

Curtis delegation attends UN event in Cuba

BY PETER THIERJUNG

"Mark Curtis is a political and union activist in Des Moines, Iowa, who was framed up by the police," began a paper distributed by a delegation from the Mark Curtis Defense Committee at the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders held in Havana, Cuba. The congress met from August 27 to September 7, drawing over 1,400 participants from around the world.

Kate Kaku, Curtis' wife and defense committee leader, and John Studer, the committee's coordinator, were invited to attend the congress by the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the UN Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in Vienna, Austria.

The dossier described how the police frame-up and beating of Curtis, and his treatment at the hands of prison authorities since being railroaded to jail, violate basic UN standards adopted at previous congresses.

Like all delegates from the United States, Kaku and Studer were only able to travel to Havana for the congress after overcoming U.S. government-imposed obstacles to their attendance. U.S. law bars travel to Cuba by prohibiting the spending of money there. The

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Bush wins new backing in Arab East aggression

BY SELVA NEBBIA

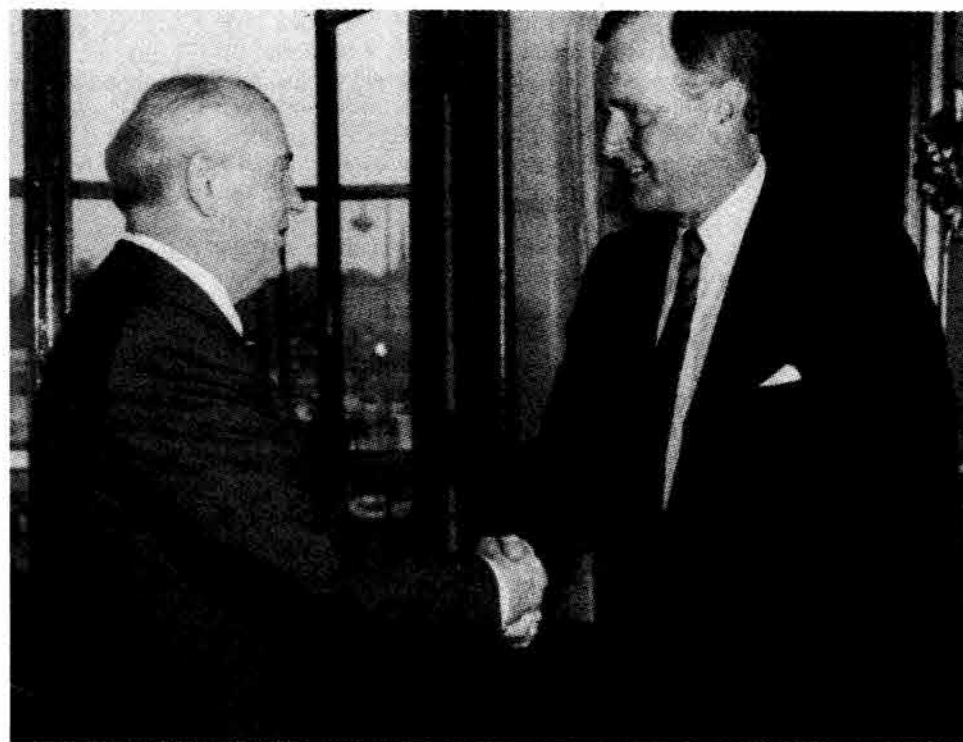
As Washington continued its massive military buildup and war preparations in the Arab East, President George Bush announced the emergence of a "historic period of collaboration" with Moscow and "a new world order."

Speaking before Congress on September 11, Bush pointed to the joint statement the U.S. president and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev signed at a summit meeting held in Helsinki, Finland, three days earlier.

Bush quoted part of the statement that read, "We are united in the belief that Iraq's aggression must not be tolerated. No peaceful international order is possible if larger states can devour their smaller neighbors."

The statement further said the Soviet and the U.S. governments are "united against Iraq's aggression as long as the crisis exists. However, we are determined to see this aggression end, and if the current steps fail to end it, we are prepared to consider additional ones consistent with the UN Charter. We must demonstrate beyond any doubt that aggression cannot and will not pay."

Since August 2, when President Saddam Hussein of Iraq sent troops into neighboring Kuwait and deposed the ruling monarchy there, the United Nations Security Council has passed several resolutions condemning the Iraqi invasion and demanding the immediate withdrawal of Iraq's troops from Kuwait. On August 25 the 15-member council passed a resolution 13 to 0 — with Cuba and Yemen abstaining — allowing the use of military power to enforce a blockade against Iraq voted on earlier. By the same 13 to 0



Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and President George Bush at signing of joint statement on Iraq. Bush claimed a "historic period of collaboration" had opened up.

margin, the Security Council had voted August 10 to bar any international trade with Iraq.

Washington's interest in the Arab East are not "transitory," Bush explained in his address to Congress. "Vital economic interests are at risk," he said. Bush pointed to the fact that with the Iraqi annexation of Kuwait, Iraq

controls 20 percent of the world's remaining oil reserves. This Washington cannot tolerate, he said.

In the wake of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, Washington began the deployment of U.S. military personnel and war matériel to Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf — now estimated at 100,000 troops, 45 major naval ships, and 170 combat aircraft. Washington has extended its military presence into neighboring Arab countries: Oman, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar.

Washington's war moves in the Gulf, called Operation Desert Shield, represent the largest U.S. military deployment since the Vietnam War. After sending hundreds of thousands of troops in the mid-1960s in an attempt to turn back the Vietnamese revolution, the U.S. military was finally defeated in Vietnam after suffering 58,000 killed.

The bipartisan character of the current U.S. war policies was underlined when House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-Missouri) spoke following Bush's address to Congress. Describing the U.S. war moves to

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Protesters outnumber passengers at Eastern Airlines start-up in Virginia

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

Attempts by Eastern Airlines to start flying in and out of Roanoke, Virginia, on September 6 were met by a protest of over 50 trade unionists and supporters of the 18-month-long Machinists strike against the carrier.

Two months ago Eastern announced it would begin service September 6 with four flights in Roanoke. Even before the start-up day, the failing airline cut the scheduled flights back to three.

Joining in the demonstration were trade unionists from the International Union of

Electronic Workers, United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), United Food and Commercial Workers, United Steelworkers of America, United Transportation Union, and the Amalgamated Transit Union. Three members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) on strike against Eastern in Greensboro, North Carolina, also participated. The Roanoke Central Labor Council had organized the day of activities.

Members of the Daughters of Mother Jones, a group formed out of the successful 1989-90 UMWA strike against Pittston in

Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky, as well as Communications Workers of America members, staffed information tables inside the airport terminal building.

Eastern tried to limit the impact of the protest by adding on extra security and pickets were confined to an eight-foot-square

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Pickets at New York's La Guardia Airport on August 4, 17 months into Eastern strike

Supporters of socialist press launch circulation campaign

BY RONI McCANN

Supporters of the *Militant* around the world are making plans to launch an eight-week circulation campaign to win 8,000 new readers to the socialist press.

Beginning September 22 supporters around the world will fan out to shopping centers, working-class neighborhoods, college campuses, factory gates and mine portals, and farming areas to introduce working people and youth to the socialist periodicals.

The drive will be centered in eight countries: Australia, Britain, Canada, France, Iceland, New Zealand, Sweden, and the United States.

The goal is to sign up 5,050 new subscribers to the *Militant*, 1,300 to the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 400 to the French-language *Lutte ouvrière* by November 17. In addition, supporters will aim to sell 1,250 single copies of the Marxist mag-

azines *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale*.

Over the last several weeks *Militant* supporters in many cities have stepped up sales of the paper to working people both to get out the truth behind the U.S. aggression in the Arab East and to bring them weekly coverage of the 18-month strike by the Machinists at Eastern Airlines.

Political opportunities

On the Machinists picket lines; in factories, mills, and mines; at army bases; and among college students and political activists, the U.S. war moves in the Arab East is a big topic of discussion. The *Militant* offers a clear explanation why the military buildup should be opposed and the U.S. forces be withdrawn. It provides a background to the struggle of the Arab people and news of the protests that are beginning against the U.S.

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Boston workers, strikers like truth on U.S. war

BOSTON — U.S. war moves in the Mideast have been a hot topic of discussion on the Eastern Airlines picket line here in Boston and among

up to. There is also some support for the government's propaganda that something had to be done about Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

war for the oil barons, not us," another added. In all, four copies of the *Militant* were sold on the picket line during the week and two readers renewed their subscriptions.

It had a spotlight on it and was apparently put up by the company in support of Washington's war moves.

One worker who has two brothers in Saudi Arabia took a copy of the *Militant*. He returned the next day saying, "This is exactly what I've been looking for, something that tells the truth about what's going on over there." *Militant* supporters in the plant sold eight copies of the paper over the course of the week.

At the General Electric war production plant outside Boston in Lynn, four workers bought copies of the paper, two from *Militant* supporters selling at the plant gate. Workers there, also members of the IUE, manufacture engines for the A-10 anti-tank aircraft that would be widely used in the event of a war with Iraq. This fact, however, has not convinced many workers that such a war would be in their best interest.

At Northrop Corp., another local war production plant, *Militant* supporters sold four papers to workers. A supporter who works at the factory reported that a war for oil was not a popular idea among his coworkers. Because *Militant* salespeople sell at

the factory gate there each week, some workers have money for the paper in hand as they leave.

Seven members of the United Transportation Union, conductors for Amtrak's commuter rail system, bought the *Militant* the week of September 3 because of the Arab East coverage. *Militant* supporters report a lack of enthusiasm for a war. One young worker said he would go to Canada before he would go to Saudi Arabia. An older worker said, "This whole thing is a big lie."

At the Ralph Lauren Polo Co., where workers are organized by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, several workers of Turkish and Lebanese descent have bought the *Militant* at the plant gate. Inside the plant two workers from the Dominican Republic have been pounding the war drums. Most workers in what is a largely immigrant work force don't support them and say there has been a lively debate going on. Several workers have decided to subscribe to the *Militant*.

Kip Hedges from Boston contributed this week's column.



GETTING THE MILITANT AROUND

other workers at factory gates and on the job throughout the city.

When *Militant* salespeople in the Boston area decided to redouble their efforts to reach working people in the shops and at plant gates nearly 40 papers were sold in the first week of September. This effort allowed the *Militant* and its supporters to be part of the debate over the U.S. war moves and get out the truth about Washington's actions.

On the Machinists picket line at Logan International Airport there is widespread suspicion of what the government and oil companies are

One Eastern striker who decided to renew his *Militant* subscription said, "Maybe we do need to protect that oil. I don't know. But I'll be damned if my kids go over there."

Another striker, who got a copy of the *Militant* to read about the historical background of the Arab East, said, "When I went to the Veterans Administration for help at the beginning of the strike they said 'Go away,' even though I had five years in the marines. This government doesn't give a damn about working people."

"The government is fighting this

Many ramp workers at Northwest support President George Bush's actions, but there has been a daily discussion about the potential cost in lives and money should a war break out. Four Machinists union members at Northwest bought copies of the *Militant*, and one subscribed to *Perspectiva Mundial*.

In the Boston suburb of Waltham, workers at Standard Thompson, members of the International Union of Electronic Workers, were greeted in the plant last week by a huge American flag hung from the ceiling.

Pickets outnumber passengers at Eastern start-up

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area. But on the access road leading to the terminal dozens of chanting pickets greeted vehicles coming in. Motorists waved in approval and honked their horns to show their support of the union action.

Pickets reported that the flight arriving at 5:40 p.m. had 20 passengers, 13 of whom were city officials who had accepted free tickets to fly on the airline. One flight had 12 people departing and the observers noted that most of those passengers wore Eastern's employee identification tags.

Unionists are vowing to return to Roanoke Regional Airport on September 15 for an even larger protest.

In the face of Eastern's worsening position, the Machinists strike continues to advance. Most recently, strikers were highly visible at this year's Labor Day activities, and in a number of cities expanded picket lines, airport walk-throughs, and special strike activities are planned.

Eastern strikers in Boston and Detroit are publicizing expanded airport picket lines for September 22. Expanded picketing is also planned for New York's La Guardia Airport on September 15. Leaflets for these three actions were widely distributed at Labor Day activities.

Frank Ortis, national Eastern strike coor-

ordinator and president of IAM Local Lodge 702 in Miami, in a telephone interview urged strike supporters to "keep up the spirits on the picket line" and participate in the upcoming rallies and strike activities. "We had a great Labor Day parade here in South Florida. We had close to a 1,000 people turn out and got good media coverage. Our people still are dedicated to the strike," explained Ortis.

Ortis also reported as part of building ongoing support for the strike, the Machinists would be making every effort to participate in the upcoming fall national conventions of various unions.

Opportunities to reach out

Eastern strikers have been taking advantage of opportunities to speak before meetings of trade unionists. For instance, a striker from Washington, D.C., has been participating in a speaking tour through Nebraska to win new support for the strike. Bob Taylor, IAM District 100 general chairman, recently spoke before a number of unions in Alabama, including several locals of the mine workers' union. Two strikers, one from Los Angeles and one from Phoenix, recently toured around Utah and participated in Labor Day activities.

On March 4, 1989, 8,500 members of the IAM struck Eastern Airlines in an effort to halt a company drive, headed by Frank Lorenzo, to break the union and impose

massive concessions on the work force.

Each day as the strike grows stronger, Eastern's situation remains in a weakened position.

Even with the resumption of flights in a number of cities over the course of the strike, passenger loads on the airline have remained low and well below what's needed just to break even.

Eastern continues to lose millions of dollars on its operations every day. In the second quarter, the airline posted a net loss of \$35.6 million, counting sales of the airline's assets. The carrier has indicated it expects to lose \$510 million for the year. And since filing for bankruptcy in March 1989, the airline has lost more than \$1.2 billion.

As the airline continues to disintegrate, many of Eastern's management and scabs it has hired sense their jobs may not be secure anymore. Already, 76 of the company's 190 top managers have quit.

To keep any more desertions from taking place, Martin Shugrue, court-appointed trustee for Eastern, requested that the bankruptcy court let the airline withdraw money from the escrow account to pay 168 of the company's top executives a "golden parachute" bonus of one year's salary if they stay with the company until it is reorganized, or sold, and a smaller bonus if the airline is liquidated. Shugrue also proposed guarantee-

ing 7,300 nonunion employees severance pay of up to four weeks if their jobs are eliminated.

Airline industry analysts estimate that Eastern's losses continued unabated over the peak summer season, despite super-cheap fares and special package deals. In June Eastern's flight loads averaged 20 percent below the break-even point. The losses are likely to double as the peak travel months of summer come to an end.

Eastern also remains under indictment for safety violations, making it the first U.S. airline to ever be hit with criminal charges for failing to maintain its planes properly. The September 11 issue of the IAM District 100 strike bulletin reported the bankruptcy court had made a "preliminary decision," denying Shugrue's "appeal to use millions of dollars to defend Eastern managers who have been indicted."

On top of everything else, a \$95 million payment to the company's pension fund is due September 15 in order to prevent the termination of the fund.

Some airline industry analysts have bluntly said the airline could not continue operating past the end of September.

Bill Schenk, an Eastern striker and a member of the IAM in Greensboro, North Carolina, contributed to this article.

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Socialists launch two new campaigns

'Why run for office in Connecticut?'

BY TIM CRAINE

HARTFORD, Connecticut — "When the capitalist press pronounces socialism dead, why would a socialist run for office in Connecticut, the state that leads the capitalist United States in per capita income?"

This question was posed by Carl Weinberg, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor at a September 6 news conference at the state capitol here.

"Connecticut reflects the deep contradictions of capitalism," Weinberg explained in launching his campaign. "Along with the largest concentration of rich people, the state has three of the country's 10 poorest cities, high prevalence of AIDS, large numbers of working people who cannot afford health insurance, infant mortality in some areas comparable to the Third World, disastrous pollution of state waterways, growing unemployment, and banks teetering on the edge of failure."

Weinberg is a leader of a drive to unionize graduate teaching and research assistants at Yale University in New Haven. He is heading a ticket with Peter Krala, a West Haven technician running for lieutenant governor, and Will Wilkin, a student at the University of Connecticut, for secretary of state. All three are members of the Young Socialist Alliance.

Following the news conference the socialists filed statements with the secretary of state's office to be recognized as write-in candidates. Restrictive legislation prevents them from being on the ballot in the November elections.

Weicker candidacy

Interest in the gubernatorial race here has been heightened by the candidacy of former U.S. Senator and millionaire Lowell Weicker, who is running as an independent and leads the candidates of the Democratic and Republican parties in the polls. "Working people are fed up with both the Democrats and Republicans," Weinberg said. "By posing as an independent, Weicker is attempting to exploit this sentiment. But his ties to insurance companies and to Big Oil show where his loyalties lie. Like the Democrats and Republicans, Weicker represents the ruling rich, the Frank Lorenzos, the Donald Trumps, who make their millions off the backs of working people."

"What working people need is a labor

party, where we can band together in our own interests to fight for control over our lives, wages, and working and social conditions," the socialist candidate said. He noted that during the strike by miners against Pittston Coal and in the ongoing battle at Eastern Airlines the fighters had to confront the courts, cops, and government — pointing up the need to move in the direction of independent political organization.

"Working people need our own foreign policy of international solidarity," he said. "A labor party could fight to maintain and extend sanctions against the racist South African regime, campaign for normalization of relations with Cuba, and demand 'U.S. hands off the Arab East.'"

For nearly half an hour reporters questioned Weinberg about his campaign plans. Should a candidate with little chance of winning be taken seriously? Does the socialist's call for withdrawal of U.S. forces from the Arabian Peninsula and the Persian Gulf — an international issue — have any place in a state election campaign?

"Young workers from Connecticut are being told to risk their lives to defend the profits of Big Oil," Weinberg said. "That makes it relevant."

"In addition, there is no local or statewide solution to any of the major problems facing working people, and these problems cannot be solved through elections," he said. "The best way for working people to take part in politics is to join fights going on today in support of striking workers, against apartheid, and against the U.S. war moves in the Arab East."

Following the news conference, Weinberg and Krala traveled to North Haven to campaign among pickets at the Circuit Wise factory where members of the United Electrical Workers union have been on strike for a year. Both candidates are known as supporters of the strike and several strikers engaged them in a lively discussion about their campaign platform.

The announcement of the socialist campaign, the first in the state in 18 years, was featured on several radio stations and in daily papers in New Haven, Hartford, and Willimantic. The *Yale Daily News* made Weinberg's candidacy its lead story on the front page, eclipsing a story entitled "Democratic candidates squabble."



Militant/Craig Gannon

Carl Weinberg, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Connecticut, talks to press at the state capitol.

Refinery worker runs in Pennsylvania

BY LOUISE HALVERSON AND ROGER BLAND

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania — Reporters who gathered in the Capitol Rotunda here August 30 had to wait a few minutes for a news conference to begin announcing the Socialist Workers Party election campaign in this state.

