

War moves grow against Iraq

U.S., allies' military build-up continues

BY GREG McCARTAN

Stepping up their support of the U.S. aggression in the Arab East, European Community (EC) countries decided over the past week to deploy more troops and weapons in and around the Arabian Peninsula, boost financial support for the war moves, and urge the United Nations to extend the blockade of Iraq to include air traffic.

Meeting in Brussels, the representatives of 12 capitalist countries in Europe also decided September 17 to expel most Iraqi diplomats and some citizens from their respective countries.

On August 2 Iraqi President Saddam Hussein sent troops and armored columns into Kuwait and removed its monarch, Sheik Jabir al-Ahmed al-Sabah. The sheik's governmental and financial operations are now set up in London and neighboring Saudi Arabia.

Since then Washington has amassed some 140,000 troops on the Arabian Peninsula and on war ships in the surrounding waters. It has enforced a UN Security Council-backed



Protest in Seattle against U.S. military aggression in Arab East

Militant/Margarita Kurtz

blockade against Iraq and won the military and financial support of numerous governments in the Middle East in addition to its imperialist allies.

Claiming it is defending the Saudi monarchy against an invasion by Iraq, U.S. President George Bush's administration seeks to regain control of oil-rich Kuwait and, if possible, overturn the Iraqi government.

Given the extent of the U.S. military build-up, an administration official admitted, "There is not a clear distinction between that

kind of [defensive] force and the kind of force you would need for an offense."

The EC moves followed incursions by Iraqi military forces into the Kuwaiti embassies of France and several other EC member countries on September 14. Earlier, President Hussein's regime had ordered all embassies in Kuwait closed following the August 24 announcement that it had annexed the country to Iraq.

French President François Mitterrand re-
Continued on Page 7

End criminal blockade of food to Iraq!

The recent steps by the United Nations Security Council to drastically restrict even humanitarian food and medical relief to Iraq should be condemned by working people and all progressive-minded forces in the United States and throughout the world. Washington, with Security Council backing, is at-

EDITORIAL

tempting to starve the Iraqi people as a means of forcing them to submit to its dictates. Everyone with even an ounce of concern for the welfare of human beings — unionists, religious groups, community activists, students, and farmers — should join together in demanding that the barriers on food shipments immediately be lifted.

The restrictions require that each shipment of food for hunger relief must be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Security Council and will only be permitted if its distribution is supervised by non-Iraqi international agencies. This screening of emergency shipments places a major hurdle in the way of getting sufficient food supplies into Iraq in the timely manner that is urgently required.

Moreover, the provision on supervision is an arrogant abuse of Iraq's sovereign rights. The Iraqi government has announced that it will not allow foreign organizations to control the distribution of food in the country for this reason.

Washington and its backers have cynically
Continued on Page 14

British miners' union scores victory

BY JANE AUSTIN
AND JOHN SMITH

MANSFIELD, England — At a rally here of some 400 coal miners, their families, and supporters, International Miners' Organisation (IMO) Vice-president John Maitland announced, "I am very pleased to be here to share a bit of joy in a week which has seen an end to some of the drama of the trial by media of Arthur Scargill and Peter Heathfield."

The meeting was one of numerous such events held across Britain's coalfields to defend Scargill, the president of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), and Heathfield, the union's general secretary. In media and government attacks the two union leaders were charged with misappropriation of funds raised during the miners' hard-fought

1984-85 strike.

Initiated in the big-business press, the slander campaign against the two first charged they had used strike funds for personal benefit.

Through a union-sponsored inquiry, headed by lawyer Gavin Lightman, Scargill and Heathfield were vindicated. But Light-

man went on to advise the NUM leadership to file a legal suit against the IMO for diverting into its own accounts some £1.4 million (£1 = US\$1.85) allegedly donated by Soviet miners for the use of the NUM during the strike.

Lightman argued that if the union officers
Continued on Page 9

Eastern strikers gain in tours, union events

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

Machinists on strike against Eastern Airlines are finding out they have many opportunities this fall to build solidarity for their battle at upcoming national conventions, monthly meetings, and other ac-

tivities of labor unions.

Carrying signs that read "Striking Machinists welcome UMWA," members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) Lodge 702 in Miami organized a warm reception for delegates arriving on September 16 at the Miami International Airport to attend the national convention of the United Mine Workers of America.

On March 4, 1989, 8,500 members of the IAM struck Eastern in an effort to block the company's drive to break the union and impose massive concessions. One month later in the Appalachian hills of Virginia and West Virginia, some 1,700 members of the UMWA went out on strike against the Pittston Coal Group.

Over the course of the 11-month Pittston strike, which ended with a victory and a signed contract, the miners and Machinists joined together in each other's strike activities.

"During the Pittston strike we were honored to have UMWA brothers visit us in Miami, and some of our members were able to travel to Camp Solidarity. We welcome and encourage you to visit our Camp Solidarity-Miami: our strike headquarters," reads a flier the Miami Machinists are distributing to convention participants.

Hoots and clenched fists were common as arriving miners, many of whom were wearing "No Lorenzo" buttons, spotted the strikers at the airport. As the UMWA members passed through the IAM "receiving lines,"

hearty handshakes and words of solidarity were exchanged.

One group, arriving from St. Louis, explained that they had organized a send-off rally with supporters of the Eastern and Greyhound strikes before boarding their flight for Miami. Eastern strikers are staffing a strike information table and are participating throughout the week in the miners' convention activities.

IUE convention

Eastern strikers in Detroit just wrapped up their participation in the national convention of the International Union of Electronic Workers, which was held there September 14-18.

Tom Barker, Eastern strike coordinator in Detroit, addressed the convention and, to much applause, explained, "In April, we were successful at outlasting Lorenzo," referring to the removal by a bankruptcy court judge of Frank Lorenzo as head of day-to-day operations at Eastern.

Barker pointed out Eastern's situation continues to deteriorate under the strength of the strike. He urged the unionists to continue to boycott Eastern and make financial contributions to the strike.

During his presentation to the convention, AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland urged delegates to continue their support for the Eastern strike.

A resolution passed unanimously calling
Continued on Page 8

Curtis committee wins new support in rights battle; Sept. 28 hearing set

BY JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — A court hearing has been set for September 28 at 8:30 a.m. to hear arguments on a motion by Julia Terrell, treasurer of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, that the court grant an order protecting the committee from unconstitutional investigation.

A sworn statement by Terrell has been demanded by Keith and Denise Morris in a lawsuit demanding massive financial damages against Curtis. Curtis, a unionist and political activist, was framed up on charges of rape and burglary. He is accused of assaulting the Morrises' daughter.

Even though the trial in the case was concluded on July 9, District Court Judge Arthur Gamble ruled that lawyers for the Morrises could question Terrell about the committee's finances and connection with Curtis.

Stuart Pepper, the Morrises' lawyer, sought to force Terrell to testify, ordering her to bring with her "all financial records and

books concerning Mark Curtis Defense Committee from its inception to the present."

The September 28 argument will be heard by another district court judge, Peter Keller.

Terrell's attorney, noted civil liberties lawyer Mark Bennett, filed a motion for an order barring the deposition or setting strict limits on its character. The motion was supplemented with affidavits from Terrell and John Studer, the defense committee coordinator, explaining that the committee was an independent ad hoc committee. The legal brief explained that committee members and contributors have a basic constitutional right to political activity free from public exposure.

On September 4, Pepper filed a two-page document in response to the defense committee brief, urging the court to allow Terrell to be "rigorously cross-examined." Pepper argues that the defense committee may well be a "subterfuge" and "shrewd calculated move" to create a "bank" for Curtis.

Continued on Page 4

Cops attack Ohio steelworkers' picket

BY DAVID MARSHALL
AND DUANE STILWELL

MANSFIELD, Ohio — Without warning, 100 cops, wearing riot gear and gas masks, attacked 30 unarmed United Steelworkers of America (USWA) strikers, firing volleys of wooden "knee-knocker" bullets and canisters of tear gas. Police stationed sharpshooters on the factory rooftop and in the nearby woods, and a police helicopter and a private plane, carrying the owner of the plant, circled overhead during the assault.

The September 4 police riot occurred in the 11th week of a strike by 165 members of USWA Local 8530 here against the electrical components manufacturer, Ideal Electric Co.

Local 8530 struck June 23 after rejecting the company's only and "final" offer. Ideal refused to strengthen a grossly underfunded pension fund and insisted on reducing 56 job classifications to 24 — a move that would increase the work load and erode safety, as well as strengthen company efforts to gut seniority.

Pandora's box of union-busting

Soon after the union walked out, the company's owner, Mike Vucelic, announced that he planned to replace the strikers with scabs and began to assemble a team of professional union-busting "security" guards, lawyers, and consultants.

"He bought the plant four years ago and

thought he'd do what Frank Lorenzo tried to do at Eastern Airlines," explained Local 8530 President David Jones. "But we're here to stay. If we lose our jobs to scabbing-out, it'll open up a whole Pandora's box of union-busting around here."

The police attack followed Vucelic's announcement that he planned to bus in a group of scabs the morning after Labor Day. Vucelic had already won a court injunction limiting the union to three pickets at each of three gates.

Early that morning, 200 unionists massed at the plant gate to greet the scabs. Joining Local 8530 strikers were other Steelworkers, as well as supporters from nearby United Auto Workers (UAW) and Teamsters locals.

The plant's electrical transformers had suffered a crippling failure during the night, making production impossible.

By midday, the county judge had called union and company negotiators to a hearing downtown. It became clear that Ideal had postponed its scab-herding operation for the time being.

That afternoon Mansfield police began shuttling 250 cops from 10 departments throughout the county to the plant from a staging area at the county fairgrounds. At 2:30 p.m., with union officials tied up in court and the picket line having dwindled to about 30 unionists, the cops began their attack.

A hundred cops in riot gear piled out of the first two buses, told the strikers to disperse, and immediately began firing knee-knocker bullets at the unarmed pickets. The mayor of Mansfield had just declared the spot a "riot area." Many of the unionists were gassed and hit by wooden bullets.

Unarmed and outnumbered, the unionists retreated up the street to their union hall. The cops kept firing, chasing the strikers onto union property, and arresting anyone they could catch.

The police arrested 17 unionists and charged them with disorderly conduct and rioting. They also arrested a homeowner as he stood in his own yard across the street from the union hall.

When criticized by union officials for having attacked the strikers without warning, a police spokesman replied to reporters, "Why would I warn them in advance? So they could muster enough people to kick our ass?"

