.S. government also claims to only support the non-Khmer Rouge forces of Cambodia's former monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk and of Gen. Sak Sutsakan, who are also fighting to overthrow the Cambodian government. But these very same forces have a coalition with the Khmer Rouge. Sihanouk is the figurehead of this alliance.

Through interviews with other correspondents, General Sak, Sihanouk, U.S. officials, and others, the ABC news special unravels the U.S. government's cover-up. It reveals that:

- The Khmer Rouge is the central and most efficient fighting component of the coalition and that any separation between Khmer Rouge forces and the others is a fiction.
- Despite Washington's denials, the U.S. government is providing lethal military aid to the non-Khmer Rouge forces.
- Washington supported the regroupment of the Khmer Rouge forces in 1979 during James Carter's administration and has enlisted the Chinese government to help keep the Khmer Rouge in business.
- So-called U.S. humanitarian aid is funnelled to refugee camps in Thailand on the Cambodian border that are controlled by the Khmer Rouge, backing up their military efforts.
- The covert war — financed by Washington to the tune of at least \$20 million a year — is organized by a clandestine U.S. coordinating body called the "Cambodia working group." It provides military and strategic planning, and supplies arms to the Cambodian contras.

LETTERS

Contra war

Doug Jenness may be right when he says in his April 20 "Learning About Socialism" column that the contra war in Nicaragua had ended in 1987. Unfortunately, the killing had not.

It had, in fact, escalated since the U.S. Congress so generously provided additional contra aid in the spring of 1989, and there is no doubt that both economic and military aggression would have continued if the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) had won the election.

No analysis I have read says that U.S. aggression or U.S. money was solely responsible for the election results, but no rational analysis can deny the major role they played.

The FSLN had made mistakes, and the revolution suffered a serious setback — a defeat, if you will. But, as Sandinista Workers Federation members were saying after the election, "This is just a new stage of the struggle. We have to take up this new challenge. We've been in tough places before."

Lois Remple
Pueblo, Colorado

Malcolm X

It was gratifying to read the *Militant* report that Pathfinder is issuing a new edition of the pamphlet *Two Speeches By Malcolm X*. This will be the 15th printing since it was first issued in 1965, soon after Malcolm's assassination.

Readers might be interested to know that the idea for such a pamphlet was the result of a phone call to the *Militant*.

A few days after Malcolm was killed, a woman called, and — while she didn't identify herself — it was clear from the tenor of her conversation that she was a supporter of Malcolm's movement and also a reader of the *Militant*.

She asked if we had any plans to make available in permanent form

any of his speeches that had appeared in the paper. We told her that a book of his speeches was already in preparation before his death — *Malcolm X Speaks*.

Hearing this, she paused and then said this was good, but had we considered the idea of also having a smaller pamphlet collection. It would be easier, she said, to take pamphlets to the job to sell to co-workers.

Today, Pathfinder supporters are finding that they can sell books to coworkers, as well as pamphlets. But her idea of putting out both was surely a good one, as the sales of each since then confirm.

Harry Ring
New York, New York

Poll tax demonstration

As a regular reader of the *Militant*, I read with interest Brian Grogan's article on the poll tax demonstration and feel the article did not do full justice to the event or its political significance.

First, the number of marchers was closer to 200,000 than the 100,000 he reports. It was certainly among the largest postwar political demonstrations in Britain.

Second, it was built without the participation of the Trades Union Congress or the leadership of the Labour Party.

Third, it was preceded by widespread demonstrations across the country, often in rural heartlands of traditional Conservative Party voting.

Fourth, a huge vacuum is created by the Labour Party leadership's advice to abide by the law and pay. Many conservative supporters won't follow this advice.

Honest accounting would show this opportunity was spotted by the British "Militant" grouping two years ago. They have created a national structure for the anti-poll tax movement and organized this demonstration. The British press and

Labour Party leadership recognize this and have attempted to conduct a witch-hunt.

I was disappointed to see the only intervention by the Communist League was to sell Mandela books and petition on behalf of Mark Curtis.

I feel a multinational newspaper like the *Militant* is unable to enter into the complexities of political life in any one country. I'm afraid you are in danger of missing the boat!

J. Laurence
London, England

Health care — a right

Health care is a right, not a benefit. Cradle-to-grave coverage!

A recent poll by the Roper organization found "most Americans are confident about the '90s." I wonder if the polltakers talked to working Americans who are seeing their medical insurance premiums climb by 20 percent to 30 percent and their out-of-pocket costs creeping up by the hundreds? How confident are you about your ability to get and pay for quality medical care over the next few years?

The only solution to this sad state of affairs is a national health plan, providing all U.S. citizens with free health care on demand.

The Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union has endorsed a national health program based on the Canadian system, which has been in place for 20 years and is very successful.

Let's face it — the U.S. health-care system's condition is terminal and it's time for a change.