Kathleen Mickells, the SWP candidate for Pennsylvania governor, explained to the reporters she had been delayed as she left the midnight shift at the Sun Oil refinery where she works when a coworker had stopped her. His military reserve unit had been called up for active duty in the Middle East, and he asked Mickells to use the news conference to tell people "We don't want to go — the war is about the same thing as Vietnam, money."

"This intervention into the Arab East," Mickells told reporters, "is an assault on the Arab people's right to self-determination, national sovereignty, and control over their own resources. President Bush has absolutely no concern for the workers and peasants of Kuwait, Iraq, or any other country."

When asked what this had to do with Pennsylvania, Mickells responded, "Sons and daughters of the working people of this state are being sent to the Middle East to fight and perhaps to die." The war drive and the drive to gouge workers at the gas pumps for extra profits is causing oil companies to neglect maintenance to maximize production and profits, Mickells explained. She cited two recent refinery explosions in Texas, which killed 40 workers, as examples.

"Don't you feel uncomfortable saying this when you work for Big Oil?" asked one reporter.

"It's important that workers speak out and defend our right to our own opinions on important world questions," the socialist said. "It's in our interests as workers to oppose what our bosses want." Mickells — a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union — pointed to the Eastern Airlines strikers who are standing up in the own interests and fighting against their bosses' demands for more concessions.

What are the SWP's prospects at the polls in November, a reporter asked, given the "collapse of communism in Eastern Europe? Won't this make your task harder?"

"No," Mickells answered. "In fact, it will make our campaigning easier. The overthrow of the Stalinist regimes, which were the opposite of communism and the opposite of the fight for socialism, marks an advance for working people in this country and around the world."

"Tens of millions of workers and farmers in Eastern Europe are entering the political arena," she said, "and will come to reject what capitalism delivers to workers here and what it promises to them: homelessness, unemployment, and cuts in social services."

"What about contracts coming up for unionized state workers?" asked a reporter.

"Our campaign stands with workers from Pennsylvania to South Africa, and what the workers need and demand is what they should get."

Joining Mickells at the press conference were Michael Pennock, SWP candidate for lieutenant governor and a Pittsburgh-area steelworker; Traci Castro, the party's candidate for U.S. Congress in the 18th District (Pittsburgh) and a member of the Young Socialist Alliance; and Josefina Otero, SWP candidate for the 7th C.D. who is an Eastern striker in Philadelphia.

Campaigners win hearing among GIs

BY KATHY RETTIG

NEWARK, New Jersey — Socialist Workers Party candidate Georges Mehrabian took his campaign to Fort Dix and McGuire Air Force Base earlier this month. Campaigning at a shopping mall adjacent to the two bases, the congressional candidate and several supporters engaged in lively discussions with service men and women. Ten copies of the *Militant*, the campaign newspaper, were purchased from the campaign team.

Through their discussion, the campaigners brought the facts of the U.S. aggression in the Arab East to the GIs, explained the struggle of the Arab people against imperialist domination of the region, and pointed to why working people in the United States — in and out of uniform — should oppose the blockade of Iraq and U.S. war moves in the region.

While the soldiers Mehrabian talked with held a variety of opinions, almost all were friendly and wanted to get more facts on Iraq and Kuwait. One servicewoman said she wanted "the facts that you don't get in the papers" as she bought a copy of the *Militant*.

A young Black GI asked if the socialists knew the United States had played a role in dividing Kuwait from Iraq, saying he thought Iraq had a right to annex Kuwait. "This is not a just war," he said. The soldier, who wore a Nelson Mandela T-shirt, is headed for the Persian Gulf in several weeks.

Another soldier said to Mehrabian, "You're talking to the wrong person because I volunteered to go." When the socialist candidate asked him why, he said, "It's my job."

Three airmen in uniform, who expected to be called up any day, stopped by the table. "We have to defend U.S. interests," said one.

Mehrabian said he thought the interests of U.S. workers were the opposite of those of the government and oil companies, which pollute the environment, have no regard for job safety, and attack the unions.

"That may be true," responded one soldier. "But it's our job to defend the entrepreneurial system."

As the three friends left the table, one paused and thanked the socialists. "We know you are here because you have our best interests at heart."

Another Black soldier said he thought there would be a movement formed against a war in the Arab East much faster than during the Vietnam War. Another, whose brother is already in Saudi Arabia, said he did not want to go fight because "we'll be killing Third World people."

"It's time for the U.S. to show some muscle. If you don't show some muscle, you'll be knocked over," said another soldier.

The sister of a woman reservist who had just been called up said, "It's a horrible mess." Her sister is the sole parent of two small children. "Who is going to take care of them while she's gone? Not the government."

BY MELISSA HARRIS AND LISA HICKLER

FAYETTEVILLE, North Carolina — Fort Bragg dominates this town in the eastern Carolinas. Socialist campaign supporters, canvassing door-to-door in trailer parks here where enlisted people and their families live, found varied opinions about the U.S. war moves in the Arab East but very little enthusiasm for the massive deployment of troops.

They distributed dozens of copies of a statement by SWP candidate for U.S. Senate Rich Stuart opposing Washington's policies and sold four copies of the *Militant*.

"It's my job. I'll go if they send me," was one kind of response by some. "I'm just doing what I'm told to do. There's no right or wrong about it," said a young enlisted man.

Many family members of servicemen and women expressed worry over the safety of the troops currently stationed in Saudi Arabia. A young woman from Louisiana came to the door with three children clinging to her. Her husband is in the Middle East.

"Only 9 percent of the oil over there is ours," she said. "And they can have it." She said she wanted her husband home.

Another woman whose husband is an enlisted man said, "It's terrible to send them over there. If they're killed, all the family will get is \$25,000, a flag, and an apology."

One young man in the military said he supported the troops being sent. But, he said, the military began deducting \$180 a month for room and board from the paychecks of soldiers sent to Saudi Arabia. That made the families angry, he said.

Another young man who just got out of the service said young people shouldn't be sent to die in the desert. "The youth are the future," he said. "If they're killed, there's no future." His mother chimed in, "I want my son to have a job, not be sent overseas to fight."

A woman hanging fatigues on a clothesline said she and her husband had already received notification they would each serve in Saudi Arabia. She said it was her duty to go but agreed that a war would only benefit the oil companies, not working people.

SWP on ballot in New York

The New York State Socialist Workers Party ticket will be on the ballot in November, according to the Board of Elections. SWP supporters turned in 29,358 signatures to get the ballot spot. Election laws require 20,000.

Curtis supporters attend UN event in Cuba

Continued from front page

government denied a UN request for a blanket waiver to allow all invited U.S. participants to attend the congress.

Kaku and Studer's application for individual waivers were held up until after the congress began, causing them to miss the first four days and preventing them from getting on the speakers' list.

The defense committee leaders met with dozens of delegates from governments, UN-recognized non-governmental organizations, and other human rights activists.

On September 5 Kaku and Studer met with Eduardo Vetere, the chief of the UN Vienna Branch and executive secretary of the congress. They presented Vetere with the dossier and reported to him on the campaign to win UN action on Curtis' behalf.

The defense committee document focuses on violations of Curtis' rights under the United Nations Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, Code for Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, and Declaration Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Enforcement of, and compliance with, these standards were before the congress. Also on the agenda were proposals for adoption of additional standards, including on the treatment of young prisoners. The most controversial proposal before the delegates was a motion for a three-year moratorium on use of the death penalty internationally.

The congress considered proposals to add environmental damage to the list of criminal actions under the jurisdiction of the UN crime center and to strengthen defense of the independence of judges and lawyers from governmental pressure or retaliation.

Code of Conduct violated

Drawing on the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officers that says, "All those who exercise police powers shall respect and protect human dignity and uphold the human rights of all persons," the Curtis dossier states, "These precepts were violated by police authorities in the case of Mark Curtis."

"The code states, 'No law enforcement official may inflict, instigate, or tolerate any act of torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.'"

These standards were violated when Des Moines police savagely beat Curtis, calling



Mark Curtis Defense Committee leader Kate Kaku speaking to August meeting of UN subcommission in Geneva.

him a "Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds," the dossier explains.

The code also mandates that "Law enforcement officials shall ensure the full protection of the health of persons in their custody." The dossier explains that "the decision of the police department to place Curtis in a cell with no toilet, bed, or any other facilities demonstrates a complete absence of concern for his health and medical condition."

The dossier, focusing on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners — adopted by the UN in 1957 — documents how the treatment of Curtis — from the cop beating in jail to continuing efforts to violate his rights and victimize him for his political activity in prison — has systematically violated UN minimum standards.

Among the provisions violated are:

- "Rules are to be applied without discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex, language, religion, political opinions, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status."
- "Unconvicted prisoners are presumed to be innocent and shall be treated as such."

- "An untried prisoner shall be allowed to inform his family of his detention immediately after arrest and communicate with and receive visits from family and friends."

- "Prisoners are to be allowed regular contact with family and friends, both by correspondence and personal visits."

- "The prisoner should be encouraged and assisted in cultivating relations with persons or extra-institutional agencies conducive to his rehabilitation and best interests after release."

Since being imprisoned, Curtis has faced continual efforts to cut him off from the outside, limit his correspondence, and prevent him from receiving literature in languages other than English.

The UN guidelines also provide that "Every institution shall maintain for the use of prisoners a library with recreational and instructional books."

Curtis victimized by prison authorities

As a leader of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Organization in the Iowa State Men's Reformatory at Anamosa, Curtis participated in a

year-long fight to place political books by Nelson Mandela and others in the prison library.

Curtis has faced efforts to victimize him because of his activities. He has faced frame-up disciplinary reports both at Anamosa and at the John Bennett Correctional Unit where he is currently being held.

The dossier adds that Curtis suffers from additional violations which affect inmates all over the United States, especially cutbacks in rights and deteriorating conditions.

The rules state that "Cells for individuals should not be used to accommodate two or more persons overnight." In a December 1989 article on the Anamosa prison, the *Des Moines Register* reported, "Normally, this concrete block cell would hold one inmate. But now three metal bunks are stacked one atop another, dominating the 11- by 12-foot room."

Other participants

Among the delegates to the Havana meeting were some endorsers of the defense committee, including Canadians Ruth Morris, representing the Friends World Committee for Consultation, and Jean-Claude Bernheim of the International Federation of Human Rights; as well as Vanessa Ramos representing the International Association Against Torture.

Other human rights activists came from Geneva, Switzerland, where they, like Kaku and Studer, had attended the UN Human Rights Subcommission. These included Reed Brody of the International Commission of Jurists and Miguel Alfonso Martínez, a Cuban government representative to the UN and one of the 26 individual members of the subcommission.

Kaku and Studer met with Javier Zúñiga, director of the Americas Region, Research Department, of Amnesty International, to update him on the case. Zúñiga's department is considering an application to declare Curtis a prisoner of conscience.

Yasuhiro Yoshimine and Takashi Takano, delegates of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, endorsed the defense committee and donated \$100. They took materials to win additional support among human rights activists in Japan.

The Curtis delegates met with John Myrtle, librarian at the J.V. Barry Library of the Australian Institute of Criminology and a unionist. He helped circulate literature to other delegates from Australia.

Kaku and Studer also met with members of the press, including *Prensa Latina* and the paper of the Cuban armed forces.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee and its delegates were listed in the official booklet of nongovernmental human rights participants distributed at the congress.

On September 6 the United Nations sponsored a special reception. Cuban President Fidel Castro and Vilma Espín, head of the Federation of Cuban Women, joined the delegates to salute the work of the Cuban Women's congress.

The waivers granted to U.S. citizens to attend expired on September 7, the final day of the congress. To comply with U.S. law, Studer and Kaku had to leave Cuba before the congress concluded its final session, including the voting on all resolutions. The next congress is scheduled for 1995.

Financial help needed to cover cost of Curtis delegation to UN conference

BY PRISCILLA SCHENK

DES MOINES, Iowa — More than \$8,400 has been pledged to cover the expenses of a recent Mark Curtis Defense Committee delegation to Geneva, Switzerland.

The delegation, made up of supporters from Britain, Canada, France, and Sweden, was headed by Kate Kaku, Curtis' wife, and John Studer, the defense committee coordinator. The group participated in the 42nd session of the United Nations Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Kaku addressed the body as part of a long-term campaign to get the UN to take up Curtis' fight for justice.

The fund will also go toward Kaku's and Studer's trip to the 8th UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders held in Havana, Cuba, August 27-September 7.

Some \$600 was raised by defense committee activists in Des Moines. Two supporters from Atlanta drove here and spent a week helping in the fund-raising effort. Another supporter from St. Louis arrived here and raised \$2,725 through calls to supporters around the country.

Joan Levitt, who has organized support for Curtis in the South and is a laid-off coal miner, spent a week in the defense committee office here raising funds by phone, as well as meeting with prominent supporters in Iowa and Missouri.

Levitt said that supporters showed an "immediate concern and a willingness to help" in response to her calls. "A steelworkers' union official in Birmingham, Alabama, made a pledge, as did a student peace group at the University of Alabama," she said.

Defense committee activist Sandra Nelson

said that the key to success in raising the \$20,000 is "to have a political discussion with each person we talk with, updating them on Curtis' fight for justice, the progress in winning international support, and how each person can help in this effort."

Fund-raising efforts combined with outreach calls and meetings "have become an institution of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee here," Nelson said.

Nelson reported that supporters in Oakland, California, raised \$250 at a showing of the video *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis*. Supporters in San Francisco raised \$100; Seattle, \$250; Stockholm, Sweden, \$750; and

Charleston, West Virginia, \$65 in a two-week effort.

The defense committee plans to continue the campaign to complete the \$20,000 fund, Nelson said. "We've hardly begun to tap the potential for winning new support and asking our thousands of supporters to help make this goal," she said.

If you would like to help raise funds or make a contribution, contact the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311, or call (515) 246-1695. Tax-deductible contributions can be made out to the Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc.

Protest hits attack by Des Moines cops

BY HÉCTOR MARROQUÍN

DES MOINES, Iowa — Some 60 people attended an August 28 meeting here at the United Mexican American Community Center to discuss an unprovoked cop assault that resulted in several people being beaten and brutalized.

Most of those at the meeting signed a petition complaining about the police actions, and the center's board voted to send a delegation to meet with Des Moines Police Chief William Moulder about the assault.

The cop violence occurred during an August 25 social and dance at the center when two off-duty city cops hired by the center's board as security guards began shoving and beating people. Others outraged by the cops' actions demanded they stop and explain what was happening. The cops answered with vul-

gar and derogatory remarks.

"This is our hall and this is our music," Patricia Rincón told the meeting. "People got maced and people got banged up." Referring to Officer George Simmer, one of the cops involved in the attack, Rincón said, "He has a grudge against some of us. He enjoys beating us up and I'm tired of it."

Rincón was grabbed by the neck, thrown to the floor, handcuffed, and dragged by her hair by the cops, when she urged them to stop their assault. Luis Noboa was severely beaten by the cops outside the center and later in the elevator at Des Moines police headquarters. More than a dozen others were maced.

Along with Oscar Araujo, Miguel Calbillo Alardón, Rincón, and Noboa were arrested and falsely charged with intoxication, interfering with a police officer, trespassing, as-

saulting police officers, resisting arrest, and disorderly conduct.

Simmer and Warren Steinkamp, the other officer involved, came to the meeting, but left after a motion was passed asking them to leave. One person in the audience said the cops had no business at a meeting where people were discussing how to respond to their attack.

Three of the people arrested, relatives, friends, and others at the dance attended the meeting and expressed shock at the force used by the cops. The fourth person arrested was unable to attend because of injuries sustained at the hands of the police.

Those who were victimized said they had complained to the police department and would file lawsuits against the officers involved. They want the phony charges brought against them dropped.

Germany moves toward unification

Pact signed to lead to withdrawal of Soviet troops

BY PETER THIERJUNG

The foreign ministers of Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and the United States met in Moscow September 12 and signed an agreement with East and West Germany that will lead to the end of their 45-year status as occupying powers.

The four countries were the Allied powers that defeated Germany in World War II. The "four plus two" agreement is another step to the restoration of full sovereignty to the Germans and clears the road to German political unification, slated for October 3. A 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe on October 2 is expected to endorse the agreement.

An obstacle to the "four plus two" accord and German unification was removed September 10 when Soviet and West German officials announced plans for the withdrawal over the next four years of 360,000 Soviet troops and 200,000 of their dependents that are stationed in East Germany.

While neither government disclosed the sum, the *Washington Post* reported that Bonn offered Moscow 8 billion marks (US\$5.2 billion) to help build housing in the Soviet Union for some 72,000 military families now stationed in East Germany.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher called the payment to Moscow the "price of German unity." The Soviet troop withdrawal threatened to sharpen the Soviet Union's already acute housing shortage.

Despite the Soviet pull-out, North Atlantic

Treaty Organization troops stationed in West Germany will remain. The "four plus two" talks resolved to keep these troops, and weapons capable of carrying nuclear warheads, out of East German territory until 1994 when the Soviet withdrawal is expected to be completed.

The October date for German unification was set when the East German parliament voted 294-62 on August 23 to dissolve the government and join West Germany's Federal Republic. December 2 was the original date for unification, but East Germany's burgeoning economic crisis, triggered by currency union in July, forced the Bonn and Berlin governments to step up the timetable.

Gregor Gysi, chairman of the Party of Democratic Socialism, a Stalinist formation formerly called the Socialist Unity Party, denounced the action as "no more and no less than the destruction of the German Democratic Republic," East Germany's formal name. His protests were drowned out by groans and jeers from opponents in parliament.

Eight days later representatives of both Germanys signed a treaty of almost 1,000 pages detailing the mechanics of unification and covering a wide variety of political, social, economic, and cultural matters. Two-thirds approval by both parliaments is still necessary to ratify the treaty.

Several disputes threatened to hold up ratification of the treaty, foremost among them abortion rights. Proponents of abortion rights in both Germanys demanded that East

German laws be extended to the West.

Women in East Germany have had the right to abortion on demand during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. Abortion is a punishable crime in West Germany except under certain circumstances, and then only during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. In addition, two doctors must approve the procedure and the woman must submit to counseling beforehand.

The final compromise was that East German laws would remain in force for two years and West German women would be able to have legal abortions in the East. After two years new abortion laws for a united Germany would be legislated.

Other key elements of the treaty include an end to any claims to former German territories now part of Poland and the Soviet Union; recognition of land reforms carried out in East Germany between 1945 and 1949, when most major agricultural estates were broken up; and establishing hefty incentives for investment in the East.

The treaty also declares Berlin the official German capital, while leaving open the possibility that the seat of government and parliament would remain in Bonn.

A heated debate has centered on the disposition of the files of the Stasi, the secret police of the former Stalinist regime in the East. Originally they were to have been carted off to Koblenz, West Germany, and locked up in the federal archives for 30 years.

East German protesters, many of whom spearheaded the mass demonstrations and



Bags containing some of the files collected by the East German secret police.

occupations of Stasi headquarters that toppled the Stalinist regime last year, opposed the move, saying they were determined that the files would not get into the hands of the West's secret police.