Only 'qualified' scabs

The judge has issued an injunction ordering Ideal not to bring scabs into the plant unless the company can show that they are "qualified."

Asked whether Ideal still plans to bring in scabs, Larry Meyer, vice-president of operations, said, "Certainly we'll do it again. Our next move is to try to get replacement workers into the plant however we can."

"We are willing to negotiate," explained Local 8530 Treasurer Randy Crider. "But they don't have to negotiate if they can put us out on the street."

On September 16 the steelworkers approved a pact with the company in which all the strikers will be brought back to work. "We were fighting to save our union here. That's what the fight really got down to," USWA District 27 Director Dan Martin said.

The pact includes the merger of job classifications demanded by the company, pension improvements, and a 2 percent yearly wage increase.

The company is demanding the right to discipline 16 workers with up to 90 days suspension for "assaulting security guards," according to the company.

Antigovernment forces in Liberia topple Doe following intervention of W. African troops

BY GREG McCARTAN

Liberia's president, Samuel Doe, was captured by opposition forces September 9 after holding onto power for nearly nine months in the face of a mounting rebellion against his dictatorial rule.

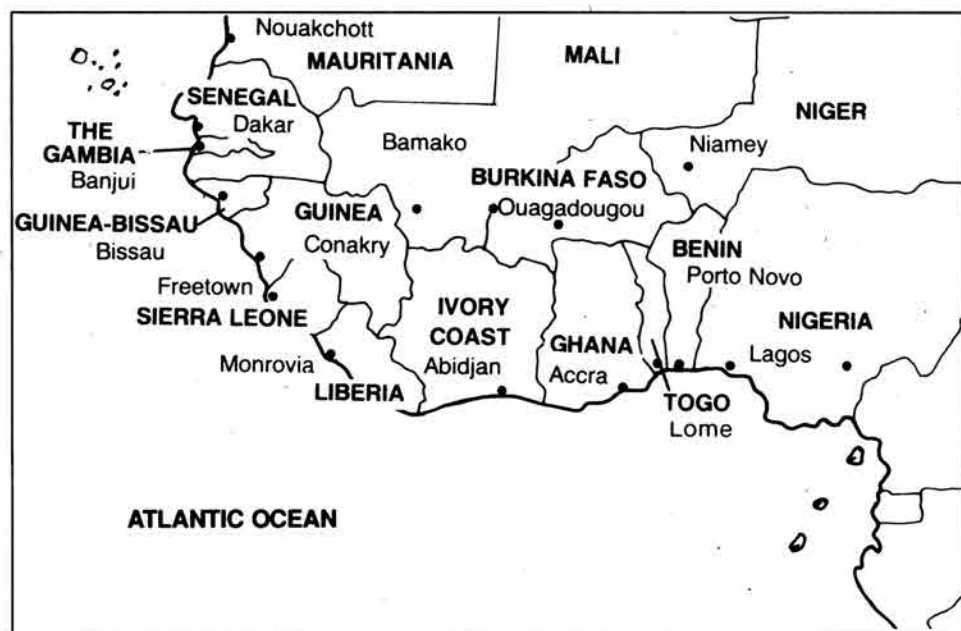
Doe was pronounced dead shortly after having been wounded and seized in the capital city of Monrovia during a firefight between his troops and those loyal to opposition leader Prince Johnson. Johnson, one of two figures who launched a drive last December to oust the regime, controlled much of the capital city by the time of Doe's downfall. The National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), headed by Charles Taylor, controls much of the rest of the country.

Following Doe's death, Johnson declared himself president of the country of 2.5 million until an interim government takes over.

The drive to oust Doe won support among the rural population in Liberia, and the group headed by Taylor was able to make rapid advances in capturing large areas of the country in the first several months of the year. Several thousand youths and working people joined Taylor's ranks, pushing Doe's troops back into the capital.

The rebel leaders accused Doe of corruption, government mismanagement, and human rights violations. In early June the U.S. government, which backed the Doe regime, stationed four warships, loaded with 2,500 troops, off Liberia's coast.

Prince's supporters broke from Taylor's group and fought their way into the capital city in late July. Since then, Doe had been holed up in a fortified mansion, protected by 2,000 heavily armed, Israeli-trained troops. Despite calls for his resignation, several demonstrations in Monrovia by students and workers, and continued military battles with



the opposition forces, Doe refused to step down.

Alarmed by the deteriorating situation, U.S. Marines were dispatched to the area surrounding the U.S. embassy, and the 16-member Economic Community of West African States decided to send 3,000 troops into the country.

Comprised of troops from Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Gambia, and Guinea, the force was welcomed by Johnson and Doe as a means to negotiate an end to the war. Some 400,000 Liberians had fled the country, and 5,000 civilians had been killed in the conflict.

The NPFL denounced the West African countries' intervention, pointing out that the bulk of the troops were from Nigeria, whose government had supported Doe. Taylor, speaking over the NPFL's radio station, said

"the country has been invaded by hostile foreign mercenary forces... brought in by Samuel Doe," according to a Foreign Broadcast Information Service release. As the West African force sought to control most of the capital, it fought pitched battles against Taylor's troops. Heavy artillery was used to dislodge NPFL forces from several areas.

Taylor had previously announced the formation of a National Patriotic Reconstruction Assembly government, and named himself president.

U.S. corporations have long exploited Liberia's rich natural resources, such as rubber, timber, and iron ore. In addition to important economic interests, the U.S. government has maintained crucial military installations in the West African country.

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Tens of thousands protest in Moscow as shortages of goods and food grow worse

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Tens of thousands of Muscovites voiced their anger at the government of Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov as they rallied outside the Kremlin September 16. Faced with shortages of basic foodstuffs and other goods, the crowd demanded Ryzhkov and his cabinet resign.

Soviet government statistics released the same day, according to a *New York Times* report, showed that 730 of Moscow's 1,274 meat stores — 57 percent — had no meat. In June, 35 stores had no meat. In July, it was 65 stores, and in August, 272 stores. Government storehouses currently hold 12,000 tons of meat on average for the city, compared with 150,000 tons a year ago.

The meat shortage comes as bread has disappeared from store shelves and other shortages run rampant. Despite a record grain harvest, problems with delivery and low productivity have caused the worst bread shortage in 30 years.

In Moscow and Leningrad protesters stopped traffic and smashed windows this summer in "tobacco rebellions" when cigarette supplies ran out. Reports also indicate that milk, medicines, vegetables, cheese, candy, vodka, poultry, and baby food are hard to come by. Even notebooks for school children are out of stock.

The shortages reflect the deepening crisis of the Soviet Union's bureaucratically centralized planned economy, and the failure during the last five years of the pragmatic tinkering by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and his supporters with economic structures called *perestroika*.

Given the central government's inability to cope with these problems, the Soviet legislature began discussing economic proposals put forward by leaders of the Soviet Union's Russian republic led by Boris Yeltsin, who is president of the republic.

Russia is the largest of the Soviet Union's 15 constituent republics, with 147 million of the country's 289 million people. Russian officials and many of the other 15 republics have been pressing for greater autonomy or



Mikhail Gorbachev's pragmatic tinkering with economic structures in Soviet Union has failed to stem deepening economic and political disintegration.

outright independence from the central government, a move that the Kremlin has attempted to block and has dispatched troops to the republics of Azerbaijan and Lithuania to prevent.

Within days of his election in May, Yeltsin's advisers drafted a "500 days" program for the republic. On August 2, Gorbachev and Yeltsin formed a committee of the national parliament to work out how key measures in the program could be applied to the country as a whole.

Headed by Stanislav Shatalin, the committee drafted proposals, based on the Russian program, for a radical overhaul of the economy, a cut in state expenditures, and deeper integration of the USSR's economy with that of capitalist countries. "Humanity has not yet developed anything more efficient than a market economy," the introduction to the 600-page draft plan says.

The plan would be implemented in five stages, beginning October 1. The initial mea-

sures include massive cuts in the central government's budget — lopping 75 percent off foreign aid and cutting defense allocations by 10 percent and the KGB, the secret police, by 20 percent.

Debts owed the Soviet Union by other countries would then be put up for sale on the world market. Most subsidies to state enterprises would be eliminated and the enterprises would be converted into joint-stock companies. All state-owned and collective farms would be divided into individual plots.

At the end of the 500 days, more than 70 percent of industrial enterprises and 80 percent of construction, transport, retail, and services would no longer be under the direct control of the central government. The big majority of price controls on goods would have been eliminated. Government officials believe these steps would lead to a convertible ruble, the establishment of a stock market, and a commercial banking system.

Most of the central government's ministries would be abolished, and each republic would set its own fiscal and banking policies. Customs and defense of the country's borders would be among the few tasks left to the Kremlin.

The program's authors, aware that these measures could spark popular resistance, warned the parliament "that at the first stage certain social conflicts that can force us to make concessions are not ruled out." Soviet officials say the plan will cause the closing of enterprises not profitable by standards of the capitalist market, throwing up to 12 million people out of work.

Gorbachev endorsed the plan September 11 without consulting Prime Minister Ryzhkov. Ryzhkov has criticized the 500-day plan as one that would lead to disaster and chaos. He has called on Gorbachev to use his emergency presidential powers to extend central government controls over the econ-

omy through 1991.

Nikolai Petrakov, an economic adviser to Gorbachev, publicly complained that the Soviet monetary system was "disintegrating" because of "scorched earth" actions by opponents of the 500-day plan.

Petrakov said the opposition was worsening the downward spiral of the economy and threatened opponents by asserting that Gorbachev could also use his emergency presidential powers to immediately implement some of the measures.

For his part Gorbachev has called on proponents of the 500-day plan to compromise and incorporate some aspects of Ryzhkov's less extreme economic policies and has defended the prime minister's personal integrity. But Yeltsin, who has opposed accommodation, said, "It's impossible to combine a hedgehog and a snake."

To preempt delay by the central government, the Russian legislature adopted the 500-day plan on September 11. Yeltsin and his supporters say it will be carried out, even without the national parliament's assent. The plan has also been submitted to the legislatures of each of the 14 other republics, which are expected to follow suit.

A new constitution is also being written for the Russian republic to go along with the economic program. Yeltsin said the constitution will make no mention of the Soviet Union, "since we hardly know if that will even exist in the nearest future. Will there be a confederation of states? A commonwealth? Who knows?"

On September 17 Gorbachev proposed to the Soviet parliament that a referendum be held on the question of legalizing private ownership of land.

"The question of private ownership of the land is one for the people," he told the body. It would be improper to "force people into new forms of economic life," Gorbachev added.