Denis Stephano
Financial Secretary
OCAW Local 8-234
Linwood, Pennsylvania

Outrageous

The papers here report that the Atlanta police internal affairs unit is investigating what happened to

"JUST A LITTLE TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR"



Pearl Annie Rainey, a Black woman who was arrested outside her burning house.

The cops arrested her when she kept trying to get to the fire fighters to tell them her husband was in the house.

She was held overnight in jail, and when she was released she had gouges on her neck and arms and a forehead bruise. Her jailer charged her with battery.

Rainey did not learn until she was released from jail the next day that

her husband had died in the fire.

Pretty outrageous, isn't it?

Ellen Berman
Atlanta, Georgia

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.

Toronto meeting: 'Hands off Cuba!'

BY GEORGE A. ROSE

TORONTO — The April 20 "U.S. Hands Off Cuba" meeting here was the largest and broadest political event against imperialist intervention in Cuba held in Toronto in many years, perhaps the largest ever. Some 500 people participated in the meeting, where Rita Pereira from the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) was the featured speaker.

The event was coordinated by the Committee for Defense of Sovereignty and Self-Determination of the Peoples, a group which originally came together to protest the U.S. invasion of Panama last December.

The rally opened with greetings from some of the supporting groups. Peter Mahlangu, chief African National Congress (ANC) rep-

the right to self-determination.

Women's rights leader Carolyn Eagan also urged that the rally "should be the beginning of a strong campaign across Canada and Québec" in which "all progressive movements — the women's movement, the anti-racist movement, the working-class movement — pledge to continue the fight against U.S. government intervention and provocation" against Cuba.

Greetings were also presented by Arturo Valencia from FENASTRAS (National Federation of Salvadoran Workers' Unions); George Hewison, general secretary of the Communist Party of Canada; and Mary Ellen Marus, representing the Communist League.

Several written greetings were also received and read from people unable to attend in person.

Robert White, president of the Canadian Auto Workers, stated in a written message the CAW's support to Cuba's "right to determine your own affairs without the interference of the United States," and called for an end to the U.S. economic blockade.

Bob Ras, leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party, wrote, "The Cuban people have our support in preserving the integrity of their nation and their government."

Dan Heap, an NDP member of the federal Parliament, sent a message condemning the Canadian government's failure to speak out against U.S. aggression against Nicaragua, Panama, and Cuba.

Gordon Wilson, president of the Ontario Federation of Labour, urged the U.S. government to realize that the Cuban people have the right "to continue to decide their own destiny."

Pereira, who was elected to the national committee of the FMC at its recent congress, detailed the many gains of Cuban women. Women, she said, now make up 38.7 percent of the active labor force; half of all doctors, including specialists; 55.3 percent of university graduates; half of all trade union leaders at the local level; and 34 percent of the members of Cuba's elected representative bodies, known as People's Power. She also cited the significant advances in health and education in Cuba.

Many goals to be attained

She had no intention of portraying Cuba as a "paradise for women," Pereira stressed. Many goals are yet to be attained, including



Rita Pereira (left) of the Federation of Cuban Women at "U.S. Hands Off Cuba" meeting April 20. Dick Barry, president of United Electrical Workers Union in Canada, also spoke.



'We must raise our voices so that Cuba's people have right to self-determination.'

representative to Canada, praised the Cuban people, who "have laid down their lives for our people in defense of the revolution of Angola."

Holly Kirkconnell, chairperson of the International Affairs Committee of the Metro Toronto Labour Council, declared, "We in the Toronto labor movement add our voices to the many around the world saying to the U.S., 'Hands off Cuba!'"

She noted that 10 years ago she and Linda Tomey, who is now Labour Council president, participated in a study tour of Canadian trade unionists to Cuba. "It was a very worthwhile experience, and we are encouraging union members to go on the tour this summer that is being organized by the Canada-Cuba Cultural Interchange," Kirkconnell said.

The Labour Council, which represents more than 180,000 union members, included material on the April 20 rally and the summer tour to Cuba in a mailing to its affiliates.

'No more Grenadas, Panamas'

Dick Barry, Canadian national president of the United Electrical Workers Union, warned that the threat of U.S. military aggression against Cuba is real. "We have to raise our voices and do whatever we can to make sure we have no more Grenadas, no more Panamas, and that Cuba's people have

full representation of women in top positions in the Cuban government and Communist Party. Eliminating sexist attitudes in the thinking of both men and women is a long process, she said, but that does not mean it is a process that can be left to spontaneity.

In a meeting the following week specifically on women in Cuba, in which most of the time was devoted to questions and discussion, Pereira developed some of these themes in more detail. She explained her organization's efforts, backed up by the Communist Party and the Cuban government, to work against gender stereotyping in education and the media and against depiction of women as sex objects. She also noted Cuban President Fidel Castro's call at the 1986 party congress for conscious promotion of women, Blacks, and youth in the leadership of the Communist Party.