Files collected on some 4 million East Germans and 2 million West Germans by the Stasi are to be stored in a central East German location with access restricted to an oversight commission of six people, according to the treaty.

Many want legislation that was passed in August by the East German parliament implemented. The laws called for the files to be distributed to sites throughout East Germany and access granted to all on whom the Stasi had files.

Meanwhile, the economic situation in East Germany continues to worsen. About 300,000 East Germans are now unemployed and another million are receiving "short time" benefits, drawing a large portion of their regular salaries even though work hours have been reduced or eliminated.

More than 45,000 municipal workers in several East German cities walked off their jobs for a few hours August 28, calling for better wages and job security in a united Germany.

Some 5,000 uranium miners employed by VISMUT, a joint Soviet and East German enterprise, struck and occupied their pits September 7. They demanded and won three years of compensation for wages and full pensions if they are laid off.

Mark Curtis Defense Committee gets backing for its constitutional rights

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Messages supporting the Mark Curtis Defense Committee's efforts to protect its constitutional rights and those of financial contributors, supporters, and members continue to come into the group's Des Moines, Iowa, offices.

"I would like to express my grave distress at the possibility that the Mark Curtis Defense Committee's books and records may be opened for scrutiny," well-known Hollywood actor and unionist Ed Asner said in an open letter mailed to the defense committee.

"I firmly believe in voluntary political organizations' constitutional right to privacy, especially regarding information on lists of supporters and contributors," Asner continued. "This right to privacy is at the heart of free speech and association."

Asner's protest was prompted by recent developments in a lawsuit against political activist and unionist Mark Curtis, who was framed on rape and burglary charges by Des Moines police in 1988.

Keith and Denise Morris, the parents of the woman Curtis was alleged to have assaulted, are suing him to get thousands of dollars for damages. But Curtis and his wife, Kate Kaku, are both packinghouse workers without assets or property. Curtis currently earns 24 cents an hour for work performed at the Fort Madison, Iowa, state prison where he is incarcerated.

On August 7 the Morris' attorney, Stuart Pepper, got a subpoena to drag Julia Terrell, the Mark Curtis Defense Committee's treasurer, into court. The subpoena sought "all financial records and books concerning the Mark Curtis Defense Committee from its inception to the present." Terrell is scheduled to testify prior to September 30.

Mark Bennett, a constitutional rights lawyer and general counsel for the Iowa Civil Liberties Union, was retained by the Curtis defense committee to defend against this court intrusion into its internal affairs, which violates constitutional guarantees of the rights to privacy and freedom of association.

Bennett has asked Iowa District Court Judge Arthur Gamble, presiding in the Morris suit, to withdraw the subpoena against Terrell and the defense committee. Depositions from Terrell and John Studer, the defense committee's coordinator, explain that the committee's funds are not the personal assets of Curtis, nor does he

have any control over them.

Dave Ayre, secretary of the Wear Valley District Trades Union Council from County Durham, England, sent the following message to the Curtis committee: "Delegates to the Trades Union Council send to you their support and solidarity. Having read of the court's intrusion into your committee's affairs, we pledge our fullest support for your actions and express our deepest concern at the court's attempt to violate your privacy and voluntary activities."

"I strongly object to the decision to order the treasurer of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee into court," David Cline, the national coordinator of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, said in his message.

Alabama Irish activist gets 3-year sentence

BY JOAN LEVITT

ENTERPRISE, Alabama — Longtime Irish-American activist Brian Fleming was sentenced in Montgomery, Alabama, to three years in a federal penitentiary on frame-up charges of conspiracy to export firearms. He is serving the term at the federal prison in Atlanta.

Sixty-three-year-old Charles Malone, visiting Alabama from California, was similarly framed and sentenced to a 30-month term.

The government charged that Fleming and Malone were conspiring to purchase and ship M-16 and AR-15 rifles and electronic equipment to the Irish Republican Army (IRA) in Ireland. Fleming was also convicted, on the basis of circumstantial evidence, of transferring a weapon to a New York resident.

Given the scope of the government's spy operation against Fleming, which included hundreds of hours of wiretaps, tapes, and videos covering a period of 33 months, the prosecution flew in an officer of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC), Britain's paramilitary force in the occupied six counties of Northern Ireland, to testify.

Fleming's attorney demonstrated in court that despite meetings initiated and arranged by a government informer and a U.S. Customs agent, both posing as businessmen

and aiming to entrap Fleming, a conspiracy was in fact nonexistent. No agreement was reached, no viewing of arms took place, and no money changed hands. Following the trial, one of the jurors approached the defense to say she did not believe Fleming and Malone were guilty, but she had not been able to hold out against the others.

On several occasions the prosecution threatened to indict Georgia Fleming, Brian Fleming's wife, unless he agreed to plead guilty.

Brian and Georgia Fleming have been fighters for a free, unified Irish republic for many years. In 1985 the FBI began questioning the Flemings regarding their activities on behalf of the Irish struggle, which at the time included organizing on a regional level for Irish Northern Aid, and the publication of a political magazine called the *Irish American Voice*. Brian Fleming was also an organizer of Na Fianna Eireann in the United States, an Irish youth organization in solidarity with the republican movement.

The presence of Chief Superintendent James McClure of the RUC in the courtroom was to portray Fianna Eireann as "the junior wing of the IRA." He admitted under questioning, however, that he knew nothing about Fianna Eireann's activities in the United States.

Shortly after Fleming and Malone's arrest last January, but prior to their trial, the FBI sent a large team of agents here to investigate

another Enterprise resident as part of a widely publicized mail-bomb probe. A U.S. circuit court of appeals judge and a Georgia attorney had been killed in two December 1989 bombings that were thought to be racially motivated. Two other mail bombs had been intercepted at a Florida office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and at the 11th Circuit Courthouse in Atlanta.

Print shop, home raided

As part of this investigation everyone in every store along Main Street here, including at the Fleming's print shop, was questioned. Their home was also searched.

In a July 4 statement, Brian Fleming said that the government's search — in which most of the Flemings' property relating to Ireland was seized — was aimed at prejudicing his trial, bringing increased pressure against them, and fabricating further evidence. He explained that government agents claimed that the mail bombs sent to the NAACP offices were of the same type allegedly used by the IRA, and on that basis procured a court order forcing him and his wife to give hair, blood, and saliva samples for further investigation.

Contributions to meet further legal costs are urgently needed. These, along with messages of support, can be sent to Georgia Fleming, 309 West Adams St., Enterprise, Ala. 36330.

Miners rally to protest court ruling

Judge upholds \$53 million in fines against union levied during Pittston strike

BY MAGGIE McCRAW

CHARLESTON, West Virginia — Members of the United Mine Workers of America rallied at the union's district office in Castlewood, West Virginia, on August 23 to protest a decision the previous day by Russell County (Virginia) Circuit Judge Donald McGlothlin, Jr., to uphold \$53.3 million in fines against the UMWA. The fines stem from a

successful 11-month-long strike against the Pittston Coal Group.

In February, members of the UMWA scored an important victory against the union-busting drive of Pittston Coal, forcing the coal operators to settle with the union.

Ignoring a request from both the union and company that the fines be dropped, McGlothlin agreed to dismiss \$12 million that

would have gone to Pittston for lost production, but upheld fines going to the state and two counties. He gave the union 10 days to pay.

In addition to upholding the fines, McGlothlin suggested that criminal contempt proceedings should be initiated against the union to determine if court orders were knowingly violated. According to UMWA District 28 President Donnie Lowe, the union is appealing the judge's ruling.

Following the settlement in the strike, Pittston refused to call back to work 13 miners over charges for strike-related activities. However, Paul Baldwin, a member of UMWA Local 1971 and one of the 13 miners, reports this attack has been pushed back. Charges against 12 of the miners were dropped, and they have returned to work on probation for six months.

At a UMWA District 17 Labor Day rally in Racine, West Virginia, International Executive Board representative Howard Green reported that the union also faces more than \$1 billion in suits from coal companies that were affected by the sympathy strike of UMWA members in support of the Pittston miners. Over a six-week period that began in June 1989, 44,000 miners walked off the job in solidarity with the Pittston strike.

During their strike, Pittston miners organized an effective fight that included nonviolent direct action on the picket lines, massive sit-downs, "rolling roadblocks," and a four-day occupation of the Moss No. 3 coal preparation plant. With broad support from the labor movement, miners' families, and communities, such action had an impact on

Pittston's coal production.

The courts consistently ruled that these tactics were "violent," but the miners explained the real violence came from Pittston and the Virginia state police.

In February 1988 Pittston cut off health insurance for 1,500 retirees, widows, and disabled miners. From then on they stopped paying into the union's health-care and pension funds. This quickly became a central issue in the strike.

The state of Virginia spent \$10 million during the course of the strike on state troopers, who arrested thousands of miners and their supporters, injuring many in the process.

In addition to the fines, approximately 200 union miners in Virginia, who worked for companies under contract to Pittston, remain on strike because they were not covered by the Pittston-UMWA settlement.

Ken Shaw, president of Local 7327, explained that the miners continue picketing and receive strike benefits. They have offered to go back to work under their old contract or to negotiate a separate contract. Although some negotiations are taking place, the coal operators are demanding big concessions.

Some of the contract mines have reopened with scab miners, refusing to hire union miners as stipulated in the Pittston contract.

Shaw explained that others "just pick up and go, owing wages and unpaid hospital bills. They juggle the records to say the mines aren't making money. Then they move the equipment and reopen. The Labor Board won't check far enough to find out the reality."

While Pittston could pressure these operators, they instead continue to renew their 30-day leases with the contractors.

Shaw also reported that the operators and cops are attempting to weaken the picket lines. Last month 23 pickets were arrested and jailed for "unlawful assembly." The miners were each fined \$100 and given suspended 30-day jail sentences and six months probation. On September 10 another miner was arrested on a felony charge for allegedly "throwing missiles" four months ago.

These miners continue to receive support from other miners in the area, and Pittston miners have been making donations through bathhouse collections. Miners at UMWA-organized Island Creek mines make regular food and financial contributions and help staff the picket lines.



Pickets at Moss No. 3 coal preparation plant during 11-month strike against Pittston Coal. Militant/Steve Marshall

No unanimous backing for U.S. war among working people, polls show

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Backing for the U.S. government's drive toward war against Iraq among people in the United States is not as unanimous as the U.S. media and the Bush administration would have the world believe. This is especially true of working people who have historically been the cannon fodder in U.S. wars.

The September 8 *New York Times* admitted as much. In an article headlined "Opponents to U.S. move have poverty in common," the *Times* cites "political scientists" and "polling experts" who have found that "opposition in this crisis closely follows classic public opinion patterns in conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, and even the unsuccessful invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs."

"Quite simply, it's a class thing," George Edwards, a professor at Texas A&M University told the *Times*.

While only 12 percent of college graduates polled oppose the U.S. troop deployment in the Arab East, 22 percent of those who dropped out of high school were opposed, a *New York Times*/CBS News Poll showed. Of those earning less than \$15,000, 27 percent were opposed, while of those earning more than \$50,000, 8 percent were opposed.

"To some degree," the *Times* said, "a division along class lines also means a division along racial lines: 35 percent of blacks" in the poll opposed sending troops to Saudi Arabia, as against 15 percent for whites.

But the *Times* says, "Although the polling data indicate that poor, uneducated blacks oppose military deployment in greater proportion than do poor, uneducated whites, the experts nonetheless said the split was really one along class lines."

Reflecting the capitalist press' class prejudices, the *Times* article quotes Samuel Kernell, a professor at the University of California, San Diego. "The uneducated, who by and large do not follow current events closely," Kernell said, "are simply not responding to the same positive stimuli as the better-educated and more affluent, who do tend to follow the news."

The article then quotes an unemployed handyman, a mechanic who is Black, and a housewife. The handyman called the troop deployment ridiculous. Referring to Kuwait, the mechanic said, "That Iraq guy doesn't need to be there, but we have no business

there either." And the housewife said poverty and homelessness in the United States are more pressing problems.

An emergency coalition of war veterans has formed in the San Francisco Bay Area to oppose a U.S. war in the Arab East. A September 9 statement from the group affirms "our solidarity with American servicemen and women wherever they may be. At the same time, we oppose the use of military force by anyone."

"War is deadly foolishness," the statement continued. "War for the sake of oil profiteers is criminal, and not in the interest of the vast majority of people in the U.S. or world communities." Ten veterans' organizations signed the statement.

More than 90 people attended a September 5 forum in Cincinnati on the crisis in the Mideast sponsored by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. The audience on hand was overwhelming opposed to U.S. intervention there.

A September 8 march and rally in Seattle against U.S. military intervention in the Middle East attracted more than 500 people, many of them young. Picket signs carried read, "Bring the troops home now!" and "No blood for oil!" Another Seattle protest has been called for October 20.

Some 220 students and others attended a teach-in on the war threats in the Arab East at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, Illinois. The sentiment of the vast majority of students was that the U.S. government should get out of the region.

A September 11 full-page ad in the *Village Voice*, a New York weekly, was headlined "No body bags for oil." It announced that an organization called Out Now based in Salinas, California, and the Pledge of Resistance, a national antiwar group with local chapters, are launching a national petition campaign opposing a "war for oil" and the "commitment of U.S. troops to the Middle East without public debate." The petition also calls for a "peaceful solution through the United Nations and the Arab League."

Some 2,000 people, chanting "Bring the frigates home! No Gulf war!" rallied outside the U.S. consulate and the Australian Regional Defense Headquarters in Sydney, Australia, on September 1. The action was organized by the Bring the Frigates Home

Coalition. Actions also occurred in eight other cities, including 1,000 in Perth.

The Australian government has sent navy ships and troops to join U.S. forces in the Arab East. One Australian seaman, Terry Jones, 23, refused to serve in the region. Messages calling on the government to drop the charges against Jones should be sent to Prime Minister Robert Hawke, c/o Parliament House, Canberra, Australia.

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Bush wins new support for aggression

Continued from front page

protect the "oil reserves which are the life-blood of the world economy" as a "cause worth fighting for" he stated Bush had the full backing of the Democratic Party.

Explaining Cuba's decision to abstain on the August 25 UN vote, an editorial in the Cuban Communist Party paper *Granma* titled "The use of force: unprecedented in the annals of the United Nations," stated that the resolution "for the first time in the history of the United Nations, authorizes the use of force to ensure compliance with an embargo — decreed in this case against Iraq."

The UN resolution, explained *Granma*, "retains paragraphs that constitute a grave breach and unacceptable misinterpretation of the United Nations Charter and lend legitimacy to the unilateral and illegal actions that the U.S. Navy had been undertaking in the Gulf, thus opening the door to further actions that may bring about an armed conflict of dangerous and unforeseeable consequences."

"The resolution," explains the editorial, "by establishing a virtual blockade against Iraq — unjustifiable in the current situation — and in fact leaving to the Yankee naval officers the decision on whether or not to use force and its extent, is not only legally objectionable but also represents a military escalation that can't but increase the tension and raise difficulties to the political settlement that we seek and for which the international community should strive."

The editorial concludes, "This is the context in which Cuba refused — notwithstanding Iraq's unacceptable conduct in invading and occupying Kuwait... — to endorse such a breach and misinterpretation of the UN Charter and to legitimize, by her vote, the piratical actions that the U.S. Navy has been carrying out in the Persian-Arabian Gulf."

Iowa prisoners discuss U.S. moves against Iraq

BY MARK CURTIS

FORT MADISON, Iowa — The huge U.S. military build-up in Saudi Arabia and signs of an approaching war with Iraq have sparked a discussion among prisoners here at the John Bennett Unit of the Iowa State Penitentiary.

So far a majority support the U.S. government's actions, but a sizable minority oppose the war moves and are having serious discussions to educate themselves on the issue. A variety of viewpoints are expressed openly, and there is no big enthusiasm or hysteria for the U.S. actions.

While four of us took an early morning coffee break in the prison bakery and discussed the events in Iraq and Saudi Arabia, I found myself in a minority of one. I recognized the influence of the government's propaganda when one of my coworkers said that Saddam Hussein was "like Hitler" — a charge made by President George Bush the night before. This coworker is a middle-aged Black man who said he had left the state to keep from being drafted into the army during the Vietnam War. "This isn't like Vietnam," he insisted. "If it was, I'd say 'Hell no!.' But we have to do something because this guy is like Hitler."

Those who support the U.S. military intervention tend to believe it will be like what happened in Panama or Grenada with the fighting ending in a few days or weeks. On the other hand, those who see the likelihood of this developing into a long war with many casualties tend to oppose or at least question Washington's build-up in the Arabian Peninsula.

'Necessary to protect economy'

Of those who support the U.S. government's massing of troops in the Saudi desert, almost no one said it had anything to do with defending democracy or human rights. Instead, several men said the move was necessary to protect the U.S. economy by ensuring the flow of oil. "It's too important to let a guy like Hussein control our lifeline like he wants to. We can't allow that to happen because we'll have a depression," said a young construction worker.

"Also, Cuba believes that the United Nations secretary-general, the Security Council, and the leaders of the Arab League and the Nonaligned Movement can take actions in favor of a political settlement to prevent a conflict of greater proportions and to meet the UN goals."

Covering financial cost

Since initiating its military operations in the Gulf, Washington has been trying to get its allies around the world to send troops and to cover the financial cost of the war preparations. Desert Shield is costing the Pentagon more than \$1 billion a month. The estimated cost for fiscal 1991 for the operations is \$17.5 billion.

So far, a number of Washington's imperialist allies have sent troops to the region, including the British, Canadian, French, and Spanish governments. The French have increased their presence to more than 4,000 men aboard 14 vessels. The Canadian government has sent 930 sailors aboard two destroyers and a supply ship. Japan and West Germany have pledged financial aid. Among the Arab regimes that have sent or are preparing to send troops to back Washington's military operation are Morocco, Syria, and Egypt. Other governments that have agreed to send forces are Turkey, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Senegal. Argentina has also offered to give military support.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher announced ground troops and tanks would be sent to supplement the three British aircraft squadrons and half-dozen warships already there or en route.

South Korea's government has provided Washington with two wide-body planes for round-trip flights from U.S. military bases to Saudi Arabia.

On September 7 the exiled emir of Kuwait offered to provide \$5 billion this year to help

I talked with several men who not only mistrusted the U.S. government's motives for the build-up in the Arab East, but also doubted the outcome would be a U.S. victory in the event of war. "The United States is about telling other countries what to do. They're used to getting their way. But I don't think they're going to get their way this time, not if the people over there get agitated about it," a friend of mine said.

"Those people [Arabs] are really one country, and those borders don't really mean anything to them," another friend in the dorm explained. He thinks that Arabs are one people and will unite against the United States if war breaks out. He is a former soldier with one of the mechanized divisions that has been sent to Saudi Arabia and doesn't think the U.S. government would win a conflict against millions of people in the Arab world.

'I'd go to jail first'

There has been some speculation here that if war does break out prisoners might be allowed the chance to get out of prison on condition they join the armed forces and fight. "No way would I go," a young friend of draft age told me. "To tell you the truth, even if I was on the streets and they drafted me, I'd tell them 'no' and take the five years in jail or whatever before I'd go and fight. The government doesn't offer anything for me. They don't care about me at all. Why should I go and fight for them?"