Russian republic President Boris Yeltsin

Canadian auto workers strike Ford operations for contract

BY CLIFF MACK

OAKVILLE, Ontario — Picket line reinforcements started pulling in shortly after 5:00 a.m. September 17 at Gate 1 of Ford's car and truck complex here. Entering the third day of the strike, 4,000 members of the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Local 707 intended to halt all construction work on Ford's new \$400 million paint plant.

The strike, which began at midnight on September 14, involves 12,800 Ford workers in Oakville and at Ford's St. Thomas car plant, Windsor engine plant, and Niagara Falls glass plant.

This is the first strike at Ford in Canada since 1976, and follows the selection of Ford as the CAW's "strike target." Union President Bob White indicated that monetary issues lie behind the failure to reach an agreement.

The CAW contract at Ford is to set the pattern for both General Motors and Chrysler, where contracts have also expired.

In the United States the United Auto Workers announced it had reached a tentative agreement September 17 with General Motors, the targeted automaker in that country. The UAW will attempt to get Chrysler and Ford to sign a similar contract, if approved by a membership vote.

Canadian autoworkers want a percentage increase rolled into base wages each year of the contract; full cost-of-living protection, including covering the 7 percent consumer tax to be imposed starting January 1, 1991; and more days off work. The CAW is also fighting for improved income security during layoffs.

At the Oakville picket line, non-CAW construction workers started to pull up after 6:30 a.m. Some 60 CAW pickets jamming Ford's access road with their cars and pickups were quickly outnumbered. In discussions between the auto and construction workers

a carpenter said, "We had to report for work so we'd be eligible for lay off."

"I would never cross a picket line. We had our own strike this summer," said another. Construction workers refused to cross the line and several members of Ironworkers Local 731 returned the next day to learn more about the strike.

Ford Canada's head office is also located behind the picket line. Each salaried employee was required to show proper Ford ID to pickets in order to get in. As the office starting time of 8 a.m. got nearer, traffic backed up onto the freeway. Pickets turned many away, including Ford Canada President Kenneth Harrigan. "No ID? You don't get in." Rejected Ford executives gathered across the street, in suits and ties, shivering in the freezing wind. Some parked on the freeway and climbed a fence to get in.

On September 15 CAW members who work at Standard Products, an auto parts plant, joined the Ford workers' picket line. They said "We are here to pay our dues," referring to the fact that 250 CAW members, including from Ford, had helped them out with a solidarity picket during their strike two weeks ago.

This strike is part of a wave of strikes in Canada of more than 38,000 workers. On strike are some 16,000 steelworkers in Ontario, Québec, and Alberta; 1,700 railworkers in British Columbia; 7,200 paperworkers; and 2,300 miners in Cape Breton.

The pickets at the Ford plant discussed the need to return to the picket line in force the next morning. "If the Mohawks can hold the line for eight weeks, then so can we," said one autoworker, referring to the ongoing fight between the Canadian army and Native activists.

Cliff Mack is a member of CAW Local 707 at the Ford Oakville plant.

NEW YORK

Defend British coal miners!

An international panel of trade unionists speaks out in solidarity with the National Union of Mineworkers in Britain

- Nancy Walker, member of Machinists union in Vancouver, British Columbia, has first-hand report on miners' strike in Cape Breton, Canada.
- Trade unionists from Britain active in defense of the NUM.
- Mary Zins, member United Mine Workers of America, active in building solidarity during 1989-90 Pittston Coal strike.

Saturday, Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m.

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New Zealand endorser drive nets new support

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who was framed by police on rape and burglary charges. He was convicted in September 1988 and is now serving a 25-year sentence in the John Bennett state prison in Fort Madison, Iowa.

Despite harassment by authorities, he continues to be politically

active in prison and refuses to be isolated from the world beyond the prison walls.

1695. If you have news or reports on activities in support of Mark Curtis from your city or country, please send them to the *Militant*.

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—Supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee here recently completed a two-month drive to win new endorsers and raise funds.

DEFEND MARK CURTIS!



The Mark Curtis Defense Committee, based in Des Moines, is leading an international campaign to fight for justice for Curtis and to defend his rights in prison. More than 8,000 unionists, defenders of democratic rights, political activists, prominent officials, and others—from the Philippines to Sweden, from South Africa to Canada—have endorsed the committee's efforts.

For more information about the case or how you can help, write to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311; telephone (515) 246-

Ray Potroz, president of the Dairy Food and Textile Workers Union and a member of the national executive of New Zealand's main union federation, the Council of Trade Unions (NZCTU), signed up.

Other new endorsers are Syd Jackson, a prominent Maori rights fighter; the executive committee of the Canterbury Hotel Workers Union; Phil Amos, president of the New Labour Party and former minister of education; Metarena Schenkel, a member of the Kai-mahi Maori Runanga, the Maori Workers Council of the NZCTU; Ted Ross, the delegate of the United Food and Chemical Workers Union at the New American Ice Cream plant; and Lisa McGee,

the Engineers Union delegate at the Mitsubishi car assembly plant.

Frank Barnard, the retired president of the Auckland Tomoana Freezing Workers Union, and Ross Evans, the current assistant secretary of the union, once again became endorsers.

Barnard and Evans had been early supporters of Curtis, but were persuaded to withdraw their endorsement after receiving letters and visits from members of the Socialist Labour League of Australia. The SLL is connected with the Workers League in the United States, an antilabor outfit that peddles the cop frame-up of Curtis.

Evans' letter withdrawing his support for Curtis is reproduced in a book published by the Workers League, *The Mark Curtis Hoax*. After further discussions with Curtis supporters, both became convinced that it had been a mistake to withdraw their support. Evans has arranged to show the video *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis* to a meeting of the union's executive.

In the course of the campaign, some \$1,500 (US\$930) was raised. These funds will help defray the expenses of recent trips to United Nations meetings in Geneva, Switzerland, and Havana, Cuba, by Kate Kaku, a leader of the defense committee and Curtis' wife, and others.

STOCKHOLM, Sweden —

Johan Peanberg, the international secretary of the Municipal Workers Union (Svenska Kommunalarbeterförbundet), the largest union here, has endorsed the Curtis defense effort. In the 1960s he was active in the international Angela Davis defense campaign, the movement against the U.S. war in Vietnam, and was also an international leader of the Socialist International's Youth League.

"It is very obvious that Mark Curtis has been put in a carefully planned scenario, and the reasons for it are political," Peanberg said after reading the transcript of Curtis' 1988 criminal trial several times.

Peanberg said backers would do their best to build support for Curtis in Sweden, and compared this effort to the fight against the Vietnam War, when popular opposition to the war became a decisive factor in forcing Washington to end it.

A feature interview with Kate Kaku, a defense committee leader and Curtis' wife, appeared in the August 20 edition of *Søndag*, a mass-circulation Danish weekly for women. The story was headlined "A fighter for her husband's freedom" and was illustrated with photos of both Kaku and Curtis.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — Singers Faith Petric and Earl Rob-

inson, who wrote the song "I dreamed I saw Joe Hill last night," endorsed the Curtis defense campaign. Both performed September 1 at a Joe Hill Commemoration here that attracted more than 1,500 people.

Folk singer Pete Seeger, a longtime endorser of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, was the featured folk artist at the event. "Utah" Phillips, who emceed, met with supporters the next day, discussed how he could help, and also endorsed.

Curtis supporters had a literature table at the event. They signed up 10 new endorsers. Fifty people signed up for more information. Another 87 added their names to petitions protesting moves by a Des Moines court to pry into the books of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, violating the rights to privacy and association of defense committee supporters.

NEW YORK — "We are pleased to offer our support for your pursuit of justice for Mr. Curtis," said a recent letter to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee from the Center for Immigrants Rights here. The letter was signed by Shirley Lung, the center's executive director.

James Robb from Auckland, Maria Hamberg from Stockholm, and Nels J'Anthony from Salt Lake City contributed to this week's column.

Defense committee wins support in rights battle

Continued from front page

"If the witness's position is granted," the legal argument concludes, "then any criminal can have a defense committee established which will pay all of his or her legal, living, and travel expenses and claim that the victim cannot get the money because the organization is advancing 'First Amendment rights.'"

Dozens of support messages

The defense committee has received dozens of messages from other committees, political activists, and human rights supporters protesting this attack and supporting its fight to defend the right to private political association.

"As a member of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee who firmly believes in his innocence of all criminal and civil charges being lodged against him," wrote Joan Drake, member of the national board of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom,

"I object to the extension of the activity of the complainants to now include the committee in their attack."

Many messages have come from groups and activists who are not endorsers of the Curtis fight, but who see the effort to disrupt the defense committee as a serious threat to democratic rights. Wayne Ford wrote the committee from Urban Dreams, a prominent organization in the Des Moines Black community. "Urban Dreams, an Intercity Human Service Referral Agency, believes if committees were forced to turn over lists of contributors and other financial records," Ford wrote, "it would directly violate the right of freedom of association and the right to privacy without fear of harassment from the courts, government, or antilabor or right-wing organizations who might get their hands on this information."

Howard Wallace is a longtime labor and gay rights activist in San Francisco. He was sued by the Coors beer company as Northern California AFL-CIO director of the Coors Boycott and forced to fight a protracted legal battle. He explained in his message, "The suit is a threat to every defendant in the United States who appeals a conviction. There could have been no Sacco-Vanzetti or Rosenberg defense committee if such grotesque law had prevailed in the past."

Among those who have spoken out in support of the committee's fight to protect its members and contributors are members of other defense committees. "We, the Mafundi Lake Defense Committee of Birmingham, Alabama, who are working for the release of Mafundi Lake, a political activist

and freedom fighter falsely convicted of rape, protest the unconstitutional intrusion by the court into the finances of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee."

Freedom to organize solidarity

Georgia Fleming, wife and collaborator of Brian Fleming, a supporter of the Irish Republican Movement who is currently serving three years in federal prison in Atlanta on frame-up charges, wrote, "We express our support for and solidarity with all those who are fighting this latest move against the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Having recently experienced first-hand the need for solidarity we realize the central importance of having the freedom to organize such solidarity. This suit could set a precedent, and fighting it is essential for us all."

After sending the message, the Flemings endorsed the defense committee and sent a contribution.

The American Agriculture Movement of Iowa, Inc., wrote that the move against the defense committee "is clearly against the basic rights of individuals who believe in just causes, and it is intended to muzzle those citizens or to send warnings to anyone who dares speak out against frame-ups, police brutality, or just plain police harassment."