Pereira attended the April 28 annual general meeting of the Canadian Abortion Rights

Action League and the April 25 annual general meeting of the Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association.

Throughout her two-week tour in Toronto, which included numerous receptions, meetings, and news media interviews, Pereira emphasized that the gains of Cuban women are inextricably tied to the socialist course of the revolution. Independence, sovereignty, and economic and social development of the country lay the material foundations for women to advance, she said.

More than 30 organizations joined in sponsoring and promoting the April 20 rally. They included the ANC, Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association, Canadian Action for Nicaragua, El Salvador Emergency Network, Communist League, Communist Party of Canada, FENASTRAS, Latin American community and cultural groups, anti-racist and anti-apartheid organizations, women's rights fighters, and students.

Revolt hits barbaric prison conditions in Britain

BY ANDY BUCHANAN

MANCHESTER, England — On April 25 heavily armed squads of police and prison officers moved to end the 25-day protest at Strangeways prison here. After a long and tense day, the protesters were forced to give themselves up.

The action, the longest prison protest in Britain, succeeded in focusing attention on the barbaric conditions that exist in British prisons and elicited broad sympathy. The four-week protest involved prisoners in 20 of Britain's 125 prisons.

Their action occurred at a time when the government was already reeling from widespread opposition to the effects of its economic policies, especially the imposition of a poll tax. Even many of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's parliamentary supporters went into paroxysms of anger over her administration's failure to act more decisively against the protesters. The *Sun*, a stalwart supporter of Thatcher's Conservative Party government and the largest-selling daily, editorialized, "A band of thugs were allowed to defy and ridicule the prison system. . . . Strangeways is virtually a burned-out wreck. . . . Home Secretary David Waddington was in favour of talk, talk. See where it got him and us."

In an attempt to deflect this opposition, Waddington announced possibly establishing prison mutiny as a legal offense and restrict-

ing the number of prisoners allowed to congregate in any one place.

Overcrowded conditions

Strangeways, located just to the north of Manchester's center, was designed to hold 970 prisoners. At a press conference here, prison governor Brendan O'Friel admitted that one of the causes of the protest was the acute overcrowding in the prison. The prison population had risen by 150 to 1,650 in the past few months, he said.

Even though Strangeways had been lauded as "the fastest improving prison in the system," its goal of giving a mere 11 hours per week free association was far from being realized. Typically prisoners were "banged up" — locked in their cells — for 23 hours a day. The overcrowded conditions were complemented by a lack of exercise facilities, poor diet, and petty harassment from prison officers. There were no internal sanitary facilities.

Around 47 percent of the prisoners in Strangeways are being held on remand, which means that they were denied bail pending trial. Many will be released after coming to trial — either by being found not guilty or because they will have already served more time in prison awaiting trial than the sentence ordered by the court. A Strangeways prisoner typically serves a three- to 12-month sentence. Many of the prisoners are confined for minor of-

fenses such as traffic violations or the nonpayment of fines imposed for offenses that themselves cannot bring a custodial sentence.

These inhuman conditions gave rise to the prison protest, which broke out during a church service on the morning of April 1. Within minutes prisoners had overpowered and expelled warders and had taken control of the entire sprawling complex. In an outpouring of anger, prison buildings were substantially demolished. Large areas of the roof were destroyed, with cell doors and fittings being ripped off inside the prison wings. Rebellious prisoners also started a number of fires, which caused even more extensive damage.

'Magnificent Seven'

After the initial protest, many prisoners gave themselves up to the authorities and were sent off to other prisons. Seven prisoners, however, resolved to continue. They became known among supporters gathered in the roads around the prison as the "diehards," or — as one prominent sign put it — the "Magnificent Seven." Day after day, they appeared on the battered roof of the prison, displaying banners protesting prison conditions. Their activities on the roof, which included guitar playing, dancing, feeding birds, and doing physical exercises, contrasted sharply with the media image of the protesters as subhuman beasts.

Supporters, including family members and

ex-prisoners, congregated in large numbers beneath the prison walls. Although the authorities attempted to prevent communication between the protesters and their supporters by sounding sirens, each new gesture on the roof was cheered by those watching below.

On the evening before making their move to retake the prison by force, police with dogs cleared onlookers from the streets. The attack was signaled by a police helicopter diving over the prison, after which "control and restraint" squads moved in. So confident were they of ending the siege quickly, the government let it be known that it would be making a statement in the House of Commons that afternoon. But, despite the overwhelming odds, the Seven resisted another day, running across the roof and shouting defiance at the officers.

Onlookers who had themselves done time in Strangeways explained the fate awaiting the protesters after their surrender. "They'll get a beating," one said, "but you can take that. It's the mental torture that's worse. They'll have them in isolation and drugged up for years."

Whatever fate now awaits the Seven, many working people have been inspired by their fight against inhuman conditions within the prisons. As one onlooker put it, pointing to the roof, "The real heroes in this country are up there!"