Few people knew much about the history of the Arab East, but a number have been interested in learning more about the U.S.-supported monarchies in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and how they oppose the interests of the working people of the Arab world. The two-part article in the *Militant* on the history of the region is being read by several men, and one wants to photocopy it.

Seeing this crisis as part of the worldwide conflict between the rich and working people helps make sense of the widespread support for Iraq among Arab people. Workers in the United States should oppose the U.S. war moves. For us, it's a life or death issue because we will be asked to shed our blood to aid Washington's war drive.



U.S. tanks line up in Saudi Arabia field

pay for the U.S. military deployment in the region. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, reported the September 8 *Washington Post*, "announced the offer after meeting with the frail-looking emir, Sheik Jabir Ahmed Sabah, who is conducting business out of an opulent fifth-floor hotel suite in the mountain resort of Taif, Saudi Arabia, where he fled after the August 2 Iraqi invasion."

The exiled emir said Kuwait would "not spare any amount" of its vast wealth to repel Iraq's invasion. Kuwait's worldwide assets before the invasion had been estimated at more than \$100 billion, much of it abroad. Today Kuwait's deposed rulers are still able to control their overseas accounts.

This wealth comes from the superexploitation of working people in Kuwait who labored in its rich oil fields. Eighty percent of the working class in the country are "foreign" workers, some of whom are third generation residents of Kuwait, who have no citizenship rights. They cannot own property, are denied medical care provided to citizens, are barred from participating in politics, and are not allowed to join trade unions.

The surplus cash generated from the oil profits is used by the emirs to invest in Western Europe and in the United States. It is this wealth that Sabah is offering Washington to finance its war drive against the peoples of the Arab East.

Washington obtained another victory in its fund-raising and diplomatic efforts when the Saudi government agreed to devote billions of dollars to underwrite the cost of the U.S. military deployment. The commitment was made to Baker during a September 6 meeting with King Fahd at the royal family's sprawling palace in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia. The Saudi monarchs would provide Washington's troops with food, water, and other necessities.

The pledge by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates totals \$12 billion for the remainder of this year. Baker said half that amount would go to cover the cost of the U.S. military operations in the region and the rest would go to buttress the economies of Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey to compensate for their loss of revenue due to the U.S. blockade of Iraq.

Hussein seeks support

The Iraqi government of Saddam Hussein has also been on a campaign to win support to help it break the UN-imposed blockade that has been preventing goods going in and out of the country.

A breakthrough was registered for Hussein when an agreement was reached with Iran to resume diplomatic relations with Iraq after a 10-year break. Last month Hussein announced he would accept Iranian terms for a formal end to the Iraq-Iran war, which began in 1980 when Iraqi military forces attacked Iran along their common border.

Following the September 11 announcement of resumption of diplomatic relations, Iran's government said it would begin importing 200,000 barrels a day of oil and refined petroleum products from Iraq. The announcement also said Iran would begin supplying Iraq with some food and medical supplies.

During the course of the eight-year Iraq-

Iran war, Hussein's forces unleashed poison gas attacks on the battle fronts and against Kurdish civilians inside Iraq who supported Iranian forces.

Hussein's war against Iran was an attempt, with Washington's backing, to overthrow the Iranian regime that had come to power following a revolution in 1979. The revolution toppled the Iranian monarchy, the strongest and most reliable U.S. ally in the Persian Gulf region at that time. While Iraq was unable to overthrow the Iranian government in the war, Iran was forced to agree to a cease-fire under unfavorable terms.

Refugees stranded

As in Kuwait, many foreign workers came to Iraq to work in the oil fields. These workers often send much of their wages back to their countries to help support their families who had to stay behind. As a result of the U.S. blockade against Iraq and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, economic activity in Kuwait and in Iraq has been disrupted.

Thousands of Pakistani, Indian, Sri Lankan, Bangladeshi, Filipino, Lebanese, Jordanian, Palestinian, and workers of other countries have been displaced. Many, having departed Kuwait and Iraq, have been left stranded in refugee camps in Jordan.

Saddam Hussein told four South Asian countries that have large contingents of workers in Iraq — India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka — that it would no longer supply the workers with food as outlined in the contracts that govern their presence in Iraq. India applied to the UN for authorization to send food to the Indian workers, but was refused.

While U.S. troops and matériel continue to pour into the Gulf region on transport planes, no moves by Washington or any of its allies have been reported offering substantial assistance to the thousands of refugees stranded in the desert.

Arab League moves headquarters

Washington's success at winning the majority of Arab League member countries to openly back the U.S. deployment was reflected in that organization's recent decision to move its headquarters to Egypt's capital, Cairo, over the objection of Tunisia, where it is currently based. Tunisia is among the Arab countries that have refused to condemn the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Reflecting a different relationship of forces at the time, the Arab League's headquarters had been moved from Cairo to Tunisia after Egypt was expelled in 1979 from the League because of its peace treaty with Israel. The day after the treaty was signed the Arab League called for a diplomatic and economic boycott of Egypt. Almost all member states then broke diplomatic ties with Egypt.

Besides Egypt, the countries that voted to move the headquarters back to Cairo were: Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Somalia, Qatar, Bahrain, Morocco, Oman, Lebanon, Djibouti — the same 12 that condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 10 and voted to send an Arab force to back the U.S. presence in the Gulf region.

How plantations in northwest Nicaragua were turned over to private owners

BY SETH GALINSKY

CHINANDEGA, Nicaragua — President Violeta Chamorro issued two decrees in May following her election aimed at reversing land reform policies carried out in the early years of the Nicaraguan revolution. One of the decrees permits renting out state farms as a first step toward their permanent return to private hands.

Believing they can better defend their rights on government-owned farms than on private ones, hundreds of farm workers protested the decrees. Armed with machetes and slingshots they prevented would-be owners from entering some state farms.

But now close to a dozen cotton plantations here in the northwest region of Nicaragua have been turned over to private owners.

Abolition of the decrees had been one of the demands of a nationwide strike in July by Sandinista National Liberation Front-led unions in the National Workers Federation (FNT). In the accord ending the walkout the FSLN leadership agreed to returning some farms to private ownership in exchange for a temporary freeze on further returns.

Ramón Altamirano, the Association of Rural Workers (ATC) president in Chinandega, says many workers opposed the agreement. "I had to go back to some farms two or three times to explain it, but eventually the workers understood."

The settlement with the government to end the July strike was necessary, the ATC leader states, "to avoid a confrontation."

The FSLN national leadership argues that workers should strive for political stability in Nicaragua today and for a social pact with the employers and the capitalist government. The FSLN began calling for such a pact several years ago, seeking to convince workers that one section of the big capitalist farmers were actually "patriotic producers."

'Moderate' capitalists vs. 'radicals'

According to ATC leader Altamirano, there are two tendencies within the government that took office in April: "moderates," represented by President Chamorro, and "radicals out for vengeance," personified by Vice-president Virgilio Godoy.

Conditions faced by farm workers on cotton plantations

Farm workers are among the lowest-paid workers in Nicaragua. Field hands in cotton earn about \$1.50 a day, low even for Nicaragua. While wages on private and state cotton plantations are about the same, other benefits like housing, child care, health care, and schooling are generally better on state farms. The Association of Rural Workers is strongest on state farms.

While a smaller number of workers are considered "permanent" employees with somewhat better benefits, most are seasonal workers, working during the crucial months leading up to the harvest. Additional workers are then hired to help pick the cotton.

On several of the farms visited, both private and state, children of some of the seasonal workers had extended bellies, obvious signs of intestinal parasites and malnutrition. According to the nurse at El Zapotillo state farm, for the last several years children of some seasonal workers have arrived with "third-degree" malnutrition.

Some 17 percent of cotton-producing land in northwest Nicaragua is state-owned, confiscated during the early years of the Sandinista National Liberation Front-led government. Most of the rest remains in the hands of large capitalist landowners. — S.G.

"The moderates are still anti-working-class, but the others are worse," he adds. "We can have an alliance with the moderates and avoid bigger problems."

The Los Angeles farm, just outside of the town of El Viejo, was formerly part of the Ricardo Morales Áviles state farm complex. It is now run by Manuel Arce, the son-in-law of the former owner. Arce is a "moderate capitalist," Altamirano says.

Like most of the other owners who have taken possession of cotton plantations, Arce signed an agreement with the ATC to keep the same supervisors, foremen, and other administrative personnel; maintain workers' benefits; and recognize the union.

Jorge Castillo, union president at Los Angeles, recalls, "At first we said we weren't going to turn over one inch of land. But then the ATC told us about the agreement."

'The best we could get'

"The government wanted to privatize all the state farms," Castillo continues. "The FNT and the FSLN instead won an agreement that only some farms would be handed over."

"To achieve stability in the country both sides had to give in," Castillo adds. "It was the best we could get. We had to give up our farm to avoid a deeper conflict in the country."

Many workers were upset by the agreement, the union leader notes. "Some of the guys said, 'What good was the strike?'"

Although Arce has not fired or replaced anyone, workers charge he is violating other parts of the agreement. Farm worker Alejandro Alberto Rodas says, "Arce talks sweet, but he wants to take away our benefits one by one."

Working barefoot in the broiling sun, Juana María Centeno, 19, stoops over the rows of cotton. A seasonal worker, this is her fourth year at Los Angeles.

Like most of the workers interviewed, Centeno complains that, "Before, we used to get meat at meals, now they give us mostly rice and beans. We don't make much money, but at least we used to get by. Now the money's worthless."

Victoriano García, the next row over, joins in: "The boss made a lot of promises, but he doesn't keep them." For example, he says, "the barracks where many seasonal workers sleep are filthy. He doesn't assign anyone to clean there anymore."

Flor de María Cándida has another complaint. Given the heavy work and hot sun, field hands start at 6:00 a.m. and usually end by noon. But Arce wants the work day extended until 2:00 p.m. with no increase in the daily wage.

"We work hard enough without him trying to have us out here until the hottest part of the afternoon," Cándida says.

Waiting for the tractor he drives to be repaired, José Joaquín Rivera says, "The union told us the contract with the old owners would only be for a year. But lease or no lease, it's clear he's here to stay."

While workers plan to continue fighting to defend gains made in the past, they view the return of Arce as permanent. "It's done and over," Centeno sighs.

Gains on state farm

At El Zapotillo cotton plantation, another unit of the Ricardo Morales Áviles complex, workers were reluctant to accept the return of Jaime Montealegre, the old owner who lives in the United States.

A one-room school house, a small pharmacy, a full-time nurse, and child-care during the cotton harvest are among the gains workers here point to that were won after Montealegre was confiscated by the FSLN government in 1982.

Tractor driver José Domingo Espinoza says Montealegre agreed, in negotiations with the union, to keep on the permanent and seasonal workers. But he wanted to evict 10 retired workers who still live on the ranch and eat in the farm's lunchroom.

"He also didn't like the fact that we have



Militant/Seth Galinsky
José Joaquín Rivera at Los Angeles cotton plantation. "It's clear he's here to stay," Rivera said of new capitalist owner.

a television here for all the workers," Espinoza notes. "He told us he didn't have a TV, why should we?"

But the biggest point of disagreement was who would be head supervisor, Narciso Morán recounts. "Montealegre wanted to bring back the boss he had here 10 years ago, a guy notorious for his brutality. We said absolutely not."

On several occasions the workers at El Zapotillo, with union backing, mobilized — machetes in hand — to prevent Montealegre from entering the plantation.

After weeks of negotiating Montealegre finally agreed to ATC demands and the workers said he could enter the farm. But he never showed up. Fellow capitalist Arce says Montealegre decided "he just couldn't work with these people. He was afraid."

Some workers think it was a mistake to negotiate with Montealegre in the first place. "I just don't agree," says Rosalino Rodríguez. "But that's politics for you." Rodríguez, 25, has worked at El Zapotillo since he was 15.

Coworker José Heriberto Murillo has a different view. "To me private or state is the same."

"Sometimes the food here is alright, sometimes it's not," he says. "I've worked on some private farms where we got coffee every day, but here it's hit or miss."

At one farm, little opposition

At La Tejana state farm, 10 miles down the road from El Zapotillo, there was little organized opposition to leasing one-third of the land, a section known as El Raisal, to a private owner.

The owner has hired all new seasonal workers. The old employees have stayed on the part of La Tejana that remains state-

owned and -administered.

Donald Ruiz, one of the new hires, prefers working on a private farm. "The main thing I don't like about the state farms is they were used to recruit for the Sandinista army. Some people like that, but a lot of us were forced to go."

Many of the laborers at El Raisal are anti-FSLN and say they voted for the National Opposition Union (UNO), the coalition that backed Chamorro for president.

But their support for UNO does not extend to satisfaction with their wages or benefits. "Doña Violeta promised things were going to change after she won," says Domingo Guerrero Torres. "But we haven't seen it."

"With our wages you can either buy shoes or eat, but you can't do both," adds Bernardo Ponce.

Neither the ATC nor any other union organizes the workers at El Raisal. "What good would it do anyway?" one worker asks.

ATC willing to accept privatization

"The government wants to privatize," says ATC leader Altamirano. "And we're willing to accept that."

"But we think that the state farms should be given to the workers. Some of the enterprises could be jointly owned by workers and businessmen."

"In other cases we should have the say on who the land goes to. We can give some farms to the capitalists, but it should be to the moderate ones," he said.

"The struggle to defend the state farms and enforce the agreements now is primarily on the legal front. With the help of lawyers we will insure that the laws and agreements are carried out."

Call to 'unite in national interest' by Ortega at Nicaragua army day

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Most figures in the capitalist government here welcomed a major declaration issued by the General Command of the Sandinista People's Army (EPS) on September 1.

The declaration was presented by Gen. Humberto Ortega at a celebration of the 11th anniversary of the founding of the EPS. Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro spoke briefly at the event as well.

Ortega is head of the army and a longtime leader of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), as are many of the other officers of the General Command.

The statement by the General Command followed the political lines of a recent nationally televised interview with Ortega (see last week's *Militant*). The statement emphasized that the army will continue disarming workers and peasants, "requisitioning all firearms illegally in the hands of civilians," and "will not permit the creation of armed subversive groups that extremist minority forces are trying to put together, such as the so-called committees and brigades of national salvation." Vice-president Virgilio Godoy called for the formation of such brigades in July to break a national strike of pro-FSLN workers.

Identifying the army as "neither [with] the extreme right nor the extreme left," the statement said that "the National Interest is the common denominator that must unite all Nicaraguans in order to strengthen the revolutionary process, which demands reinforcing the democratic regime of Chamorro."

Interviewed by the FSLN daily *Barricada*, Antonio Lacayo, minister of the presidency, called the declaration "very timely, a document that will serve well as a guide for the coming months."

Labor Minister Francisco Rosales, who has been in the forefront of confrontations with striking workers, told *Barricada* the statement was "balanced. It used language that I share. An economic-social pact is fundamental to our development."

Interviewed by the weekly *El Semanario*, former contra leader Alfredo César, now secretary of Nicaragua's National Assembly, said he agreed "fully with what was said" in the army declaration.

On the other hand, Roberto Ferrey, the minister in charge of repatriating contras, and Edmundo Castro, vice-secretary of the National Assembly, complained to *El Semanario* that the declaration was "partisan" and "political" because it criticized brigades of national salvation.

Cuba adopts strict fuel rationing measures

BY SELVA NEBBIA

The government of Cuba recently announced the rationing of fuel due to a lack of oil supplies in that country.

So far this year Cuba has received 20 percent less fuel from the Soviet Union than it has in the past. Almost 2 million tons of oil and derivatives have not been delivered. The Soviet Union is Cuba's main supplier of oil.

In a communiqué broadcast August 29 over the television network Tele Rebelde in Havana, special measures were outlined by the Cuban government to conserve oil. Cuba "does not have the financial resources in freely convertible currency," it was pointed out, "to get the fuel from other sources, much less now that the oil prices have doubled with the Arab Persian Gulf crisis."

One of the special measures taken by the Cuban government was to stop production at the Ernesto Che Guevara nickel plant in Moa and not utilize the main production line at the Cienfuegos oil refinery.

The special measures also include cutting back the gasoline allocation to state vehicles by 50 percent and by 30 percent to private vehicles used for personal use.

The government communiqué urged all enterprises to "immediately analyze how to make meaningful shifts in the maximum amount of electric power consumption to nonpeak hours in all activities that are not

technologically essential."

Saturday work "will be suspended in all those activities that do not affect production or services or in activities that do not have raw materials or resources to carry them out." Workers' salaries will not be affected, the communiqué noted.

The livestock and agricultural sector is called on to make "maximum reductions during peak hours in activities that consume large amounts of electricity, such as electrical irrigation systems," without affecting production activities. The government urged the increased use of animal power in agriculture.

While calling for "concentrating resources

on the main economic and social development programs the country is carrying out," the measures include reduction of "the investment program planned for this year."

Families are called on to reduce their average monthly consumption of electricity by 10 percent. "Consumers' noncompliance with this reduction would give rise to establishing one day a week without electricity in the areas of maximum demand," the communiqué noted.

If fuel deliveries from the Soviet Union continue to decrease, "new energy consumption measures will be unavoidable," the communiqué concluded. "Since the interruption

of supply deliveries from the USSR and other East European countries are not exclusively limited to fuel, the appropriate measures will be adopted and the population will be informed accordingly about each specific situation."

The reduction in the oil supplies did not arise with the crisis in the Persian Gulf, said Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca at a recent press conference. "It has been the internal problems faced by the Soviet Union that have not allowed it to meet its commitments," he said. Eighty percent of Cuba's trade has been with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

FBI illegally detains Irish worker, attempts to make him an informer

BY MARC LICHTMAN

NEW YORK — Kevin Corrigan is a 28-year-old undocumented carpenter from County Tyrone in British-occupied Northern Ireland. He was visited by two FBI agents at his apartment in the Bronx on August 20. They threatened him with deportation unless he became an informer.

One agent asked Corrigan if he had known Liam Ryan, and said, "Well, that's what you'll face if you go back." Ryan had been active in this country in solidarity with the Irish freedom struggle. When he returned home to Northern Ireland, he was assassinated by pro-British loyalists.

Corrigan refused to cooperate. Two days later the FBI followed him to work, and when he left they handcuffed him and forcibly took him to meet with an agent of the Royal Ulster Constabulary Special Branch, the Northern Ireland political police.

Corrigan recognized the RUC agent as one who had interrogated him in Northern Ireland and had tried to pressure him into becoming an informer. Like many young people in nationalist areas in Northern Ireland, Corrigan was frequently harassed by the British authorities. He was arrested at least a dozen times over a period of seven years and was held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, sometimes for as long as a week, although never charged.

Corrigan refused to cooperate with the FBI and RUC, obtained an attorney, and went to the *Irish Voice*, a New York weekly. His story appeared in an article in the September 1 issue written by senior editor Patrick Farrelly, who has also appeared on several radio shows to talk about the case.