"The latest attack, aimed at involving the defense committee in a civil action, is one of the most appalling miscarriages of logic and justice ever seen," wrote Michele Wilson, from the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. "If this were to happen, basic civil liberties and political freedoms of all citizens and groups will be in danger."

Messages of support and financial contributions to help meet the costs of this new legal battle can be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

Funds needed for Curtis defense effort

More than \$9,800 has been raised toward a \$20,000 fund launched by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. The fund will cover the expenses of recent defense committee delegations that brought Curtis' fight for justice to United Nations human rights meetings in Geneva, Switzerland, and Havana, Cuba.

Kate Kaku, Curtis' wife, and John Studer, both leaders of the Des Moines, Iowa-based defense committee headed the delegations, winning important new support. Other participants included supporters from Britain, Canada, France, and Sweden. Through these efforts Curtis' struggle is becoming known among human and democratic rights activists around the world.

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

Hoover family jury trial postponed

BY LISA POTASH

ST. LOUIS — The city of Jackson, Mississippi, has postponed a jury trial to hear an appeal by members of the family of Gloria and Benjamin Hoover of their 1989 convictions on charges of speeding, resisting arrest, and failing to obey a police officer. The trial had been scheduled for September 12.

The Hoovers were beaten and arrested by the Jackson police in 1988 while the Black family was en route to St. Louis, returning home after a holiday family visit in New Orleans. A Jackson municipal judge later found the Hoovers guilty on 11 of the 19 charges. Although the convictions are all misdemeanors, the Hoovers face jail time if they are not overturned on appeal.

Alabama postpones paroles

BY JOAN LEVITT

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — At the request of Gov. Guy Hunt, the Alabama State Board of Pardons and Paroles has declared a six-month moratorium on the parole of inmates incarcerated for "violent crimes." This includes those convicted of murder, rape and other crimes of a sexual nature, and armed robbery. In addition, other acts involving violence will be considered. For instance,

inmates serving sentences for "property crimes" but who have "violence in their histories" or who are involved in "assaultive behavior" while in prison may be part of this category.

The moratorium was declared in the wake of accusations that two recent parolees had committed murder and rape. According to parole board officials the moratorium is needed to give the governor and the legislature time to consider possible new restrictions on parole.

The scope and latitude of the moratorium is broad. The six-month time period is a minimum. No procedure to end the moratorium has been specified.

Alabama currently has more than 14,000 inmates. Virtually all major prisons are full or nearly full. More than 1,100 prisoners are in county jails awaiting transfer to state prisons. About half of the 14,000 were convicted of charges that fall within the guidelines of the moratorium.

Some inmates who were scheduled for parole, and those whose parole hearings were already scheduled, will now face postponements of at least six months. There is no guarantee that parole hearings or parole will take place at that time.

According to one parole board officer, no exceptions are being made to the moratorium.

Socialists on health care, U.S. war moves

Minnesota candidate at public forum

BY SARAH HARRIS

ALBERT LEA, Minnesota — Craig Honts, candidate of the Socialist Workers Party for lieutenant governor, recently participated in a public hearing on health care. The 125 participants in the August 21 forum included laid-off Farmstead meat-packers, striking nurses, teachers, workers who had been injured on the job, and health-care workers.

"The United States and South Africa are the only industrialized countries in the world without a national health-care program," Honts said. "South Africa doesn't have it because the whole society is based on injustice, inequality, and racism. The fact that the United States doesn't have socialized medicine either says a lot about injustice, inequality, and racism in this society."

"Health care is a fundamental necessity that should not be used for private profit," the socialist added. "Health care is a human right and should be available to everyone — farmers and farm workers, the employed and the unemployed." Honts pointed to Cuba as an example of how quality health care can be provided for all.

Farmstead workers explained how all their medical coverage was immediately dropped when the packinghouse closed down here. Senior citizens spoke about the inadequate coverage they receive, and a farmer explained that many farmers are finding it impossible to afford medical insurance of any kind.

Bonnie Bakken, a nurse from Albert Lea's

Naeve Hospital, explained how she and her coworkers were forced to strike due to the insistence of the hospital's administration that nurses work 16-hour shifts to overcome staffing problems caused by layoffs. She also described the inequalities in health care in rural areas caused by preferential funding of urban hospitals.

A statement from Honts and SWP gubernatorial candidate Wendy Lyons on the nurses' strike was distributed at the meeting. A copy of it is displayed at the strike headquarters.

Honts urged support for the Naeve Hospital nurses, as well as for the Eastern Airlines strikers. "The victory at Eastern will be an important advance for labor," he said.

"The most pressing health-care issue today," Honts continued, "is the need to stop the impending bloodbath in the Persian Gulf. By getting U.S. troops out of the Mideast now, we can prevent tens of thousands from being killed, maimed, and wounded. We need to demand that the billions of dollars being spent on this war be spent on quality health care for all."



Militant/Bob Cantrick
Socialist campaign supporters outside Kansas City, Missouri, Pathfinder Bookstore after vandal attack. Campaign headquarters is located here.

Missouri event protests attack on campaign offices

BY CONNIE ALLEN

KANSAS CITY, Missouri — The Pathfinder Bookstore here was vandalized September 15 when a large rock was thrown through a window near a sign demanding "U.S. out of the Arab East!" A public meet-

ing, sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum, protesting U.S. war moves had been held at the bookstore a week earlier.

The bookstore is a place where "working people and political activists can attend public meetings on the U.S. military role in the world, labor struggles like the Eastern strike, and fights for civil and democratic rights," explained bookstore director Alvino Carrillo at a September 17 news conference. The Pathfinder Bookstore features titles by revolutionary leaders such as Malcolm X, Nelson Mandela, Ernesto Che Guevara, Karl Marx, and Frederick Engels.

"Violence against a political bookstore is not merely a random act of vandalism, as the police department has tried to say," explained Gary Stonelake, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress. "It is an attempt to intimidate working people from speaking their minds." Stonelake, a packing-house worker, called on the police department to investigate the attack, rather than "arresting and harassing strikers at Greyhound and Eastern or brutalizing the Black community."

Arlene Rubinstein, SWP candidate for mayor of Kansas City, chaired the press conference. The SWP campaign headquarters is at the same location as the bookstore. Rubinstein also introduced Thomas Winstead, a student who is running for city council on the socialist ticket.

William Fountaine, one of several Black ministers attacked by city cops in recent months, attended the press conference. The bigotry of the vandals, he said, "will not give them the latitude to accept different views, different opinions. Their cowardice will not permit them to face opposition as sane men and women would."

The attack on the bookstore is "an assault on the freedom of speech of all people," said LaDawna Howard of Citizens for Peace and a Rational Energy Policy. "We stand by and support the people of Pathfinder Books," she said, "not simply because we share the common goal of peace in the Arab East, but because we know that to find any peace at all we must support the rights of all people, the right of free speech and the right to peace."

In a written statement read at the news conference, Mayor Richard Berkley said, "While we may disagree with a person's or organization's philosophy or ideas, I strongly urge that those feelings not be vented through violence or destruction of property. Violation of the law cannot be tolerated."

This statement was welcomed by Rubinstein. The mayor's office had remained silent in the face of two previous attacks on the bookstore.

A report of the attack was carried in the September 17 *Kansas City Star* and on a local television evening news program.

Cleveland students press fight against racist firing

BY JON HILLSON
AND MAURICE WILLIAMS

CLEVELAND — Some 600 Cleveland State University students and their supporters marched here September 8 to press their fight for reinstatement of former CSU vice-president for minority affairs Raymond Winbush.

Dozens of Black students have maintained a sit-in at a university building since the popular administrator was fired in June. Winbush is seen as an advocate for Afro-American students and campus unionists.

The September 8 march was endorsed by scores of Black community leaders, union officials, religious figures, and peace and justice, Latino, and Arab-American organizations.

Called by CSU Students for Winbush, the event attracted dozens of students in contingents from Oberlin College, Case Western, and Kent State universities. Representatives of CSU's Black faculty and staff also demonstrated.

What began in June as outrage over the Winbush firing has deepened into protests against institutional discrimination at CSU, which serves as Cleveland's city college, with more than 18,000 students. Of these, only 11.3 percent are Black. Cleveland is a majority Black city.

Only in maintenance services do Blacks

and other minorities constitute a majority of the CSU work force; Blacks represents less than six percent of the school's fulltime faculty. And only one Black student in 10 graduates.

These facts have led students to demand an increase in affirmative action recruitment of Blacks, increased Black faculty, strengthening of Afro-American history programs, and other proposals aimed at opening up the university.

The stance of the administration was made clear by CSU Vice-president Jan Muczyk, who likened the student activists to "Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, Castro, Mao Zedong, and dictators in Africa" for trying to "subjugate universities."

Minorities, he explained in a column in *The Plain Dealer*, Cleveland's daily newspaper, have "the vehicle for transcending the adverse circumstances of their birth" in public schools like CSU.

This prompted an angry rejoinder from former Cleveland mayor Carl Stokes, now a judge, that his name be struck from a scholarship for CSU law students who are Black.

The racist posture of the administration, Stokes said, has made the stipend "a mockery."

Classes at CSU begin September 24, and activists are vowing to continue the fight.



Militant/Jon Hillson
Protest September 8 by Cleveland State students against firing of administrator and for affirmative action.

Art censorship trial to begin in Ohio court September 24

BY VAL LIBBY

CINCINNATI, Ohio — A September 24 trial date has been set here in the censorship case of the Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center (CAC) and its director, Dennis Barrie, who are charged with "pandering obscenity" and the "illegal use of a minor in nudity oriented material."

The charges stem from an exhibit at the center titled "The Perfect Moment." The show consisted of 175 photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe, including several of nude children and homosexual and sadomasochistic images.

The Mapplethorpe exhibit sparked national controversy and debate over government funding for the arts last summer when the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., canceled the exhibit of his photographs.

Barrie and the CAC refused to buckle under to a campaign of threats and intimidation seeking to force cancellation or censorship of the show here last spring.

On April 7, the opening day of the exhibit, a Hamilton County grand jury indicted Barrie and the CAC on the claim that seven of the photographs were obscene. The museum was then raided by the police, who cleared the gallery in order to videotape the exhibit.

On September 6 a county municipal judge

refused to dismiss the charges against Barrie and the art center. At the pretrial hearing Judge David Albanese also ruled five photographs would be considered separately by jurors. The ruling means members of the jury will not be shown the other 170 pictures — portraits, still lifes, and nudes.

The defense had argued that the five photos are part of, and should be viewed in the context of, the whole retrospective collection of Mapplethorpe's work.

"Each photograph has a separate identity," the judge said. "The photographs have individually been collected . . . and each photograph exists as a single work of art."

The CAC and Barrie can be convicted even if the jury decides only one of the photos meets the U.S. Supreme Court standards for obscenity.

"It's so intellectually wrong, it's incredible," said Louis Sirkin, the attorney for Barrie and the center, of the judge's ruling.

The fight against the attack on democratic rights has won the backing of museum directors, publishers, librarians, and booksellers here and around the country since last spring.

A demonstration against censorship and in support of Barrie and the CAC has been called for the opening day of the trial.

The Iraqi regime and its invasion of Kuwait

BY DOUG JENNESS
AND SELVA NEBBIA

Since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2 and the subsequent massive deployment of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia and on ships in nearby waters, the *Militant* has published several letters from readers discussing these developments. Among other things, readers point out the reactionary character of the Saddam Hussein regime's foreign and domestic policies, and question its invasion of Kuwait.

A letter from Ed Meredith of Caneyville, Kentucky, published in our September 7 issue stated, "While there can be no real justification for the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, their avowed reasons of 'protecting national security' are every bit as just as the reasons used by the United States in its criminal invasion of Panama."

"And to add insult to injury," Meredith wrote, "now the United States on its own initiative is in the process of sending a possible 250,000 troops of its own into Saudi Arabia in an effort to prove to the Arabs and the world that the United States can still ably fill the shoes of world cop."

"I believe that it is time for all of us to roundly condemn all violations of national sovereignty everywhere," he continued. "We must face the fact that it was wrong for the Iraqis to invade Kuwait and it is equally wrong for the United States to have invaded and continue occupying Panama."

Meredith, like the *Militant*, is clearly opposed to the massive mobilization of imperialist troops in the Persian Gulf area, just as he condemns the U.S. invasion of Panama. The stakes involved in the unfolding imperialist aggression in the Middle East are immense.

The imperialist powers, led by the ruling families in the United States, hope to deepen and extend their economic, political, and military domination of the entire region and deal a decisive setback to the struggles of working people in the region. This starting point is the key to organizing opposition to the war moves.

But Meredith is also rightly concerned about the Iraqi government's takeover of Kuwait. Clearly opposing the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and not glossing over the character of the Iraqi regime strengthens, not weakens, the fight against Washington's aggression and the demand for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. and other imperialist forces.

Also printed in the September 7 issue of the *Militant*, the "Learning about socialism" column by Doug Jenness responded to Meredith's letter by describing the invasion as the "Iraqi government's decision to beard the imperialist lion in its Kuwaiti den." This, however, incorrectly gave the impression that the invasion of Kuwait was an anti-imperialist action. The only conclusion that could be drawn was that the Iraqi government's action was progressive, one that helped to advance the struggles of working people in Iraq and the region against imperialist domination and for national sovereignty and democratic rights.

Invasion: a setback

Working people in the Middle East didn't shed any tears over the removal of the Kuwaiti emirs, who have for years squeezed millions of dollars in profits out of wage-workers there. And they don't back Washington's efforts to reinstate these reactionary sheiks. But this does not mean that the invasion advanced the interests of working people in Iraq, Kuwait, or anywhere else in the Middle East. Far from having any progressive content, it set back the struggle of the toilers in the region.

Rather than advancing the struggle of working people in the Persian Gulf area, the invasion gave imperialism an opening to send its armada into the region, and a weapon to confuse and neutralize opposition to their war preparations.

Unlike revolutionary mass mobilizations that overthrow regimes and initiate deepgoing social and economic transformations, the

Kuwaiti emirs were simply removed by the Iraqi troops. They have moved their operations to London and Saudi Arabia and can be returned to Kuwait by the imperialist-led troops.

Moreover, the dictatorial regime in Iraq is far removed from the antimperialist and democratic struggles of several decades ago that swept the Arab world, including Egypt, Syria, Yemen, and Iraq. In those anti-imperialist and antifeudal movements the toilers participated in massive mobilizations to overturn kings and landlordism and to win land reform, social and economic rights for workers, and concessions from the imperialist powers. But the current Iraqi regime's championing of Arab nationalism has little in common with those progressive struggles.

Today, Iraq is run by a military dictatorship. Hussein rules by decree. Trade unions and opposition parties are severely repressed.

The Iraqi regime's origins

In order to place the current Iraqi regime and its policies in context, it is useful to look at its origins and evolution.

In 1958 the Iraqi masses rose up against King Faisal II, who had been put in power by the British rulers after the dissolution of the Turkish Ottoman Empire following World War I.

Anti-imperialist army officers responded to the upsurge and carried out a coup that successfully overthrew and completely

Invasion of Kuwait was not anti-imperialist action; struggle of region's toilers was set back.

crushed the monarchy. The influence of the feudal landlords, on whom the imperialists had counted to protect their interests, began to be destroyed.

The new regime announced that the powerful landlords who had not been paying any taxes on their vast tracts of land would be taxed and that a land reform program would be implemented. The new regime also issued decrees cutting rents, reducing the price of bread and other consumer items, and placing limitations on landlords' shares of harvests.

The Baath Party, a petty bourgeois formation, came to power in 1963 in Iraq without the direct involvement of Iraq's working people. Founded in 1941 in Syria, the Arab Baath Party was a nationalist party that aspired to throw off the yoke of imperialism and to unite the Arab world. It was based primarily among military officers, intellectuals, and the petty bourgeoisie.

In the 10 years following the overthrow of the monarchy there were a series of military coups. These culminated in 1968 with the faction of the Baath Party, of which Hussein was a leader, coming to power in Iraq.

The Baath Party failed to narrow the huge gap in income between working people and the wealthy ruling families, despite the radical and sometimes "socialist" rhetoric employed by its various leaders. While they struck blows against the landowners, who had been dominant under the monarchy, the Baathists used the state apparatus to enrich themselves.

It was in this context that Hussein emerged as the dominant figure. Many of the economic reforms made in the early 1960s were pushed back by his regime.

The Iran-Iraq war

The scope of Hussein's reactionary course is seen most clearly in the war his regime launched against Iran in 1980. Using the pretext of a border dispute, Iraqi military forces invaded Iran and carried out a war for eight years. Some 1 million people died, 1.7 million were injured, and 1.5 million were displaced.

Hussein's goal was to take advantage of the turmoil he perceived to be taking place in Iran to secure control of more oil fields,



Iraqi forces, backed by U.S. imperialism, invaded Iran in 1980. Tens of thousands of Iranians died during the subsequent eight-year war.

shipping lanes, and some territory and other interests that would benefit the country's capitalist profiteers. Moreover, he hoped to help put an end to the revolutionary achievements of Iran's workers and peasants, who had toppled the U.S.-backed shah in 1979 and inspired working people and the oppressed throughout the region. Through their massive mobilizations millions of toilers in Iran fought their way into political action.

Through the establishment of popular committees and other forms of mass organization, the victories scored in Iran opened the door for tens of millions to participate in the political life of their country. Hussein feared this process would spread to Iraq. Imperialism and the other Arab regimes feared it would spread to the rest of the region.

Since the beginning of the mass upsurge against the shah's dictatorship in 1978, Hussein had attempted to reverse the revolution and have the shah's government, or a regime like it, return to power in Iran. He allowed Gen. Gholam Oveissi, for example, one of the shah's most brutal commanders, to set up military bases inside Iraq and provided him with aid. In 1978 Hussein expelled Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini from Iraq, where he had been living in exile and issuing calls for protests against the shah.

Imperialist relations with Iraq

Prior to the Iranian revolution, Washington had had poor relations with the Hussein government. Iraq had broken diplomatic relations with the U.S. government over the 1967 Israeli war. The Iraqi government had been an outspoken opponent of Washington's support to Israel's colonial-settler regime. But at the same time, the Iraqi regime had good relations with the French imperialist government.

Iraq's attempt to overturn the gains made by the Iranian revolution were also a blow to the Palestinian people, who were strengthened by the mass upsurge of the Iranian workers and peasants. It strengthened the Israeli regime, which benefits the most from divisions among anti-imperialist forces in the Middle East.

In its war against Iran, the Iraqi regime had the support of Washington as well as that of other imperialist countries. The French government, a longtime military supplier to Iraq, provided jets and Exocet missiles to Iraq during the war.

The governments of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and other gulf countries also provided financial assistance to the Iraqi regime. The governments of Egypt, Jordan, Sudan and North Yemen sent soldiers to help Iraq's war effort.

Hussein made a bad miscalculation, however, in thinking that the war against Iran would be an easy victory for Iraq. Despite far superior military equipment and the backing of imperialism, Hussein's forces were not able to obtain a quick victory against Iran.

While the Iraqi regime of Hussein and the Iranian government were both capitalist regimes in underdeveloped countries, a revolution was taking place in Iran that was in the interest of the toilers the world over.

The Iranian masses had great stakes in beating back Hussein's war drive and backed the defense effort from the beginning. Workers and peasants in Iran organized to beat back the invasion, calling on the government to train the population in the use of weapons.

War reached stalemate

After several years of fighting, the war reached a stalemate. Fearing an Iraqi defeat and the possible overthrow of the Hussein government, Washington pressed for a resolution of the war. In 1988 the governments of Iran and Iraq signed a cease-fire, under terms unfavorable to Iran.

Even as the cease-fire was being negotiated, the Iraqi regime launched an attack on the West Azerbaijan district in Iran, injuring 1,000 people. Three days earlier a United Nations team to the Persian Gulf region reported that the Iraqi army had been using nerve gas since 1984.

A frequent target of the Iraqi military were the Kurds both inside and outside Iraq. An oppressed nationality within Iraq, Kurds have been waging a struggle for self-determination against the regime.

The 3 million Kurds that live in Iraq are part of a nationality of 20 million people who occupy a contiguous territory, often termed Kurdistan, that extends into Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Syria, and the Soviet Union. The Iran-Iraq war provided an opening for the Kurds in Iraq to intensify their struggle. In the past the Hussein government had sided with the shah against the Kurdish nationality.

While Hussein's regime did not succeed in toppling the regime in Iran and was recently forced to make some concessions to the Iranian government, the war represented a setback for the working people of both countries and for the region as a whole.

The incursion into Kuwait, far from being a break from the policy that led to Hussein's war against Iran, is a continuation of that course. The Hussein regime is again using military power to try and wrest more economic and political clout for Iraq's capitalist rulers.