Corrigan's illegal detention and the FBI-RUC collaboration have been protested by Bronx Congressman Eliot Engel, the Irish Immigration Reform Movement, Irish Nor-

thern Aid, and the Center for Constitutional Rights. The Brehon Law Society, a group of 400 Irish-American lawyers, has urged other immigrants who have been approached by the FBI about turning informer to come forward. It has promised them legal assistance.

The United States government has long collaborated with the British occupation of Northern Ireland and has frequently attacked the solidarity movement here. Recently, several activists were convicted on gun-running

charges in Boston and Alabama. Others in Miami face similar charges. Irish republican Joseph Doherty has been imprisoned in New York for seven years while the U.S. government continues its attempts to deport him to Northern Ireland, where he faces life imprisonment for his participation in the national liberation struggle. A bail hearing for Doherty was held on September 4, but it adjourned without a decision. A new hearing has not yet been scheduled.



Militant/Cindy Jaquith
Cuban workers building housing in Havana. Despite fuel shortage Cuba will attempt to "concentrate resources on economic and social programs," said government communiqué.

Teamsters win strike victory against Santa Fe railroad

BY SANDRA LEE

RICHMOND, California — A successful shutdown of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Co. rail yard here for three days August 25-27 won back the jobs of 54 Teamster-organized ramp workers.

The workers, members of Local 315, load and unload trucking containers from flatbed railroad cars. Some of the Teamsters had worked here for more than 20 years.

On June 30 the union contract with the Santa Fe expired. Prior to that, the Teamsters had been negotiating a new pact, one that included significant concessions. They agreed to give up \$16,000 per person a year in health and welfare benefits, wages, sick days, and holiday time.

Santa Fe refused a union offer to go back to work under the old contract while negotiations continued, then locked the workers out. Ramp service work for the railroad was then contracted out to Piggyback Services.

The railroad contended that the ramp workers' labor disagreement was with Piggyback Services and the locked-out workers were allowed to picket only the gate where Piggyback Services employees were driven in by company vans.

The Santa Fe had pickets arrested and

jailed for being on company property when they began picketing more gates. This was thrown out of court, however, and the Teamsters were soon back on the public road that crosses the main track. Soon, a slowdown in the yard developed as yard and road crews from other unions began to refuse to cross the picket lines.

The Teamsters expanded their pickets to the main entry at the depot when a judge ruled that the Teamsters dispute was indeed with the Santa Fe Railroad.

For three days rail union members refused to cross picket lines when they reported for duty — shutting down the yard except for work done by management personnel.

Served with court orders against the action, the rail unions decided to return to work after discussions with the Teamsters. The success of the three-day shutdown, however, forced Piggyback to negotiate with the Teamsters.

On August 29 the Teamsters' lawyers spread the word on the picket lines that they had won. The scabs are out, and striking workers will be brought back in seniority order.

Sandra Lee is a member of United Transportation Union Local 1730 and works for the Santa Fe at the Richmond yard.



WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Military in Myanmar holds onto power, jails opposition leaders

Six leaders of Myanmar's main opposition party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), were arrested on September 6 by the military government and charged with spying and creating unrest. The Asian country of Myanmar was formerly called Burma.

Earlier, two students and two monks were shot to death in the city of Mandalay while commemorating the second anniversary of the Aug. 8, 1988, prodemocracy demonstrations and strikes that demanded the ouster of the military regime. Estimates range as high as 1,000 killed by the police in those actions.

In 1988 a massive movement developed in Burma demanding democracy and free elections, rattling its military regime. The response of the military was to openly take power in September 1988 and to launch a murderous assault on the prodemocracy movement. The military now runs the country in the name of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

Under pressure from broad sections of the population, including within the military, and growing isolation in the world, the SLORC organized elections for a national assembly last May. The NLD won a landslide victory — 392 of the 485 seats contested.

The SLORC, however, has refused to convene the new assembly or to begin the process of drafting a new constitution, the stated goal of the new assembly.

Charges filed against Bhutto in Pakistan for alleged abuse of power

Benazir Bhutto, the former prime minister of Pakistan, was formally charged on September 10 with abuse of power and corruption. If convicted of the charges, Bhutto, who held office for about 20 months, will be disqualified from running in the upcoming elections scheduled for October 24.

Bhutto was removed from office in August by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who also dissolved the country's National Assembly and declared a state of emergency. As justification for the move, Khan claimed that corruption and nepotism in the federal government had reached such a level that the orderly functioning of the government was no longer a possibility. The Pakistani army took over the national television station and telephone exchange,

and spread its troops throughout the capital the day of Khan's announcement.

Bhutto won office on a promise of improved civil and human rights after decades of almost uninterrupted military rule. Her father, Prime Minister Zulfikar Bhutto, was overthrown in a military coup in 1977 and executed in 1979. Bhutto has blamed the situation on scheming officers in the intelligence apparatus of the army. And both sides have exchanged charges of the other being agents for the Indian government.

All sides in the present dispute claim to have the support of the U.S. government.

UN Security Council deals blow to Cambodia's sovereignty

In a blow against Cambodian sovereignty, the Cambodian government has been pressured into an agreement that recognizes the right of the Khmer Rouge to play a role in governing the country. The agreement, drafted by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, was accepted by the Cambodian government and a coalition of the counterrevolutionary opposition groups that have been trying to overthrow it.

All sides have agreed to hold the first session of a newly elected Supreme National Council as soon as possible and to facilitate the UN playing a major role in the running of the country until new elections are held.

The Supreme National Council consists of six representatives of the Phnom Penh government and two from each of the three counterrevolutionary factions. It will occupy Cambodia's seat in the United Nations.

The opposition coalition has received hundreds of millions of dollars in aid from the United States and China in a relentless military drive to overthrow the Cambodian government.

The coalition is dominated by the Khmer Rouge, which was responsible for the deaths of more than 1 million Cambodians (some estimates range as high as 2 million) between 1975 and 1979 while they were in power.

In 1979 the Khmer Rouge regime was overthrown by Vietnamese military forces and Cambodian resistance fighters. Vietnam kept troops in Cambodia until September 1989 to prevent the return of the Khmer Rouge to power. With the removal of Vietnamese troops the counterrevolutionary forces stepped up their war inside Cambodia.

Shugrue's '100 days' became 100 of union power

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.

pointed trustee Martin Shugrue last spring, the effort was aimed at digging the airline out of its losses and battered image following the ouster of Frank Lorenzo in April. "For the next 100 days Eastern is going to get a little better every day," Shugrue promised.

days" into 100 days of exercising union power.

against the carrier.

lated on prestrike Eastern.

"After booking a free flight on Continental Airlines for herself and a friend, they arrived at Boston's Logan Airport on August 2 wearing 'No Lorenzo' T-shirts and buttons and their luggage covered with 'Boycott Eastern and Continental' stickers. They also carried signs proclaiming they were traveling on free tickets because they would not spend one cent to further Frank Lorenzo's cause.

"Cutting and friend departed Boston without incident, aside from attracting a lot of attention and explaining the strike and boycott to their fellow passengers.

"This was not the case, however, at Denver's Stapleton Airport where they were told by an irate agent that they would have to either get off the plane or remove their T-shirts and buttons and put their signs away because the pilot refused to fly the plane with them on board in their 'No Lorenzo' attire.

"Not wanting to inconvenience their fellow travelers, the pair removed their T-shirts and buttons and put away their signs — that is, of course, until the flight was underway and the pilot's hands were tied!"

Bronson Rozier in Louisville, Kentucky, contributed to this column.



SUPPORT EASTERN STRIKERS!

As of the *Militant's* closing news date, Wednesday, September 12, the strike was in its 558th day.

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

September 13 marks the end of Eastern Airline's "100 days" campaign. Announced by court-ap-

grue promised.

At the end of 100 days, Shugrue told millions in prime-time TV ads and full-page newspaper spreads last June, Eastern would be back on its feet — its scab work force intact and union-busting accomplished.

But the rank-and-file fighters of the Machinists union maintained their strike. At the end of 100 days it is the strikers who are in a better position and Eastern, which is on the ropes.

Hit by safety indictments, continued picket lines, strike rallies, solidarity from unionists around the world, and declining ridership, the strikers turned Shugrue's "100

"We had a fine, fine Labor Day parade in Buffalo," reported Tom Pomeroy, strike coordinator of the Eastern strikers in the upstate New York City.

A member of Local 75 of the International Association of Machinists, Pomeroy and five other strikers marched with other members of the local. Highlighting their fight, the strikers decorated a truck with a banner reading, "Don't fly Eastern and Continental," and handed out strike buttons to the children, Pomeroy reported.

Twenty thousand working people turned out for the parade, and strikers "received a lot of congratulations" from participants for the victories the strike has scored.

"I'm elated about the fact that we got rid of Lorenzo," Pomeroy said. "You can't downplay the fact that Lorenzo is gone. If we would have caved in God only knows what this country would be like now."

Of the 22 original strikers, 14 keep picket lines up at the Buffalo airport six days a week. "We walk around in the terminal with strike T-shirts," the strike leader said, to publicize the continued fight

Supporters of socialist press launch sales campaign

Continued from front page intervention.

Unlike anytime since before World War II, Washington's war moves come at a time of an increased economic crisis that has forced many workers — such as miners, Greyhound workers, and the Machinists at Eastern — to move to defend themselves and their unions against the employers' offensive. Among a layer of workers and working farmers this employer attack has increased interest in the *Militant* and aroused opposition to the U.S. military deployment. Many more remain uncertain whether or not a war in the Mideast is in their interests.

At rallies, marches, and other events over Labor Day weekend, Eastern strikers were accorded a front place because of the victories scored in their fight and their continued battle for a contract and jobs.

Working people around the world recognized the battle by the rank-and-file fighters at Eastern as their own, and seek news, information, and analysis on the strike in order to deepen their solidarity.

The *Militant* is the only paper that has provided such coverage since the strike began. Subscribing to the paper is the best way to both keep abreast of the struggle and find out how to join in the continuing activities of the strike.

By going on a sustained effort to introduce and discuss politics with working people, students, and other youth for eight weeks, thousands of new readers can be won to the socialist press.

Election campaigns

Getting out and talking politics with working people is what Socialist Workers Party candidates have been doing in cities throughout the United States.

Speaking out in support of the Eastern strike and against the U.S. war moves in the Mideast, many socialist candidates have gotten media coverage in recent weeks in New Haven and Hartford, Connecticut; Albert Lea, Minnesota; New York; Pennsylvania; and elsewhere.

The *Militant* is the public voice of these campaigns. By purchasing a subscription those interested in the candidates' views on the big political issues in the world today — from the Middle East to the collapse of Stalinist regimes in Eastern Europe, from the struggle against apartheid in South Africa to the Cuban revolution — can read the paper every week and learn more about the socialists' perspectives.

Perspectiva Mundial and *Lutte ouvrière* increase the striking power of socialists by enabling supporters to reach workers whose language is Spanish or French.

And by making the Marxist magazines

New International and *Nouvelle Internationale* part of the sales drive, supporters can sell hundreds of copies to working people interested in reading more in-depth articles about socialism and what socialists stand for.

Action plans

To get the most out of the international sales drive, and make the goals on time, supporters are already mapping out eight-week action plans to sell subscriptions.

Supporters are discussing which campuses and high schools they want to reach, which working-class communities they want to sell in, what regional trips they want to take, and what political events are coming up in their areas.

Key to meeting these goals is building on the successes of past sales campaigns by organizing Saturday mobilizations, setting up Pathfinder literature tables on street corners and at political meetings, having weekday and weeknight sales, and taking names of interested people who want to be recontacted.

Militant supporters who are members of industrial unions are also planning to step up their sales of subscriptions to coworkers and fellow unionists.

Through circulation campaigns over the last year more workers signed up to get the *Militant* — and a higher number renewed — than in many years. During July and August for example, 69 who identified themselves as members of trade unions renewed their subscriptions to the *Militant* — that's 23 percent of the total renewals received.

Militant supporters are also planning to expand and regularize weekly teams at plant gates and mine portals or at the picket lines of worker militants on strike in their city.

A goal of the socialist election campaigns is to host rallies at plant gates, inviting the press, campaign supporters, and *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *Lutte ouvrière* readers from inside the plant to meet the candidate and discuss politics. These plant-gate rallies will be opportunities for winning a few new readers.

Sales teams on the road

A central feature of the campaign will be regional sales teams to meet workers, farmers, and students on campus. Both locally organized teams of several days' duration and one- or two-week teams made up of volunteers from around the country are being planned.

One goal of the international campaign is to make a special effort to get out to the countryside and meet family farmers and farm workers and introduce them to the press.

Farm workers are among the lowest paid and most exploited layer of the working class. Many have been fighting to organize unions, are open to socialist ideas, and want to learn more about the struggles of other workers. By sending sales teams into the countryside socialists can win new readers to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *Lutte ouvrière* as well as learn and write articles about the struggles of farm workers.

In the United States supporters will also be putting six, week-long sales teams on the road during the subscription campaign. The goal is to field teams to the Yakima Valley in Washington State, the Salinas Valley in California, the packinghouse centers of the Midwest, the southern Illinois coalfields, Florida, and northwestern Ohio.

Fanning out with the socialist press on these sales teams can result in hundreds of new readers, increased support for framed union activist Mark Curtis, and new members of the Young Socialist Alliance.

Volunteers who have vacation time, are in between jobs or are laid off, or who can get time off of work or school are needed and can call the *Militant* business office to join teams.

We urge readers to get involved in the international sales drive and help win new subscribers to the socialist press by urging cofighters and activists to sign up. To order a weekly bundle of newspapers or take a goal for the eight-week campaign, call or write the *Militant* business office at 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Telephone (212) 929-3486.

Cops attack Greyhound striker

BY DAVID SALNER

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — Greyhound striker Scott Prettyman almost lost his life due to injuries sustained in a vicious beating by Salt Lake City cops. From his hospital bed he explained the events that left him disabled.

Ray McLing, a shop steward and coordinator of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1384, helped round out the events. He had with him sworn statements of others at the scene.

Shortly after 10:00 p.m. on August 15, Prettyman was hit by a scab-driven bus as he walked across the sidewalk of the Greyhound terminal here. He appealed to company security guards to restrain the scab driver, who had stopped the bus and was shouting threats.

But instead of helping, the company guards called the city cops to arrest Prettyman, who they alleged was "drunk and disorderly."



Militant/Margrethe Siem
New York garment district. Supporters of socialist press will place winning new readers through sales at plant gates as a high priority during sales drive.

The cops arrived quickly, handcuffed Prettyman, and threw him over the hood of his car. Prettyman, who has two supporting rods in his back, warned the cops of his medical condition. A friend and other strikers warned the police that any beating could kill him.

In response, Prettyman said, "the cop called me a tough S.O.B. and said he would break my arms and shove the rods up my ass." The cops then lifted the striker by his wrists, which were handcuffed behind him, kicked him, and jumped on his back before his friend and other strikers were able to stop the attack and get an ambulance.

Even then, the cops refused to remove the handcuffs until one of the paramedics screamed at them to take them off.

At St. Marks Hospital, doctors confirmed that the rods in Prettyman's back had been broken. An internal infection from the

Continued on Page 12

Canada workers have stake in fight for Native rights

BY ROBERT SIMMS
AND STEVE PENNER

(Last of a three-part series)

The racist terror campaign being waged by the Canadian and Québec governments, army, and police against Mohawks in two Indian settlements near Montréal and the growing resistance by Native people across Canada to their generations-old oppression, pose crucial questions for working people, their unions, and all defenders of democratic rights.

Canada's ruling rich have responded to the explosive Native rebellion by trying to undermine the increasing unity of Native people and to undercut the growth of support for their struggle from workers and farmers. Capitalist politicians and the big-business media have carried out a slander campaign against the Mohawk Warriors, an organization of Mohawks, accusing them of being "terrorists and criminals."

One result of the rulers' racist offensive has been a deep class polarization. One side of the polarization can be seen in the huge racist mobs, organized by ex-cops and small businessmen, that not only demonstrated against the Mohawks but also carried out physical attacks against them.

A layer of union officials and working people in Québec and across the country also supported the anti-Mohawk propaganda of the big-business press and government officials. Their line was that the Native struggle threatens Canadian or Québec unity and these workers' supposed interests as whites.

On the other side are the tens of thousands of Natives, workers, farmers, unionists, students, and supporters of democratic rights who in one way or another defend the Mohawks' rights or see the struggle as their own. Many have participated in hundreds of solidarity actions across the country. In the largest of these actions, the Toronto Labour Day parade, a large proportion of the 20,000 to 30,000 participating unionists wore red arm bands in support of the Mohawks.

The Toronto action reflected the increasingly multinational composition of the working class in this country, arising from massive immigration from Third World countries over the past 25 years.

Fostering divisions

The capitalist rulers have attempted to use this fact to foster racial divisions among working people, promoting the idea that all whites have common interests and are threatened by the demands of Natives and other people of color. This reactionary campaign serves to mask the fact that all the oppressed and exploited, whatever the color of their skin, have no common interests with the bosses and their governments.

Faced with a deepening crisis of the worldwide capitalist system since the late 1960s, the employers have increasingly sought to drive down workers' wages, speed up production, and undermine their social rights and benefits.

In order to carry this out, the bosses must weaken, cripple, and, if possible, break the unions. They cannot achieve this, however, if working people are able to unite against their common enemy, the hundred or so ruling capitalist families that run Canada.

The growing unity of Native people, the rising fight against all forms of racism in Canada, the struggles of Québécois and other oppressed nationalities, and the fight of women for their rights are struggles that tend to unite working people and all the oppressed, threatening the capitalist rulers' ability to achieve their aims.

On July 11 the Mohawks' defeated an armed assault by cops on their peaceful protest against expansion of a local golf course. A two-month armed siege by the Québec provincial police and the Canadian army followed.

Despite the armed encirclement and propaganda effort, Canada's rulers have failed to crush the Mohawks' resistance. This is due to the unprecedented cross-country unity and solidarity forged among Native peoples through this battle and the broad support for

the Natives' demands among a broad layer of working people.

The Native struggle has had a profound impact on hundreds of thousands of working people. Working-class fighters across the country have identified with the determined fight by the Mohawks in their own battles. For example, striking miners in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, say they are wearing camouflage clothing like the Mohawk Warriors.

Labor's stake in the fight

The union movement, by educating working people on labor's stake in giving full support to the Natives' just demands for land and sovereignty, will strengthen the struggles of the labor movement and its allies.

Since World War II Natives have become much more integrated into the work force. In 1985-86 some 35,000 found at least temporary jobs in manufacturing, 22,000 in construction, 7,000 in mining, and 9,000 in the forest industry. Some 80,000 worked in the public sector, a number of them employed on the reserves in health and education.

While many Natives still fight to maintain traditional livelihoods, most must seek jobs in industry or elsewhere. There they face harsh and systematic discrimination in employment. Indians living on reserves have a personal income only half the average income in Canada; Indians working in the federal civil service earn 10 percent less than the average civil service wage.

Bosses use the tremendous unemployment among Natives as a pool of cheap, temporary labor and a tool to drive down the wages of all workers. The bosses also try to mobilize workers in opposition to Native demands by claiming that the granting of Native land claims will destroy jobs. This argument is simply a cover for the real reasons for the fierce opposition of the bosses to Native land claims.

The land claims

The land claimed by Natives and the resources connected to them, including the unceded land in most of British Columbia, the far north, and Québec, are a real threat to billions of dollars in potential profits for the wealthy families who own the oil, mining, and forest industries of Canada. That's why the federal and provincial governments that serve their interests have used stalling tactic after stalling tactic in dealing with these claims and dismissed scores outright.

Native people seek recognition of their aboriginal title to the land they have never willingly surrendered. They indicate they want treaties on the use of this land. While willing to share its resources, they want to protect enough to provide for those who want to continue traditional livelihoods, use what they need for modern production and decent living standards, and help control development so that the land and environment are protected for all future generations.

For workers and their allies — who share the same interests with Native people — this poses no threat. For the capitalist class, it is wholly unacceptable. It will take a powerful struggle waged by Natives with the full backing of working people and their organizations to win the key demands.

While many unions across the country have expressed their support for Native land claims, some have been drawn into supporting the bosses against Native demands. For example, a number of sawmill workers in the Temagami region of Ontario mobilized a counterdemonstration against the demands of the Bear Island Indian band that was trying to prevent new logging on their ancestral lands.

In fact, contrary to the bosses' claims, these workers have as vital an interest in supporting Native demands as does the working class as a whole. Supporting the bosses and their government against any layer of the oppressed and exploited weakens the unity of the labor movement and its capacity to defend its members' interests.

Instead of supporting the bosses the labor movement needs to support the Native land claims and demand job programs from the



Militant/Monica Jones
Pro-Mohawk demonstration in Montréal August 29. Signs read, "No to the army," "Justice for Native peoples."

government to provide full employment for the loggers, sawmill workers, and the Natives themselves. The fight for a shorter workweek at no loss in pay is also vital to insure full employment.

Along with these demands the labor movement needs to fight for affirmative action for Natives, not only to build the unity of all oppressed and exploited, but also to strengthen its union ranks with militant fighters. Only by fighting for special measures for the oppressed, whether to integrate them into the working class or in support of Natives' social and political demands, will it succeed in forging the unity that can displace the capitalist parties and class from political power.

The same logic explains why the labor movement and all other working people have an interest in defending the Native demand for sovereignty.

Fight for sovereignty

The Mohawk demand for recognition of their sovereignty and right to self-government goes back to the earliest relations between Europeans and the Iroquois, which includes the Mohawks. The only treaty they ever signed, with the British, describes two equal but separate peoples.

The Mohawk demand for sovereignty is matched by every Indian, Inuit, and Métis community in Canada. Not all have the same historical roots. But sovereignty corresponds to the means they desperately need to over-

come their oppression. Natives are hemmed in by a dictatorial Indian Act and their traditional languages and cultures assaulted like no other group has ever experienced in Canada.

Native people have a right to sovereignty as a basic human and democratic right. They need it to control their economic and social development.

Indian Affairs Minister Thomas Siddon replied to the Mohawk sovereignty demands with: "The government of Canada and the government of Québec cannot agree to the Balkanization of Canada which would see the First Nations become independent and sovereign states."

The propaganda of Canada's rulers centers on defending "Canadian unity." That unity is nothing more than the "togetherness" of a prisonhouse of nations, put together to serve the divide-and-rule tactics of the bosses and their need for cheap labor and higher profits based on discrimination against national minorities. Rejecting appeals to support "our" company, "our" country, or "our" army is crucial for the working class to develop its own political course to fight for its own interests.

Working people throughout the country have every interest in supporting the democratic demands of the nationally oppressed to self-rule and their right to self-determination, including Natives and Québécois, as the only way to unite all in common struggle.

Gov't anti-Mohawk drive grows

Continued from back page

growing support for the Mohawks' struggle by slandering the fighters who are resisting further army and SQ encroachment onto their land.

On September 7 Québec Premier Robert Bourassa called them "a ragtag bunch of thugs and criminals." But their supposed crime of transporting fuel and cigarettes across the U.S.-Canadian borders are considered by many Natives as their right according to existing treaties. A number of the Mohawk Warriors are workers and unionists; others are students.

The government campaign against the Mohawks has fueled sustained racist mobilizations in Châteauguay, a suburb neighboring the Kahnawake reserve, where Mohawks conducted a solidarity blockade in support of the Mohawks at Kanesatake. The Catholic school board in Châteauguay has voted to ban Mohawks from its schools despite opposition by many students and parents and by both the Protestant and Catholic teachers' associations to this racist segregation.

Support for the Mohawk struggle continues to grow across Canada and internationally. On September 6, a full-page ad was run in the *Globe and Mail*, which is circulated across the country. The ad called for "an end to all further military action and any acts of intimidation or reprisal" by the police. It also called for "a just settlement of aboriginal land disputes and the issue of self-determination." Among the prominent individuals and well-known organizations signing the ad were the Canadian Labour Congress, the British Columbia and Ontario Federations of Labour,

women's rights and peace groups, the Canadian Autoworkers Union, the Canadian Paperworkers Union, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, and the Toronto Labour Council.

Support grows across Canada

Support actions for the Mohawks continue to grow across Canada. On September 8 more than 1,000 demonstrated in Toronto. The next day 500 people participated in a rally in solidarity with the Mohawks at the peace camp in Sauvé Park on the outskirts of Oka. More and more Native peoples and their supporters from across North America are arriving in Oka to stop the army from massacring the Mohawks. Other demonstrations were held last week in cities across the country.

Native blockades of roads and, on a couple of occasions, railway lines continue to be set up across Canada.

Solidarity demonstrations have also been held in the United States, Australia, and other countries. Telegrams of support have been sent from indigenous peoples around the world including Latin America, Africa, and the Pacific. A Mohawk delegation, headed by Kenneth Deer, appeared before the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in Geneva, Switzerland. A Native protest against the police repression has also been sent to Amnesty International.

Messages of support can be sent to Radio Kanesatake, P.O. Box 747, Kanesatake, Québec, J0N 1E0. The fax number is (514) 479-1014.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

National Health-care Crisis. Speakers: Bob Tougas, Executive Board, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-547; Virginia Garza, administrative assistant, Hollywood-Sunset Community Clinic. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

South Africa Now. Speakers: representatives of the African National Congress of South Africa. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Two Young Socialist Alliance Class Series. Series 1: "U.S. Out of the Arab East!" Tues., Sept. 18 and 25, 6:30 p.m. Sun., Sept. 27, 1 p.m. Series 2: "Women: Roots of Oppression, Road to Liberation" Tues., Oct. 2, 9, and 16; Thurs., Oct. 18, 1 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$.50 per class. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

No Contract, No Peace! Support the Eastern Strikers! Speakers: Larry Roundtree, International Association of Machinists Local 1690 on strike at Eastern; Miesha Patterson, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress, 6th C.D. Sat., Sept. 15. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

Stop the Military Occupations of Mohawk Lands in Canada. Speaker: Jeff Jones, SWP candidate for public service commissioner. Sat., Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

U.S. Out of the Arab East! U.S. Hands Off Iraq! Sat., Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m. Martin Luther King Community Center, 450 Auburn Ave. NE. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Out of Control! — How Corporate Drive for Profits Is Destroying Job Safety. Video prepared by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union. Speaker: Sara Johnston, Socialist Workers Party, member United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 100A. Sat., Sept. 15, 7 p.m. 545 W Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018.

Who Is Really Behind the Violence in Natal, South Africa? Speakers: Danana Sembie, South African International Students Congress; Eric Matheis, chairperson, Chicago Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., Sept. 22, 7 p.m. 545 W Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018.

IOWA

Des Moines

Current Challenges in the Fight for Freedom in South Africa. End Apartheid Now! Speakers: Suzanne Peterson, coordinator of the Iowa Inter-Church Agency for Peace and Justice, just returned from tour of South Africa; Strife Chlowane, South African student at Iowa State University; Linda Marcus, Socialist Workers Party candidate for state treasurer. Sat., Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

KENTUCKY

Louisville

No War for Big Oil — U.S. Out of the Mid-

east! Speakers: representatives of Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party. Tues., Sept. 18, 7:15 p.m. Rm. 215 Humanities Bldg., University of Louisville. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

U.S. Troops Out of the Arab East! Hands Off Iraq! Speaker: Don Gurewitz, Socialist Workers Party, member International Union of Electronic Workers Local 201. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MINNESOTA

Austin

The Grounding of Frank Lorenzo: The Meaning of the Eastern Strike and Other Labor Battles. Speakers: Will Reissner, airline worker and member Machinists union; Dean Peoples, Socialist Workers Party, member United Food and Commercial Workers Union. Sat., Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (507) 433-3461.

St. Paul

The Grounding of Frank Lorenzo: The Meaning of the Eastern Strike and Other Labor Battles. Sat., Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

The AIDS Crisis. Panel discussion. Sat., Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

Canada, Québec, and the Struggle for Native Rights. Sat., Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

In Defense of Prisoners' Rights. Speakers: Vicki Parks, Mondo-David Rice and Ed Poin-dexter Defense Committee; representative Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 15, 7 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (402) 553-0245.

Stop the War! U.S. Out of the Arab East! Speakers: Janice Brown, community activist; Robin Carter, Nebraskans for Peace; Bassen Saleh, General Union of Palestinian Students; Erich Christiansen, Youth for Peace; Brian Gibbs, Young Socialist Alliance, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 271. Wed., Sept. 19, 7 p.m. University of Nebraska, Milo Bail Center, 3rd floor Stateroom. Sponsor: Youth for Peace, Anti-intervention Coalition. For more information call (402) 733-2798, 553-0245, 551-0932, 733-1782.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

The Mohawks: Defending Their Land, Treaty Rights, and National Sovereignty. Speaker: Pattie Sanchez, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to French and Spanish. Sat., Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

No Contract, No Peace! Why Labor is Winning the Strike at Eastern Airlines. Speaker: Ernie Mailhot, Eastern strike coordinator, International Association of Machinists Local 1018. Sat., Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Support the Eastern Strike. Speakers: Michael Ruscigno, recording secretary Teamsters Local 138 on strike at Sargenti Foods; George Kennedy, strike coordinator Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1202 on strike at Greyhound; Mark Bottino, outreach coordinator IATSE Local 771 on strike at Image Bank; Susan Annuth, member International Association of Machinists Local 1018 on strike at Eastern. Translation to Spanish and French. Sat., Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m. 464 Bergen. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (718) 398-6983.

Manhattan

U.S. Out of the Arab East! Bring the Troops Home Now! A Young Socialist Alliance class series. Class 1, "1952-90: The Fight Against Imperialist Domination in the Middle East." Speaker: Susan Annuth, Socialist Workers Party candidate for lieutenant governor. Thurs., Sept. 20, 7 p.m. Class 2, "1990: U.S. Out of the Arab East." Speaker: Aaron Ruby, SWP candidate for comptroller. Thurs., Sept. 27, 7 p.m. Translation to Spanish. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$1. For more information call (212) 675-6740.

OHIO

Cleveland

The Fight Against Racism at Cleveland State University. Speakers: Dante Merriweather, president of Students for Dr. Ramond Winbush; Cheryl Johnson, co-chair Coalition for Equal Education and Opportunity at CSU. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

Town Meeting on the Persian Gulf Crisis. A teach-in on U.S. intervention in the Middle East. Speakers: Anan Ameri, president Palestine Aid Society, Washington, D.C.; Grace Waite Jones, coordinator Free South Africa; Sheldon Liss, professor University of Akron; Harold Mitchell, president AFSCME Local 100. Sat., Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m. Workmen's Circle Educational Center, 1980 S. Green Rd.

TEXAS

Houston

Socialist Workers Campaign Barbecue. Sun., Sept. 16, 4 p.m. Call (713) 522-8054 for location.

Out of Control! Video about oil refinery disasters. Sat., Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

Why Capitalism Has Suffered a Historic Defeat in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Sat., Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

U.S. Troops Out of the Arab East! Hands Off Iraq! Sat., Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (202) 797-7699.

BRITAIN

Cardiff

Palestine and the Arab Fight for Liberation. Sat., Sept. 15, 7 p.m. 9 Moira Terrace, Adamsdown. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 0222-484677.

Sheffield

For a United, Democratic, and Nonracial South Africa. Slideshow and presentation by Rich Palser who toured South Africa. Fri., Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m. 2A Waverley House, 10 Joiner St.

Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 0742-729469.

CANADA

Montréal

Celebrate the Expansion of Pathfinder. Speaker: Robert Simms, Canada representative of Pathfinder Press. Supper, slideshow, and music. Sat., Sept. 15, 6 p.m. 6566, boul. Saint-Laurent. Donations: \$5, \$10. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

NEW ZEALAND

Wellington

Pathfinder Book Promotion at the Manila Bookfair. Speaker: Janet Roth, Communist League candidate for Wellington Central. Sat., Sept. 22, 7 p.m. Pathfinder Books and Pamphlets, 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Tel: (4) 844-205.

Socialist Election Campaign Launch. Speakers: three Communist League candidates. Sat., Sept. 29, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation: \$5. Tel: (4) 844-205.

SWEDEN

Stockholm

Report from Cuba. Speakers: Participants in Nordic Brigade to Cuba, summer 1990. Sat., Sept. 22, 2 p.m. Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

Utah cops attack Greyhound striker; then arrest him

Continued from Page 10

wounds spread to his kidneys and resulted in a life-threatening fever of 104°. He cannot be operated on until the infection subsides.

McLing, the executive officer of Prettyman's local, pointed out that the cops have consistently defended Greyhound's scab operation without regard to public safety, let alone the welfare of the strikers. Several days after Prettyman was attacked, the same scab driver ran into another picket. On other occasions, scabs have threatened Salt Lake City strikers with guns.

But it is the strikers who get accused of violence, said McLing, pointing to a headline in the city's daily paper, "S.L. strikers grow ever more violent, Greyhound says."

Prettyman has filed charges against the city for the cop attack, and McLing is appealing to the area labor movement for contributions and messages of support.

More than 8,000 Greyhound workers struck the bus company March 2. ATU members rejected the company's contract offer by a more than 90 percent margin. Greyhound has since refused to engage in serious negotiations with the union.

The ATU announced that \$50-a-week strike benefits would be cut off as of September 13. Further payments to strikers would make it difficult for the union to pay legal fees in connection with recent efforts to negotiate a buyout of Greyhound, said ATU President James La Sala in a letter to officers of the union.

He said termination of the benefits was not a sign that the union is abandoning the strike. "We intend to continue this fight for as long as it may take," he said.

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16,000 steelworkers on strike in Canada inspire solidarity from other unionists

BY GARY KETTNER

HAMILTON, Ontario — With banners reading "Police and courts — Hands off Stelco strike," 800 striking steelworkers led the 6,000-strong Labor Day parade here, the largest in many years.

"We came looking for solidarity from other workers in Hamilton, and I think we got a lot today," said one striker.

Across Canada, 16,000 members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) have stepped up efforts to win solidarity and strengthen picket lines in the face of increased company attacks as walkouts at Stelco and the Algoma Steel Corporation entered their second month.

The strike began August 1, shutting down more than half of steel production in the country. The Stelco walkout involves 10,000 workers at nine plants in Ontario, Québec, and Alberta. Six thousand workers are on strike against Algoma in northern Ontario.

Since the beginning, members of Local 1005 in Hamilton have organized secondary pickets of warehouses and storage yards where Stelco had stockpiled \$900 million worth of steel prior to the strike.

On August 30, a judge granted a motion to Newman Steel forbidding pickets from blocking trucks that haul steel out of a Hagersville warehouse. Jannock Steel Fabricating, Inc., which is 50 percent owned by Stelco, won a similar motion for a Stoney Creek site where \$1.8 million worth of steel is stored. Both sites are near Hamilton.

The injunctions were granted on the basis that the steel does not belong to Stelco, but to its customers.

But USWA District 6 Director Leo Gerard, speaking at the Hamilton Labor Day parade, accused Stelco of hiding its stockpile behind a series of numbered companies and in its customers' warehouses.

Despite the court orders, strikers have

maintained informational picket lines at two sites near Hamilton. Pickets in Stoney Creek explained that sheriffs escort three to five trucks, often dangerously overloaded with steel, through the picket line every day.

Police have briefly arrested some strikers and then released them without charges. The company has hired private investigators who make video and audio recordings of pickets, some of whom are now being served with injunctions.

Support from convention delegates

Support for the strike came from the 3,000 delegates attending the international convention of the USWA held in Toronto August 27-31 who marched to Stelco corporate headquarters in the city's downtown area. A busload of delegates from the Chicago-area District 31 joined picket lines in Hamilton. A group of strikers from Local 1005 traveled to Chicago and attended the Labor Day pic-

nic of Local 1010.

Solidarity also came from Mohawks at the Six Nations reserve near Brantford, Ontario. They blocked a rail line running through the reserve in support of the Mohawks at Kanesatake. The blockade also prevented Stelco from moving some of its stockpile. It was removed September 9 after the rail company obtained an injunction.

There have been several blockades organized by striking workers across the country who have picked up the tactic from the Native rights struggle.

In Edmonton, Alberta, members of USWA Local 5220 set up a tent on the rail line running out of the Stelco plant. The shipment of seven loads of steel was blocked for five days until an agreement was reached to remove the blockade September 4.

In Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, more than 200 members of Local 2251 reinforced their picket line September 5 in an attempt to prevent Algoma Steel from removing some stamping dies from the plant. More than 30 police arrested 15 strikers.

The Algoma strikers received \$8,000 from a Labor Day barbeque of 6,000 in support of the struggle.

Wave of strikes

In addition to these two strikes, some 3,500 members of the USWA have been on strike against the Placer Dome mining company in northern Ontario since May 7, and another 1,100 steelworkers have been out since June 30 at Brunswick Mining & Smelting Co. in Bathurst, New Brunswick.

Members of the International Association of Machinists in Toronto and Montréal have been on strike for a year-and-a-half against Eastern Airlines as part of the longest undefeated major strike in North America since World War II. Workers at Greyhound bus company are on strike in Montréal as part of another North America-wide fight.

Some 1,700 British Columbia rail workers have set up picket lines at 30 locations across the province. From September 5-7, strikers stopped the shipment of 50,000 tons of coal per day at the Roberts Bank export terminal until the Industrial Relations Council ordered an end to picketing, citing "staggering financial losses" to the province.

Despite a provincial Supreme Court injunction and a federal back-to-work order, 2,300 coal miners have been on strike since August 15 in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. On September 11, 5,000 members of the Canadian Paperworkers Union walked off the job at nine Abitibi-Price mills in Newfoundland, Québec and Ontario.