But a class-conscious worker in Iraq, who would have opposed Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, would now equally be in the front lines of mobilizing and organizing to defend Iraq from U.S. aggression. An imperialist war against Iraq will lead to many casualties and will draw much of the region into it. Working people from Egypt to Turkey, who don't back the Hussein regime and its reactionary military adventures, will join the fight against imperialist military aggression. They, like workers throughout the world, recognize that an imperialist victory in such a war would deal a severe blow to working-class and other anti-imperialist fighters around the world.

All democratic-minded people in the world must fight for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S.-led imperialist forces in the region; extend unconditional solidarity with the toilers and anti-imperialist fighters in the area who are demonstrating and demanding imperialist hands off the Arab Gulf; and mobilize to prevent the horrible war Washington is preparing.

U.S., allies' war moves grow against Iraq

Continued from front page
sponsored by ordering 4,000 more troops and dozens of warplanes, tanks, and helicopters to the region.

Bush administration officials have urged the governments of Britain, France, Germany, Japan, and other imperialist countries to contribute more logistical, financial, and direct military support for the operation.

In addition, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker met with Syrian President Hafez al-Assad September 14 and won Assad's commitment to deploy up to 15,000 additional troops and 300 tanks. "There is no ceiling on the number of troops" that would be deployed, Assad said. The Egyptian government also announced it would significantly boost its forces stationed in Saudi Arabia.

Moving to close a loophole in its sanctions against Iraq, a majority on the UN Security Council voted to give the body the power to determine when the blockaded country needs humanitarian food shipments.

Having called for a total embargo except in humanitarian cases, the Security Council came under pressure to allow food to be delivered to tens of thousands of workers from India, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, and elsewhere who are currently in Iraq or Kuwait. While allowing food shipments on a case-by-case basis, the resolution insisted foreign nongovernmental organizations must be in charge of distribution. The Iraqi government rejected this demand as an affront to its sovereignty.

The U.S. blockade seeks to stop all shipments of food, medical supplies, and other imports and exports. Jordan's port of Aqaba, one of the most important doors for the passage of goods to Iraq, has been nearly shut down. U.S. authorities have refused to allow ships with even partial cargos for Iraq to dock.

Voting against the Security Council reso-

lution, the Cuban representative on the body introduced a counter-motion that would have exempted all food supplies from the UN embargo. The Cuban delegation has abstained on recent Security Council decisions giving governments with warships in the region the right to use military force to back up the embargo.

Australian and U.S. warships fired on an Iraqi tanker in the Gulf of Oman September 14 with heavy caliber machine guns, demanding it stop and allow a search to be conducted.

While numerous cargo ships in the region have been boarded and commandeered since early August, this was the first forcible boarding reported. The boarding party found no cargo on the ship.

Aimed at starving the Iraqi people into submission, the blockade of food has resulted in the Iraqi government announcing new measures aimed at curbing consumption. Iraq, which has imported much of its food, is said to have a several months' supply on hand. Nevertheless, the government said, monthly rations of rice, sugar, cooking oil, and other necessities would be cut back another 50 percent from measures implemented September 1.

World Bank and International Monetary Fund officials admit that other countries in the region, especially Jordan, are being hurt by the embargo as well. Much of Jordan's trade had previously been with neighboring Iraq, and World Bank officials estimate that the country's gross national product will fall by at least 25 percent this year due to the measures imposed by Washington and its supporters.

In addition, hundreds of thousands of workers from Egypt, Jordan, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Sudan, Turkey, and elsewhere who worked in Kuwait or Iraq are now without jobs and



U.S. aircraft carrier in waters off Arabian Peninsula

cannot send wages home to needy families.

France and other EC members are pushing for the UN Security Council to tighten the embargo further by approving the interception and, if necessary, destruction of transport planes suspected of ferrying supplies to Iraq. Bush responded positively to the proposals, saying he "would be prepared to work with anybody to tie that additional knot in sanctions."

France also favors extending trade sanctions to other countries caught breaking the embargo.

Air force head fired

U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney dismissed Gen. Michael Dugan, the air force chief of staff, September 17 following Dugan's remarks about planned air force strikes against the family of Hussein in Iraq.

Aboard an air force plane touring the Arabian Peninsula, Dugan told reporters that heavy bombing of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad was needed to "decapitate" the Iraqi leadership. "The cutting edge would be downtown Baghdad," he said.

The *Washington Post* reported the general said the "best way to hurt Saddam" was to

target his family and personal guards.

Opposition to the growing U.S. military intervention has been expressed in protests and rallies in several Arab countries since August. In a mid-September meeting some 3,000 delegates, representing 120 political organizations and trade unions, met in Jordan to discuss the war threats and pledged to fight against the long-term U.S. presence in the area.

Representing organizations from nine Arab League states, the Conference of Popular Arab Movements centered on discussions of the Palestinian struggle and the new situation in the region. The Egyptian and Syrian governments did not allow representatives from their countries to attend.

Palestine Liberation Organization leader George Habash told the delegates, "We are meeting here to tell the American administration: Leave us alone, or the Arab world will be a graveyard for your soldiers."

Nayef Hawatmeh, another PLO leader, said the "gulf crisis is expected to explode all the states in the Middle East."

The meeting decided to send a shipload of food and medicine to Iraq "to defy the U.S.-led naval blockade."

Two dozen countries back U.S. forces in Arab East

The massive deployment of military forces against Iraq is dominated by more than 140,000 U.S. troops and naval personnel, with about 500 aircraft and more than 40 warships. More than 20 other countries have deployed troops and military hardware in the Middle East or have promised support from military personnel already stationed there.

Australia: Two guided-missile frigates and a supply ship.

Bangladesh: 2,000 troops in Saudi Arabia; 3,300 more to be sent soon.

Bahrain: Army of 2,300 troops, air force of 450, and a navy of 600. Britain has squadron of Tornado fighters there.

Belgium: Two minesweepers and a support ship.

Britain: Has ordered 6,000 troops and 120 Challenger tanks to the Persian Gulf region, bringing total military personnel stationed there to 9,000. At least two squadrons of fighter bombers are in region.

Canada: Two destroyers and a supply ship on their way. Has pledged a squadron of CF-18 fighter planes and 450 military personnel.

Denmark: One corvette warship due soon.

Egypt: At least 5,000 troops in Saudi Arabia and 15,000 due soon with tanks and "air defense systems."

France: Has pledged 4,000 additional troops, bringing total to 13,100 in or near Persian Gulf. Includes 4,000 at permanent garrison in Djibouti. Fourteen ships, including aircraft carrier, are in Gulf and Red Sea.

Greece: One frigate.

Italy: Two frigates and a supply ship in re-

gion. Another warship and eight Tornado fighters pledged.

Moreco: About 1,200 troops in Saudi Arabia; 5,000 in United Arab Emirates.

Netherlands: Two frigates.

Norway: Military supply ship to leave for Gulf soon.

Pakistan: 2,000 troops in Saudi Arabia with 3,000 more to be sent soon. Has 1,000 military advisers and technicians in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia: Army of 38,000, national guard of 56,000, plus 7,200 in navy, and air force of 16,500. Has 550 tanks, 180 combat planes, and eight frigates. Will also buy from U.S. government more than \$20 billion in advanced weapons and technical support over next several years.

Soviet Union: Two warships in gulf.

Spain: Two corvettes and a destroyer.

Syria: 4,000 troops in Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. May send 10,000 more and 300 tanks.

Turkey: 100,000 troops stationed near Iraqi border, backed by 35,000 paramilitary and police officers.

United Arab Emirates: 40,000 in army with more than 200 tanks, 1,500-member air force with 80 combat aircraft, and 1,500 in navy with 15 ships.

In addition, the U.S. government has been on a campaign to win financial backing for its war moves. In recent weeks Secretary of State James Baker and Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady have visited more than a dozen countries to drum up support.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and other Gulf states: About \$12 billion by the end of the year, including \$5 billion from the exiled Kuwaiti monarchs. Half is to help fund the U.S.-led military effort and half is to support ships in the Gulf and Red Sea deployed by other Middle Eastern countries.

Japan: \$4 billion, half to support the U.S.-led war moves and half in economic aid to Jordan, Turkey, and Egypt.

European Community: About \$2 billion in aid to countries in Middle East to help minimize political cost of military build-up and disruption of shipping.

West Germany: \$1.87 billion, more than half to support U.S. military, including transport assistance and equipment to resist chemical warfare. Rest goes to aid Egypt, Turkey, Jordan, and Syria.

2,000 at New York protest meeting demand, 'Bring the troops home!'

BY BECKY ELLIS

NEW YORK — More than 2,000 people packed a meeting here September 13 demanding, "Bring the troops home now!" and "No war for oil company profits!" The participants overflowed the meeting hall and hundreds crowded around a sound system outside.

The Coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention in the Middle East, made up of 75 groups and prominent individuals, organized the meeting and issued a call at the gathering for national protest actions on October 20. Opponents of Washington's massive military build-up and war moves in the Arab East are already organizing protests on that date in Atlanta, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Seattle, and Portland, Oregon.

Ramsey Clark, a former U.S. attorney general, called on those at the meeting to "resolve now to persevere in this effort until every U.S. soldier is home." U.S. President George Bush intends to use military force against Iraq, he said, and "we, the people, are the only force" who can stop this war drive.

Two standing ovations greeted Erik Larsen, a lance corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps reserve. He said he had joined the Marines in 1986 to "defend the American dream," but over the next few years he learned more about the U.S. government's wars abroad, particularly in El Salvador. As a result, Larsen said, "I can no longer blindly follow orders from my commander-in-chief. I am no longer a marine. I am a conscientious objector." He encouraged everyone "to get out in the streets and protest."

"What's happening in the Persian Gulf is not worth a single life," David Cline, a leader of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, said. "I am opposed to another generation of war veterans. No blood for oil! Bring the troops home."

Anan Ameri, president of the Palestinian Aid Society, challenged the hypocrisy of the U.S. government's failure to condemn Israel's occupation of Palestine, while calling

Iraq's occupation of Kuwait unacceptable.

Several other prominent activists, figures from the Black and Latino communities, student leaders, and a representative from the Mohawk Nation also spoke or sent messages. For more information on the October 20 national protest actions call the coalition's offices in New York at (212) 254-2295.

BY MEDHI ASSAR

NEW YORK — The massive deployment of U.S. military forces in the Arab East and Iraq's actions in Kuwait became the focus of discussions at the September 14-16 national convention of the Palestine Solidarity Committee here.

"We do not condone" Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, Riyadh Khoury, national coordinator of the PSC, told the closing session of the convention, but "our slogan is bring the [U.S.] troops home." The PSC, he said, will be "a part of activities all around the country" and "in building a broad national coalition."

Zuhdi Terzi, the permanent observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization at the United Nations, spoke at the largest gathering of the convention, a banquet of more than 600 people. He charged the media with distorting the PLO position on Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. "President [Yassir] Arafat has said in Geneva, 'the PLO is undertaking mediation and is not a party, nor does it take sides [in the Iraq-Kuwait conflict].'" Terzi said. "We do oppose occupation wherever it exists."

"The Palestinians have rallied in defense of the Iraqi people in the face of foreign armies," Ribhi Aruri, a West Bank journalist who had spent 6 months in Israel's jails, said at the banquet. "The U.S. wants to destroy the Iraqi state to weaken the Arab masses."

Many participants at the convention were students who were inspired by the 33-month-old *intifada* and the prospects for building opposition to U.S. intervention in the Middle East.

Union events back Eastern strikers

Continued from front page

on IUE locals to become more involved with the strike through organizing plant-gate collections and participation in picket lines.

Eastern and Greyhound strikers staffed a table during the convention and handed out a leaflet publicizing a September 22 expanded picket line at Detroit Metro Airport jointly sponsored by IAM Lodge 141 and Detroit Metro AFL-CIO.

Strikers tour Alabama, Nebraska

In Alabama, Bob Taylor, general chairman of District 100 of the IAM from Atlanta, has spoken before 12 different meetings of unionists, including five locals of the UMWA, two Steelworkers union locals, and one local of the United Transportation Union. Presentations on the ongoing labor battle at Eastern were also made to meetings of the Jefferson County and Tuscaloosa Central Labor Councils. Over \$2,000 in donations for the strike was raised from sales of buttons and T-shirts.

At one UMWA meeting Taylor explained that support from the labor movement in Alabama was tremendous, especially from the miners. "The UMWA has always been looked to by other unions, especially after your victory at Pittston. I have been getting a lot of support from the UMWA in Alabama," Taylor said.

An Eastern striker from Washington, D.C., recently finished a visit to Nebraska, where union leaders and strike supporters set up dozens of engagements and meetings to build support for the strike.

IAM Lodge 796 member Nancy Brown spoke before the Machinists local that organizes workers from United, Northwest, and Trans World Airlines at Eppley Airfield in Omaha. She also spoke at a meeting of Local 22 of the United Food and Commercial Workers at the Geo. A. Hormel meat-packing plant in Fremont, Nebraska, as well as a number of other union locals. More than \$2,000 was raised during the tour.

In an act of solidarity with the strikes against Eastern and Greyhound, the Omaha Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, has called for a picket line to begin at the Greyhound terminal in Omaha on September 21 at 4:30 p.m. and to then move to Eppley Airfield for a picket of Continental Airlines — owned by Eastern's parent corporation — on behalf of the strike.

During the last week of August and the first week of September, Eastern strikers from Los Angeles and Phoenix spoke at several meetings of unionists in the state of Utah. Gerald Watson, Eastern strike coordinator in Phoenix, received an enthusiastic response from delegates when he spoke to the Utah State AFL-CIO convention.

Watson and Los Angeles Eastern striker Tom Schofield also spoke at a Salt Lake City concert commemorating the famous labor fighter Joe Hill, who was executed by firing squad in Utah on Nov. 19, 1915. Folksingers Pete Seeger and Utah Phillips were performing and both urged support to the strike.

During their tour, strike supporters arranged for collections at the entrances of the Phillips oil refinery and Eimco



Militant/Ernie Mailhot

Eastern strikers and supporters welcome miners to Miami for convention

Mining Machinery.

The strikers also participated in UMWA-sponsored Labor Day events in Helper, Utah, and made many new contacts for the Eastern strike among miners there.

Following numerous Labor Day events across the country in early September, the Machinists have stepped up their picket lines

at Eastern airport gates and other strike solidarity activities. On September 15, striking Machinists held a spirited expanded picket line at New York's La Guardia Airport.

In Miami, strikers are planning a major protest action on September 25 at Florida International University, where Martin Shugrue is scheduled to speak as the university president's "choice lecturer" on the topic of the "New Eastern." Shugrue is the court-appointed trustee now running the airline.

In Boston, Eastern strikers and their supporters are focusing their activities around building a "New Orleans-style" funeral for Eastern on September 22 at Logan Airport. Members of the American Federation of Musicians have volunteered to put together a New Orleans jazz band to play at the strikers' expanded picket line, and the striking Machinists are making up a coffin.

Striking members of IAM Lodge 846 in Baltimore are publicizing an expanded picket line set for September 29 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Baltimore-Washington International Airport.

As solidarity continues to build for the strike, Eastern's situation continues to deteriorate.

The airline's "100 days" campaign to improve its image ended quietly on September 12. The following week new full-page advertisements promoting offers for business travelers appeared in the *New York Times*. Headlined "100 days later," the ad quotes Eastern trustee Martin Shugrue, explaining, "100 days ago I said Eastern was going to get a little better every day. And we have."

However, the September 12 IAM District 100 strike bulletin reports the passenger load factor for the day before the end of the "100 days" was 42 percent — almost 40 percent below what Eastern needs just to break even. And the airline continues to lose more than \$1 million each day on its operations.

In addition, a Brooklyn, New York, federal court judge has set January 28 for the trial of former Eastern managers who were indicted for safety violations at the airline. If convicted of the criminal charges, which were handed down in July, each defendant could face up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each count. Eastern, also named as a defendant, faces a maximum fine of \$30 million.

Most recently, Eastern missed the deadline for a \$95 million payment to the pension fund. Unless resolved, the failure to make the payment could have resulted in the pension agency — Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. — placing liens against Eastern or its parent holding company, Continental Holdings Inc., within 60 days.

Eastern immediately entered negotiations with the agency, which agreed to take over the payment of the retirement benefits of Eastern employees.

However, as part of the deal, Continental Holdings Inc. must secure the payments with its assets, a liability that some industry analysts say could total more than \$500 million.

Pete Seidman from Miami; Stuart Crome from Seattle; Alyson Kennedy from Birmingham, Alabama; L. Paltrineri from Omaha, Nebraska; Dave Salner from Salt Lake City, Utah; and Eastern striker Maggie Pucci from Boston contributed to this article.

Virginia unionists continue Eastern pickets

BY BILL SCHENCK AND RICH STUART

ROANOKE, Virginia — Yet another blow was dealt to Eastern Airlines' union-busting drive on September 15 when 100 unionists from 16 unions rallied at the airport here in support of the 18-month long strike by Machinists. The September 6 rally protested Eastern's start-up of flights for the first time here in 12 years.

The strike support rally far outnumbered the airline's passengers. The crowd virtually occupied the facility during two walk-throughs, chanting "We are union, don't fly Eastern" and drowning out all other activity in the small airport.

The sentiment of the spirited crowd was expressed by Dan Anderson, general chairman of the International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers at Norfolk Southern railway, who said, "Nonunion Eastern is not welcome in Roanoke!"

Eastern strikers from Greensboro, North Carolina, and Washington, D.C., attended. "Frank Lorenzo said we wouldn't be out for five weeks," Greensboro striker Tom Crutchfield told the crowd, "but he's gone and we're here. Corporate America is watching this. Without this kind of support of other unions, we wouldn't be this strong today."

Washington, D.C., striker Susie Winsten said, "A major victory is being won for the labor movement. Any city that Eastern tries to fly into, they are met with protests like these. Other employers will think twice after Eastern and Pittston." The United Mine Workers of America scored a victory over the Pittston Coal company's union-busting attempt earlier this year.

Roanoke, an industrial town, is the political and economic center for this region, which includes the coalfields where the UMWA was on strike against Pittston Coal. Members of the miners' union and their sup-

port group, the Daughters of Mother Jones, attended the rally.

Roanoke is also a major hub for Norfolk Southern railroad, whose workers haul millions of tons of coal through the town each week. The rail workers' unions have been in national contract negotiations with the big railroads for over two years. Groups of workers from four rail unions joined the protest at the airport.

A dozen workers, members of IAM Local 2444 working at USAir in Roanoke, attended the rally and noted that the outcome of the Eastern strike will affect them. The IAM is currently deadlocked in national contract negotiations with USAir. The Roanoke USAir workers have volunteered to organize regular picketing of Eastern at the airport since there are no strikers here. And two United Express workers also offered to help picket and make sure Eastern doesn't stay long.

Several locals of the International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) were represented. Gerald Meadows, president of the Roanoke United Central Labor Council and an IUE member, chaired the rally.

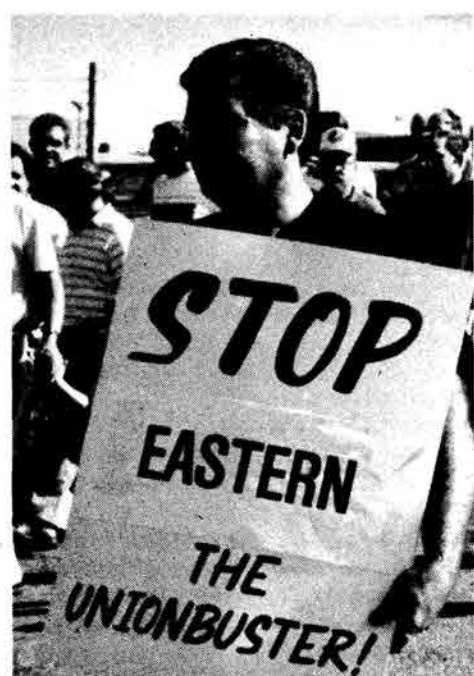
Other unionists at the rally included a solid contingent of Greyhound strikers from the Amalgamated Transit Union, workers who struck AT&T last year, and members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, United Steelworkers of America, United Food and Commercial Workers, and several IAM locals from Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina.

Striking workers share platform at New York Militant Labor Forum



Militant/Margrethe Siem

Fighters from four different striking unions shared their experiences September 8 at a New York Militant Labor Forum. Left to right: Ernie Mailhot, strike coordinator from International Association of Machinists Local 1018 on strike against Eastern Airlines at New York's La Guardia Airport; Mike Ruscigno, recording secretary of Teamsters Local 138 on strike against A. Sargenti Co. since February; George Kennedy, strike coordinator of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1202 on strike against Greyhound; Mark Bottino, member of International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 771 on strike against Image Bank-Film Research since February; Susan Anmuth, Eastern striker and member of IAM Local 1018; and Manny Cavaco, striking member of Teamsters Local 138. Kennedy said he was "glad to be discussing the war with the other soldiers here. The fight to us is like air to life. If we don't fight, where will business stop?"