New York rules Unity Party off ballot on challenge by New Alliance, Liberals

BY PETER THIERJUNG

NEW YORK — The New York State Board of Elections ruled Jitu Weusi, the Unity Party candidate for governor, off the ballot in the November statewide elections. Weusi is a Black political activist who supported Democrat David Dinkins in his successful bid for New York mayor in 1989.

The September 10 ruling, according to Board of Elections spokesman Dave Flanagan, came in response to challenges against Weusi's nominating petitions made by Lenora Fulani, the New Alliance Party candidate for governor, and by the Liberal Party. The Liberals have given their slot to Democrat Mario Cuomo, the incumbent governor.

NAP charged that Weusi submitted 17,000 signatures, less than the 20,000 required by state election laws to qualify for ballot status. Weusi's filing papers say he had 20,250 signatures.

Weusi's candidacy "was cooked up by Democrats-in-independents' clothing as a scam on the voters of New York," Fulani said in an August 31 news release. "The problem with Jitu is the disrespect his campaign shows to the Black community. That is why I have challenged the validity of his petitions," she said. "He is a spoiler, plain and simple."

NAP also filed suit in State Supreme Court to knock Joseph Mack, the gubernatorial candidate of the United African Party, off the

ballot. NAP charged that he had less than 11,000 signatures. Mack's documents claim 24,094. The suit also challenges his nominating petitions on other counts, charging a failure to get the required number of signatures in different state congressional districts and alterations made on signatures.

Mack is a member of the United African Movement, an organization led by Alfred Sharpton, Alton Maddox, and Vernon Mason. The three became known during their involvement in the case of Tawana Brawley, a young Black woman from upstate New York who said she had been raped in 1987 by white men. Sharpton, an admitted former police informer, is a regular columnist for the *National Alliance*, the newspaper that promotes NAP's election campaigns.

Mack "seeks to confuse and disorganize the African American community by attempting to place on the ballot a United African Party which in my opinion has everything to do with attempting to undermine Reverend Sharpton's extraordinary leadership," Fulani said.

The New Alliance Party presents itself as a prodemocracy, radical, and independent political party that is Black-led and multiracial. It claims to champion the interests of Blacks, Latinos, women, gays, and youth.

Other parties that filed nominating petitions without challenge and will appear on the ballot are the Libertarian Party with 22,497 signatures, New Alliance Party with 65,100, and the Socialist Workers Party with 28,333. Parties with automatic ballot status include Republicans, Conservatives, Right-to-Life, Democrat, and Liberal.

Mineworkers union faces charges

Continued from back page

NUM and IMO, an agreement was reached that could lead to the dropping of the suit by the NUM executive body. While maintaining the funds donated to the IMO were intended for the international organization's use, the IMO will donate some £700,000 to the NUM from its accounts.

Support for NUM

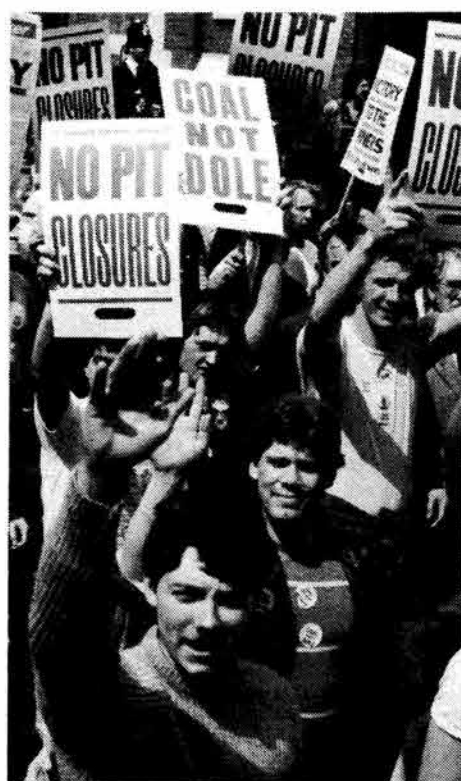
Starting with a 700-strong rally in Sheffield August 24, the Women Against Pit Closures organization and the Justice for Mineworkers Campaign have been leading the effort with Scargill and Heathfield to refute the slanders and expose the real target of the attack — the fighting capacity and unity of the miners' union.

Some of the issues behind the attacks on the miners' union were the center of debate at a TUC conference September 3. Under the debate on employment law for a future Labour government, the 1,000 delegates, representing 8.4 million trade union members, voted by a slim majority to reject a resolution backed by the NUM and other unions that included as a principle the "right to picket peacefully and to take solidarity action in support of other workers." This was rejected in favor of a resolution that called for the "right to take sympathy action where there is a direct interest of an occupational or professional nature."

Both forms of action are currently illegal in Britain as a result of antiunion legislation brought in by the Conservative Party government of Thatcher.

The following day Neil Kinnock, leader of the Labour Party, singled out Scargill for demanding "special favors" in the previous day's debate. Scargill had argued that a future Labour government should act as consistently in the interests of the working class as the Thatcher government has done in favor of big business.

Without naming Scargill, Kinnock said, "The purpose of what we do is not favors, it's justice." Unions should expect "fairness,



G.M. Cookson
Miners marching to Parliament in London, July 1984, during strike.

not favors," from a Labour government, he said.

Some 200 delegates attended a meeting that evening, hosted by the Justice for Mineworkers Campaign, to hear NUM members and leaders explain the union's defense efforts.

Following a speech by Heathfield, Scargill explained the various aspects of the slander campaign as a "substantial attack on the IMO" and an attempt to stop any further resistance to the employer-government offensive against working people.

"I don't care what government is in power," Scargill said. "Those attacks must be resisted."

— 10 AND 25 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

Sept. 19, 1980

WINSTON-SALEM, North Carolina — American workers can learn a lot from the victorious strikes waged by their Polish brothers and sisters, Andrew Pulley told a campaign rally here.

Speaking in this "right to work" southern state, one of the lowest in the country in both unionization and wages, the Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate centered his remarks on the Polish example of how workers can fight and win.

He ridiculed the hypocrisy of President James Carter and Republican presidential candidate Ronald Reagan, who pretend to embrace the Polish struggle.

"Polish workers demanded free and independent unions," Pulley said, "which means, in the first place, the right to have a union at all. But Carter doesn't even let unions organize on his peanut plantation. What about union rights in Georgia, or in North Caro-

'The Great Society'

"Great Society," a regular feature of the *Militant*, will not appear this week. Harry Ring, the author of the column, is recovering from an illness.

lina? What about an end to antiunion 'right to work' laws?

"How about unions free of government interference? Carter says he likes to see it in Poland. Why not here?"

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

Sept. 20, 1965

Black freedom fighters have been displaying strength in Kivu province in the eastern Congo, long a stronghold of Lumumbism. When they destroyed a small column of white mercenaries recently, the *New York Times* worriedly warned Moïse Tshombe and Kasavubu to stop their petty power struggles and get on with killing "rebels."

[Ernesto Che Guevara left Cuba in April. Around the time of this attack, he was in the Congo collaborating with the followers of assassinated Premier Patrice Lumumba.]

Support Greyhound strikers

Unionists and working people should come to the aid of the embattled Greyhound strikers who are facing serious challenges in their seven-month fight against the giant bus company. The strike is in need of the united solidarity of the entire labor movement.

The Greyhound strike is understood by many workers as a battle against union-busting. Greyhound chairman Fred Currey forced 30 percent pay cuts on the 8,000 union members in 1987 and steep give-backs again this year.

The strike has won support on the picket line, at rallies, and most recently during many Labor Day celebrations across the country. Strikers at Eastern Airlines and coal miners fighting company attacks in the coalfields have taken the lead in giving solidarity to the Greyhound strike.

Greyhound strikers have fought to keep their picket lines up through a barrage of injunctions by the courts, cop attacks, violence-baiting by the big-business media, and being run over by scab-driven buses. One striker was killed by a bus early in the strike.

In Salt Lake City recently a striker was hit by a scab-run bus and then beaten by the city police to the point where

he had to be hospitalized. The strikers are the real victims of violence, which is fostered by the company.

The fight has cut Greyhound's ridership, and Currey took Greyhound into bankruptcy on June 4. The company has also been forced to reduce its fares drastically to keep up its passenger load.

The new challenge that the strikers face is the cutoff of their strike benefits of \$50 a week. The ATU officials say the termination is due to the inability of the union to pay legal fees in connection with recent efforts to negotiate a bid to buy the company. This is a blow to the strike and a move away from the course that is needed to score a victory — the mobilization of the strikers and working people in support of the battle.

Working people should rally to the support of the Greyhound strikers by participating with them on the picket lines and inviting strikers to speak at union meetings — many of which will be taking place now that the summer is over.

The stakes are high for working people in this battle, and solidarity from the labor movement can make a difference.

Challenges for Curtis backers

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee's long-term effort to win United Nations backing of Curtis' fight for justice has registered impressive gains since the beginning of the year.

An immediate challenge before supporters of the international defense campaign is to raise the urgently needed funds to cover expenses from recent trips to UN meetings in Geneva, Switzerland, and Havana, Cuba. More than \$11,000 is needed to meet the defense committee's special \$20,000 fund in the next few weeks.

The results of these meetings highlight the importance of this fund-raising drive. Kate Kaku, a leader of the defense committee and Curtis' wife; the committee's coordinator, John Studer; and supporters from Australia, Britain, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, New Zealand, Sweden, the United States, and other countries have logged thousands of hours in preparations and tens of thousands of miles in travel to advance this international effort.

The campaign aims to focus international public attention on Curtis' 1988 frame-up and brutal beating at the hands of Des Moines, Iowa, police and violations of his democratic rights in prison. It is a crucial part of defending Curtis' right to continue his political activities in prison, and ultimately win his freedom.

This effort began in February when Kaku, Studer, and other supporters attended the 46th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. There UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar and Jan Martenson, director of the UN Centre for Human Rights, assigned a human rights officer to direct an inquiry into Curtis' case, prepare a summary, and circulate results to member countries of the commission.

In June Kaku participated in a Conference on Human

Development in Denmark sponsored by UN nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) concerned with human rights. The conference was an outgrowth of 1975 agreements reached in Helsinki, Finland, on European cooperation and human rights. The conference steering committee scheduled a special workshop for Kaku called "Mark Curtis — a human rights case in the United States."

Kaku and Studer received official delegate's credentials from the Indigenous World Association, a UN-approved NGO, for the 42nd session of the United Nations Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities held in Geneva. Kaku addressed the subcommission August 24 with an appeal to the UN to take up Curtis' case.

Organizers of the Eighth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders invited Kaku to speak before the body at its meeting in Havana, Cuba, at the end of August. Delays by the U.S. Treasury Department in approving a waiver of the U.S. travel ban to Cuba for Kaku and Studer prevented this, but they nevertheless were able to circulate literature and meet many participants.

Through the participation by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee in these international forums, new support has been won from almost every continent and doors have been opened to making further advances. Curtis' fight is becoming known and identified with by human and democratic rights fighters the world over. Backing in the United States and in Iowa has increased and been strengthened.

As a result greater opportunities exist today around the Curtis defense effort than ever before. Meeting these opportunities and raising the needed funds are a top priority for Curtis supporters everywhere.

Ballot ruling: a blow to rights

The September 10 decision by the New York State Board of Elections to rule the Unity Party off the ballot is a blow to democratic rights and the fight against restrictive ballot laws. Another blow will be struck if the State Supreme Court rules the United African Party off the ballot. The challenges that led to the state's ruling were initiated by the New Alliance Party (NAP) and the Liberal Party. (See news story on page 13.)

In each of the 50 U.S. states a myriad of election laws are designed to protect the political and electoral monopoly of the two dominant capitalist parties, the Democrats and Republicans, and to restrict other political parties' access to the ballot.

In New York, for example, laws force those who want to be on the ballot to collect 20,000 signatures on petitions within a period of several weeks. In other states, legal restrictions are even more onerous. In California more than 100,000 signatures are required.

These undemocratic laws discriminate against individuals and organizations with alternative political views. Working-class political parties and organizations lacking the wealth and resources of the capitalist parties are the ones most adversely affected.

The challenges launched by the Liberal Party and New Alliance Party, which led to the undemocratic Board of Elections ruling, and the NAP court action to disqualify the United African Party, set back the fight for greater ballot access. These moves reinforce ballot restrictions and give a handle to those who want to increase them.

The Liberals support politicians of the main capitalist parties, usually Democrats. In this year's election they have given their ballot spot for governor to incumbent Democrat Mario Cuomo.

NAP claims to support the right of anyone to run for public office and asserts that it supports "fair" ballot access laws. It presents itself as a political party that champions democratic rights. NAP's actions, however, are the opposite and are reactionary.

Supporting the right of anyone to run for public office concretely means supporting everyone's right to get on the ballot. Advocating "fair" ballot access laws sounds democratic, but it echoes the verbiage of some capitalist politicians who want to appear reasonable when imposing restrictions on ballot rights.

NAP also claims it is defending democratic rights, the rights of Blacks, and ballot access by challenging the two organizations' petitions, letting the government off the hook when it enforces undemocratic ballot restrictions.

As the capitalist economic crisis has deepened, working people increasingly find it necessary to organize and fight to defend ourselves against the onslaught of war, union-busting, racist and sexist attacks, and the slashing of our living standards.

Being exposed to, considering, and discussing alternative political views to discover and test more effective ways of defending our interests becomes more important for working people today and in the times ahead. Keeping other political parties off the ballot cuts across this process and violates everyone's democratic rights.

Working people have an important stake in fighting to break down ballot restrictions and should champion the right of all political parties to get on the ballot. The Board of Elections ruling and the actions of the Liberals and NAP should be condemned by all supporters of democratic rights. We should demand the Unity Party be placed on the ballot.

Malcolm X's ideas explain U.S. role in Arab East

Last week we featured excerpts from speeches given by Malcolm X, an outstanding revolutionary leader whose explanations of the fight by the majority of people in the world against oppression and exploitation by imperialism are relevant to understanding events in the Arab East today. The following are additional excerpts from speeches and interviews, which appear in three books by Malcolm X. The selections are copyright © 1965, 1967, and 1970, and are reprinted with permission by Pathfinder Press.

Doug Jenness, who regularly writes this column, is in North Korea participating in the U.S.-Korea People-to-People Study Tour and Peace Seminar.

So the era that we're living in is an era in which we see the people in the East on the rise and the people in the West on the decline. That is, the dark world is rising and the white world, or the Western world, is having its power curtailed. This is happening and it's happening every day.

Take right there in Saigon, in South Vietnam. Don't you realize that 20 years ago those little people over there didn't have a chance? All they needed would be for a battleship

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

to sail up to the coastline, and everybody over there would bow down, "Yessir, boss." That's how they said it, same as you say it over here. But not now. Now they don't yes anybody's boss. They get them a rifle and run boss clean on out of there.

The entire East, the dark world, is on the rise. Whether you like it or not. And as the dark world rises up, it puts the white world on the spot, it puts the Western world on the spot, and it puts you and me on the spot. Why does it put us on the spot? Because although we're in the West, we're from the East. Many, many Black Americans don't realize this. You are not of the West, you are in the West. You're not a Westerner, you're from the East. You're not white — you're in the white world, but that doesn't make you white; you're as Black as you ever were, you're just in the white world. — Jan. 24, 1965, *Organization of Afro-American Unity meeting*, from *Malcolm X on Afro-American History*.

The basic cause of most of the trouble in the Congo right now is the intervention of outsiders — fighting that is going on over the mineral wealth of the Congo and over the strategic position that the Congo represents on the African continent. And in order to justify it, they are doing it at the expense of the Congolese, by trying to make it appear that the people are savages. And I think, as one of the gentlemen mentioned earlier, if there are savages in the Congo then there are worse savages in Mississippi, Alabama, and New York City, and probably some in Washington, D.C., too. — Nov. 28, 1964, "Barry Gray Show," *WMCA radio*, *New York City*, from *By Any Means Necessary*.

They [the American government] put [Moise] Tshombe in power. Never let them tell you it was an accident that Tshombe got in power [in the Congo].

They put Tshombe there, because Tshombe was the only African who was criminal enough to participate in the scheme that the Western powers had of sending in Western troops after the so-called legal head of government would ask for them. You notice how they did this. They knew they would have to send Western troops over there to save the Congo for Western interests. But they had to have a man to make it legal who would call them in.

By the way, if the United States justifies its entry into the Congo with its military forces simply because the head of state asks them, then Castro, who is the legal head of Cuba, was well within his rights to ask Russia to put missiles in Cuba. It's the same argument — if one is sovereign, both are sovereign.

But they don't use law — they use law for their interests. They don't go by law, international, federal, local — nothing! They go by whatever is expedient to protect the interests that are at stake. — Jan. 7, 1965, *Militant Labor Forum* from *Malcolm X Speaks*.

Power in defense of freedom is greater than power in behalf of tyranny and oppression, because power, real power, comes from conviction which produces action, uncompromising action. It also produces insurrection against oppression. This is the only way you end oppression — with power.

Power never takes a back step — only in the face of more power. Power doesn't back up in the face of a smile, or in the face of a threat, or in the face of some kind of nonviolent loving action. It's not the nature of power to back up in the face of anything but some more power. And this is what the people have realized in Southeast Asia, in the Congo, in Cuba, in other parts of the world. Power recognizes only power, and all of them who realize this have made gains. — Jan. 7, 1965 *Militant Labor forum* from *Malcolm X Speaks*.

How electrical union members fought firings

BY MERYL LYNN FARBER

HICKSVILLE, New York — Workers at Air Techniques, a manufacturing plant here on Long Island, struck a blow for union power in a recent fight against discriminatory layoffs. Angel Lariscy and Heather Randle won their jobs back in August — with close to full back pay — after being laid off for union activity at the end of June.

Running roughshod over the terms of the contract between International Union of Electronic Workers Local 485 and Air Techniques is standard operating procedure for the bosses.

Harassment directed at the production work force of 175 people — predominantly immigrant workers from Asia and

heated up in the week leading up to the march. Workers condemned the government's decision to ban as an AIDS risk all blood donations from Haitians and Sub-Saharan Africans. The Haitians forthrightly reported to their supervisors that they would not be at work on the day of the march in order to attend it.

This antiracist action was followed by a surge of activity around the visit of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela to New York, the first stop on his U.S. tour in June.

Union shop steward Eleanor Johnson, Lariscy, Randle, and others pushed for the union to help organize workers in the plant to attend Mandela's Yankee Stadium rally.

The union president responded by bringing 16 tickets for the stadium event to the plant for workers who wanted to attend. Union hats and T-shirts were also distributed to some union members attending the event.

When company officials were asked to post the leaflet advertising Mandela's New York itinerary on the union bulletin board, they refused on the grounds that the leaflet was political. This sparked even more discussions about the Mandela visit and whether the company should have any say so in what goes up on the union board.

The management at Air Techniques was not happy with this flurry of activity. At the end of the day following the Yankee Stadium rally, Lariscy and Randle were informed of their layoff under the pretext of lack of work in their department, the machine shop. The very next day, however, other workers in the plant were moved into the machine shop to carry out their work. At the same time new employees were being hired into other departments.

It was clear to most workers that the layoffs were an attack on the union and the right of workers to engage in political activities of their choosing, particularly those that build the union.

Numerous discussions followed the attack on Lariscy and Randle. Other workers were also falling victim to stepped-up company harassment. Larger numbers were being written

up or suspended as the bosses began to enforce an arbitrary attendance policy in an effort to intimidate workers.

Some discussions centered around the continuing need to break down the numerous divisions along race lines that exist and that the company clearly benefits from. Some workers see that we must be able to forge real unity to push back the company and to improve our wages and working conditions.

When Lariscy and Randle tried to attend a union meeting being held in the plant lunchroom, they were met at the door by three top bosses and told they were not welcome on company property. Much to the surprise of the bosses, the union officials walked out of the plant along with union members. Seventy-five cheering workers held an impromptu rally in the parking lot under a blazing sun in lieu of the aborted meeting.

After receiving a strongly worded letter from the union lawyer, notification that the union filed a charge with the National Labor Relations Board, and getting a small taste of the anger of the workers, the company backed down. Lariscy and Randle won their original jobs back with their original wages and a big bulk of their back pay.

This was viewed by the overwhelming majority of Air Techniques workers as a huge victory. No one could remember the company ever being forced to award such a settlement. But everyone also knows the fight has just begun.

In spite of this blow to company harassment, in the past few weeks three workers have been fired, including two who participated in the Mandela rally. Others have been suspended for violating the punitive attendance policy.

Continuing to extend solidarity at Eastern strike picket lines and strike support actions can strengthen Air Techniques workers' fight against company harassment and put us and our union in the strongest position possible leading up to the contract expiration.

Meryl Lynn Farber is a member of IUE Local 485 at Air Techniques.

UNION TALK

the Caribbean — is on the rise as the union contract expiration date of October 31 draws near.

Leading up to and during the fight to defend the jobs of union activists at Air Techniques, workers at the plant have participated in various union and political events and struggles. This included joining in support to the Machinists' 18-month strike against Eastern Airlines. Many Air Techniques workers snapped up the new Eastern strike button that reads, "No contract, no peace." Workers from the plant have attended the Eastern strike actions at New York's La Guardia Airport. There they have met up with workers from dozens of other unions, including the seasoned fighters of International Association of Machinists Local 1018 at La Guardia and members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union on strike against Domsey Trading Co. in Brooklyn.

In April Haitian workers at the plant, who comprise nearly one-third of the work force, stayed away from work for a day to join tens of thousands of others marching in New York to demand that the federal government end its racist policy on blood donations. Discussions on the job

LETTERS

Leland Ramsey, Jr.

West Virginia is trying to do away with unions.

My son, Leland Ramsey, Jr., is a striking Asplundh Tree Expert Co. worker and a member of the International Union of Electronic Workers. On August 1 he was convicted in a West Virginia court of assaulting an Asplundh foreman. Eight other strikers are also facing charges stemming from a confrontation with scabs working for the same company.

My son is looking at one to five years in prison. He is now in jail in Fairmont awaiting an appeal. We need more support.

Leland was very poorly represented at his trial and the judge allowed things to go on that shouldn't have. The union got him a new lawyer.

Please let union people know that the courts in Fairmont, West Virginia, are for nonunion people only and replacement workers are welcome to steal your jobs.

Today it is our union and jobs. Tomorrow it may be yours.

Leland Ramsey
Worthington, West Virginia

False, misleading

I found the August 24 article on U.S. troop deployment in the Middle East by Samad Sharif to be a farce, an inundation of false and misleading statements, like "Israel has nuclear weapons in its arsenal." The report itself seemed to reflect the personal "Arab" view of Mr. Sharif with its pro-Hussein, anti-Zionist overtones.

Likewise, Socialist Workers Party candidate Craig Gannon's statement was a poor remonstrance of the deployment, and only proved he lacked knowledge of the whole situation and of the Middle East in general. And Georges Mehrabian's first article on the history of the Middle East was completely one-sided and at times sounded foolish, with bogus statements such as "second imperialist war."

The real cause of World War II was the fascist dictatorships in Germany, Italy, and Japan, similar to that of the dictator Hussein.

I'm surprised the paper came to the defense of Hussein. It seems you've forgotten his past injustices against the world and the

workers of his country.

Did we forget the American sailors killed by an Iraqi attack during the Iran-Iraq war? Or the hundreds of Iranian civilians killed by Iraqi poison gas? Or the thousands of soldiers who died in defense of Hussein's lust for an oil-rich land?

No, we haven't forgotten. That's why the troops are there.

A prisoner
Crestview, Florida

Native Americans

I attended the Native American Powwow in Baltimore on August 26 — one of many held around the country — where members of tribes from all over North America come to sell crafts and perform tribal dances. Many of the people I spoke to were following the struggle of the Mohawks in Canada through Native American publications.

Among the people who bought copies of the *Militant* were three Lumbees from North Carolina, an ironworker from Philadelphia wearing a union T-shirt, and a Mohawk couple with family members on the barricades in Montréal. The Mohawks expressed shock at the news blackout in the United States and also disappointment that the Brian Mulroney government had sent troops to the Arab East but had done nothing to defend the treaties that the Canadian government had with the Mohawks.

Rachele Fruit
Baltimore, Maryland

Arab East

I recently helped sell the *Militant* outside a mosque in Dearborn, near where I live on the edge of Detroit. Two college-age men, who each bought a paper, asked why we used the term "Arab East." They were not critical, but rather impressed that anyone in the "belly of the beast" could come up with such an understanding of the world. Often selling outside commercial areas where many Arab-Americans shop, I get a thumbs-up signal from shoppers even as they see the headline from a distance.

I am rather enthusiastic about the term. It has the ring of the period of the Communist International. Terms like Middle East and Near East were generated at a time when the imperialists were imposing themselves



Auth

by violence on the fledgling united Arab resistance.

The truth about this period has been almost completely turned upside down. The Pathfinder pamphlet *Palestine and the Arabs' Fight for Liberation* is the only easily accessible source for information on this period.

Denis Hoppe
Dearborn, Michigan

Editor's note: The pamphlet referred to is available from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12 or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. The cost is \$3 plus \$1 postage and handling.

Censorship

I noted this barbed reply to the Sen. Helms school of art criticism in the *New York Times* letters column earlier this summer and thought other foes of censorship might be interested in it. The author is Julius Rudel, a former director of the New York City Opera.

"We must be eternally grateful to Sen. Jesse Helms for his valiant efforts to protect us from the evils of decadent art. I hope he will soon turn his attention to that hellhole of pornography and debauchery called opera.

"For almost 300 years, this so-

called art form has been preoccupied with sex and violence, often rewarding the immoral malefactors and punishing their victims. Any company putting on *Rigoletto* or the *Coronation of Poppea* should have no right to expect federal help.

"This money could be put to much more productive use, supporting Senator Helms's other concern: the tobacco industry. Our lives might thus be shorter, but our souls will reach Marlboro Country thoroughly fumigated."

Mike Baumann
Jersey City, New Jersey

Reap what you sow

"You reap what you sow" and "What goes around comes around" come to mind as I listen to the news and hear the predicament that the leaders of the United States have gotten themselves into through immature acts of aggression such as sending an armada to the Middle East to prop up another weak political dinosaur — this one in Saudi Arabia.

I also have some words of advice for Saddam Hussein as I watch Iraqi troops surround the U.S. embassy in Kuwait: turn off the water and the lights and get some big loud speakers and play some good old rock-

and-roll music and see how long the U.S. ambassador can take it.

Six months ago, in the tiny country of Panama, Bush and his disciples were bragging and dancing with glee at the rape and destruction they had wrought. Before that there was Grenada. Somewhere in there is Lebanon and the contra war against Nicaragua. How about the assassination of Salvador Allende in Chile? Before that was Vietnam, the Dominican Republic, and the Bay of Pigs. And the CIA overthrow of an elected president of Guatemala.

Today the United States is having to swallow some of its own medicine, and it's a bitter pill indeed.

I think it's time for us to grow up and see there are other countries, other people in this world, whose lives are worth every bit as much as our own.

Ed Meredith
Caneyville, Kentucky

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.

Gov't anti-Mohawk drive grows

Support for the Native struggle in Canada continues to build

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

OKA, Québec — In the morning darkness of September 8, four Canadian soldiers slipped into the Mohawk encampment in Kanesatake, which is surrounded by 400 heavily armed army troops, and brutally beat Tiekierakaron, a Mohawk Warrior who was sleeping in a trench. He was taken to the hospital with deep wounds to his head.

Later in the day soldiers hung a sign in the woods facing the Mohawks that read, "Lasagne dead meat," with the number of their army regiment. Lasagne is the nickname of one of the Mohawk Warriors.

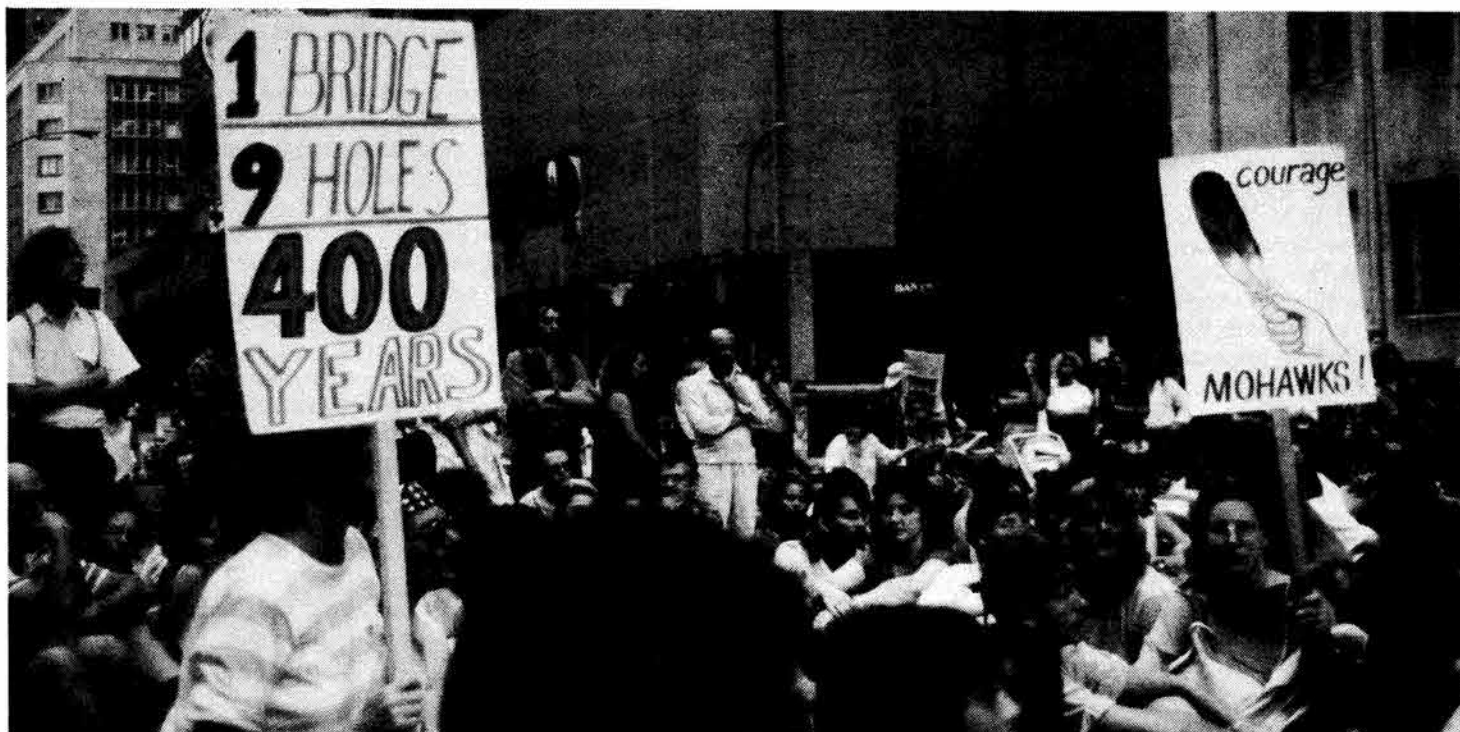
Since the Canadian army invaded the Kanesatake settlement in Oka — 30 miles west of Montréal — on September 1, they have waged a non-stop campaign of racist terror against 50 Mohawk men, women, and children who have refused to lay down their arms unless they are guaranteed their safety.

The federal and Québec governments have insisted the only negotiations with the Mohawks will be over the terms of their surrender. In the meantime the army has tried to provoke the Mohawks into a shoot-out, one that could only result in a bloody massacre of the Natives.

For example, one night six soldiers began yelling obscenities at Mohawk women, threw rocks at them, and then loaded their rifles and bayonets as if to attack. Only the discipline of the Mohawks averted a shoot-out then, as on several other occasions.

Mohawks try to end standoff

The Mohawks and other Native leaders have made a number of different proposals to the government to try to bring about a peaceful solution to the standoff, which began when Mohawks tried to prevent the expansion of an exclusive golf course into



Militant/Cheryl Pruitt

Montréal demonstration in support of Mohawks in early September. City bridge had been blockaded by Mohawks in solidarity with effort to stop golf course expansion onto Native land.

their sacred burial grounds. In one proposal the Native leaders suggested the Mohawk Warriors turn their weapons over to Native peacekeepers and be held under army custody while a joint investigation of the conflict can be carried out by Native representatives and the Ottawa and Québec governments.

The Natives' principal concern has been to ensure that the Mohawks are not given over to the Sûreté du Québec (SQ), the provincial police. The force has carried out sys-

tematic beatings and even torture, such as cigarette burns, of Native detainees. The government has refused to accept any proposals that they claim involve the recognition of any degree of Native sovereignty.

At a September 10 meeting with some 150 Native leaders from across Canada, Indian Affairs Minister Thomas Siddon argued that Canada's "territorial integrity is threatened" by both the fight of Québécois and of Native peoples for their sovereignty.

Native leaders condemned Siddon's

stance and booed his attempts to convince them that Canada has a just legal system. Georges Erasmus, grand chief of the Assembly of First Nations, was loudly applauded when he demanded an end to "the colonial, paternalistic, racist relationship" of the Department of Indian Affairs to Native people and insisted that the army not be "used against our people ever again."

Québec and Canadian government spokespersons have sought to undermine

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British miners' union faces criminal charges

BY PAMELA HOLMES

MANCHESTER, England — Criminal charges were filed against the National Union of Mineworkers, NUM President Arthur Scargill, and NUM General Secretary Peter Heathfield September 7 by Trade Union Certification Officer Matthew Wake. The certification officer is a government position. The charges were brought under the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act of 1974. The act mandates that unions maintain properly audited accounts.

The NUM and its leaders are each charged with three counts of "failure to keep proper accounting records, to maintain a satisfactory system of accounting control, and to submit true and fair accounts to the certification officer in the annual return for 1989."

Each charge carries a maximum penalty of £400 (£1=\$1.85). The case is expected to be heard in November.

The decision to file criminal charges comes at a time when Scargill and Heathfield are gaining support for the special financial and accounting measures taken by the union over a number of years to defend itself from the effects of government intrusion into its affairs through sequestration of funds and receivership during the 1984-85 coal miners' strike. The criminal charges are the latest move in a six-month-long attack on the two union leaders, the NUM, and the International Miners' Organisation (IMO).

Although the slander campaign against the union leaders began in March, it was not until Scargill and Heathfield were cleared of charges of financial misappropriation by a union commission of inquiry that the government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher asked Wake to investigate the union's finances.

The campaign has been spearheaded by

antiunion media billionaire Robert Maxwell, who has used his National Newspaper Group and his 20 percent stake in Central Television to publicize claims by former NUM chief executive Robert Windsor that Scargill and Heathfield used funds raised during the strike for their personal benefit. Since then an inquiry by lawyer Gavin Lightman cleared the two of the charges.

The smear campaign shifted ground several times as each new slander was rebutted. At present the issue is that the two union

leaders channelled £1.4 million to the IMO — money that had been raised by miners in the Soviet Union for striking miners and their families in Britain. The NUM national executive body filed suit against the IMO, of which Scargill and Heathfield are officers, to recover the allegedly diverted funds.

The attempt to either involve the IMO in the smear or to expand the slander campaign to the organization was refuted by the current president of the Soviet miners' trade union, Vladimir Lunyov, who has made it clear that

no money was sent to the NUM, but donations in the form of food parcels and holidays for miners' children were provided.

Former officials have contradicted this statement, however, and four miners from the newly formed Soviet Democratic Labor Movement were interviewed on September 6 by detectives from Scotland Yard's Fraud Squad about the allegations of misappropriation of funds.

In a September 8 meeting between the
Continued on Page 13

Korea meeting calls for 'U.S. troops out'

BY DOUG JENNESS

PYONGYANG, North Korea — At the conclusion of a meeting here September 3-4 delegates from the United States and Korea issued a declaration calling for the removal of U.S. troops from the Korean Peninsula and for reunification of North and South Korea. The two parts of Korea have been divided for 45 years.

The declaration stated, "We are confident that if the obstacles to reunification are removed — namely the presence of the only foreign forces on the peninsula, the 46,000 U.S. troops, and the U.S. nuclear weapons — the Korean people and their representatives will agree to the appropriate method to bring about peaceful reunification." The 30 delegates denounced the "provocative and intimidating" annual Team Spirit joint exercises of the U.S. and South Korean military forces.

The two-day gathering also called for support to a "full open-door policy" between the two parts of Korea, including the right of the Korean people to travel and communicate

freely with each other.

"We have visited the DMZ [Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea]," the delegates stated, "and witnessed the concrete wall erected by the U.S. and South Korean authorities on the southern side. We are also aware of the National Security Law in South Korea that has been used to arrest and imprison activists like Rim Su Gyong, Father Moon Gyo Hyon, and Rev. Moon Ik Hwan simply because they have traveled to the northern part of their own country. These barriers to reunification must be removed."

The gathering appealed "to the antiwar, antinuclear, and peace organizations and social activists of the world to further strengthen the international solidarity with the Korean people in their just cause for peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula."

Kim Yong Sun — chairman of the Korean Antinuclear Committee, which hosted the gathering — gave an opening address.

Keynote addresses were given by Rim Hyong U, vice-director, International Affairs

Department, Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea, and the Korean Committee for Solidarity with the World People; Ruth Cadwallar, Asia-Pacific Committee of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; and Wilhelm Joseph, United Nations delegate, National Conference of Black Lawyers.

Among those participating in the discussion from the United States were representatives from the U.S. Peace Council, the Oakland-Berkeley Rainbow Coalition, *Haiti Progrès*, the *Guardian*, the Socialist Workers Party, Workers World Party, People's Antiwar Mobilization, Young Socialist Alliance, and several peace and community activists.

From the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) were representatives from the Korean Social-Democratic Party, the Korean Chondoist Chongu Party, the Korean Antinuclear Peace Committee, and the Institute of International Affairs of the DPRK. There were also delegates present from the Chongryon and the National Democratic Front of South Korea.