Militant/Rich Stuart

Participant at Roanoke rally

Supporters gear up to win new readers

BY RONI McCANN

On September 22 supporters of the *Militant* will begin an international circulation drive to win 7,800 new readers to the socialist press.

From Stockholm, Sweden, to San Francisco, California, supporters are gearing up for the eight-week campaign. They aim to win 5,000 new subscribers to the *Militant* by November 17. Supporters will also be sign-

Supporters in eight countries are finalizing plans for sales effort.

ing up readers of the socialist press whose language is Spanish or French by selling 1,225 subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* and 325 to *Lutte ouvrière*. Selling 1,250 copies of the Marxist magazines *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale* — where fighting workers, opponents of U.S. war moves, and those interested in learning more about socialism can find more in-depth articles — is also part of the overall goal.

In several dozen cities in eight countries, supporters are finalizing action plans for the sales effort. A special focus of the drive will be fanning out to working-class communities and college campuses; calling readers and urging them to renew their subscriptions; and stepping up sales of the press on the job, at factory gates and mine portals, and on the picket lines as they help to build support and solidarity with the fighting Eastern Airlines strikers.

Many Eastern strikers and strike supporters will want to sign up for a 12-week introductory subscription to the *Militant* or will renew their current subscriptions. In the past several weeks 15 members of the Machinists

union and five striking Greyhound workers have resubscribed.

As part of the kick-off weekend, regional teams will be fielded in several countries. In Sydney, Australia, supporters will hit the road September 22, headed for the Hunter River Valley coalfields near Newcastle. *Militant* supporters in Montréal will return to Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, to sell the press to striking coal miners and other workers.

A two-week team will leave September 22 from Cleveland, Ohio, and travel to the northwestern part of the state and southern Michigan where farm workers are just wrapping up the tomato harvest.

Supporters in Newark, New Jersey, and Philadelphia will launch a joint team to reach farm workers with the socialist publications the first weekend of the sales drive, and supporters in Oakland, California, and San Francisco will travel to the area surrounding Watsonville to sell the press to farm workers there and prepare for a week-long team in October.

In Washington State, supporters from Seattle and others will field a team October 6 to the Yakima Valley. A socialist candidate spoke at a Mexican Independence Day event there September 15 that drew 400 farm workers and their families. Three participants signed up to get subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* and several offered to help out when the sales team returns.

Militant supporters around the world go into the drive with momentum as they have stepped up sales of the paper, with its news on the U.S. war moves in the Arab East, over the past several weeks. So far in September more than 300 new readers have signed up.

Socialist candidates and their supporters in Pittsburgh set up literature tables on three area campuses soon after they opened. At campaign meetings there, some 50 students turned up to hear the candidates speak on the



Sales at New York bookfair. *Militant* supporters begin drive to win thousands of new readers September 22.

U.S. war moves in the Mideast. Four subscribed to the *Militant*.

A *Militant* supporter from Iceland called to report that a new reader from the Faeroe Islands, northeast of Scotland, has taken a

goal of selling 10 *Militant* subscriptions. A participant on the recent Nordic Brigade to Cuba, he met supporters of the socialist press on the trip and decided to join in the international circulation campaign.

Britain mine union gains

Continued from front page

failed to take action they could be held liable for the missing money. Scargill and Heathfield are officers of the IMO and were defendants in the legal action.

Some 43 miners' unions from 39 countries are affiliated to the IMO. The international organization grew out of worldwide solidarity that was built for the British miners' battle in the mid-1980s and has garnered support for mine workers' struggles in numerous countries since.

For several months the issue of the Soviet miners' funds became the center of another media campaign aimed at forcing Scargill to resign and provoking a crisis in the IMO.

At the support event here IMO leader Maitland, who is also the president of the Australian miners' union, celebrated the September 13 decision of the NUM National Executive Committee to drop the suit against the IMO.

Setback to government criminal charges

Clearing the union leaders of the charges in the suit strengthens the ability of the miners' union to fight against a new attack — the filing of criminal charges by the government for "failure to keep proper accounting records, to maintain a satisfactory system of accounting control, and to submit true and fair accounts" of union financial records to the government.

An investigation of criminal fraud, based on the slander campaign, has also been initiated against Scargill and Heathfield by the Metropolitan Police Fraud Squad.

These charges grow out of the special measures the coal miners' union took during the 1984-85 strike when the government sequestered its funds and put the union into receivership. Numerous special accounts were established in order for the union to continue its struggle.

The unanimous vote by the NUM executive body to drop the suit against the IMO came following a meeting in Paris between IMO leaders and a four-person delegation from the NUM. They were presented with documentation by IMO General Secretary Alain Simon that detailed how the Soviet

miners were invited to contribute directly to any of three accounts established to aid striking miners and their families. The Soviet miners' union refused, requesting instead that the funds be put into the account of the Miners' Trade Union International, a forerunner of the IMO, for international use. The report exonerated Scargill, Heathfield, and the IMO.

In reaching the agreement to drop the suit, the IMO agreed to make a donation of £742,000 to the NUM.

'Attack on international solidarity'

The campaign "was not just an attack on Arthur Scargill or Peter Heathfield, but an attack on international solidarity and trade unionism," Maitland told the meeting here.

Maitland warned such antiunion moves will continue because "the forces behind these attacks will not cease until the structures of the IMO have been destroyed."

Labour Party Member of Parliament Tony Benn also spoke. Reviewing the miners' struggles of the 1970s, including two victorious national strikes in 1972 and 1974 that led to the emergence of the Scargill leadership of the union, Benn said, "The destruction, and I mean destruction, of the NUM was the Tories' [Conservative Party] first objective. The attack on Scargill was not personal — Scargill is the target they have chosen to destroy the NUM."

"It's an awful tragedy," Benn said, "that the General Council of the Trades Union Congress has made comments that were designed to accelerate suspicion and create distrust, when what they should have been doing was to turn their attention to the vicious lying machine being used to undermine one of their member unions."

A National Conference of the NUM, made up of delegates from every coal mine in the country, will take place October 10-11. The first day of the conference will review the attack on the union and its two leaders. The second day is slated to discuss a campaign of industrial action in light of British Coal's continued refusal to negotiate directly with the NUM on its demand for a £50-per-week across-the-board increase in basic wages.

Subscription Drive GOALS

DRIVE GOALS	Total	Militant	Perspectiva Mundial	New Int'l	Lutte ouvrière
UNITED STATES					
Atlanta	198	135	20	40	3
Austin, Minn.	90	60	18	10	2
Baltimore	155	115	12	25	3
Birmingham, Ala.	170	138	10	20	2
Boston	235	140	45	35	15
Brooklyn	345	190	70	60	25
Charleston, W.V.	135	95	13	25	2
Chicago	280	185	45	45	5
Cleveland	160	115	18	25	2
Des Moines, Iowa	180	135	25	18	2
Detroit	180	140	10	25	5
Greensboro, N.C.	115	85	13	15	2
Houston	145	98	25	20	2
Kansas City	125	88	10	25	2
Los Angeles	400	200	115	80	5
Miami	200	110	30	40	20
Morgantown, W.V.	155	115	8	30	2
New York	520	275	120	95	30
Newark, N.J.	340	180	60	70	30
Oakland, Calif.	190	125	35	25	5
Omaha, Neb.	120	85	18	15	2
Philadelphia	185	115	38	30	2
Phoenix	95	55	28	10	2
Pittsburgh	130	105	5	18	2
Price, Utah	80	55	13	10	2
Salt Lake City	185	130	23	30	2
San Francisco	175	110	35	25	5
Seattle	190	115	48	25	2
St. Louis	205	162	10	30	3
St. Paul, Minn.	225	175	17	30	3
Washington, D.C.	150	100	20	23	7
Cincinnati	17	12	2	3	-
New Haven, Conn.	14	10	2	2	-
Other U.S.	-	-	-	-	-
U.S. TOTAL	6,089	3,953	961	979	196
AUSTRALIA					
BRITAIN	50	30	12	6	2
Cardiff	58	40	2	15	1
London	174	113	15	42	4
Manchester	62	45	1	15	1
Sheffield	100	70	9	20	1
Other Britain	-	-	-	-	-
BRITAIN TOTAL	394	268	27	92	7
CANADA					
Montréal	210	75	35	35	65
Toronto	155	100	25	25	5
Vancouver	105	65	15	20	5
CANADA TOTAL	470	240	75	80	75
FAEROE ISLANDS					
FRANCE	10	10	0	0	0
ICELAND	40	10	5	5	20
NEW ZEALAND	43	35	2	5	1
Auckland	110	91	10	8	1
Christchurch	60	51	2	6	1
Wellington	70	61	2	6	1
Other N. Z.	10	9	1	-	-
N. Z. TOTAL	250	212	15	20	3
SWEDEN					
Int'l teams	80	43	25	10	2
Other Int'l	50	10	34	5	1
TOTAL	7,476	4,811	1,156	1,202	307
DRIVE GOALS	7,800	5,000	1,225	1,250	325

U.S. group protests wall dividing Korea

Participants in Korea-U.S. Peace Seminar visit demilitarized zone



Militant/Heather Randle
Panmunjom, located on Military Demarcation Line between North and South Korea, was site of armistice discussions ending war and is where negotiations have continued since. U.S. group visited truce village during Peace Seminar.

BY DOUG JENNESS

KAESONG, North Korea — "I see it!" someone yelled, pointing toward the green hills through the lifting fog. For nearly an hour the group of 20 political activists from the United States had been peering through the drizzling rain and mist to get a glimpse of the concrete wall that separates the northern and southern parts of the Korean peninsula. With binoculars and telescopes they could see slogans in Korean on the gray-white barrier. Lookout towers and gun placements stuck out of the top of the wall in some places.

The U.S. visitors, in Korea as part of a Korea-U.S. Peace Seminar and Study Tour, were at an observation site on the North Korean side of the Demilitarized Zone, not far from Kaesong. The wall, which stretches 150 miles east to west across Korea, is located on the South Korean side of the DMZ. This zone was created in July 1953 as part of an armistice agreement between Washington, whose military forces occupied the country's southern half, and the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the north. The armistice ended the Korean War. Its boundaries are one and a quarter miles on either side of the Military Demarcation Line that is located roughly on the 38th parallel.

The DMZ was designed to be a military-free area. According to Article 1 of the agreement, the DMZ was "established as a buffer

zone to prevent the occurrence of incidents which might lead to a resumption of hostilities."

U.S. forces in the South, however, have built numerous guard posts on its side of the DMZ and brought in heavy weapons. In an interview with the antiwar delegation from the United States, Senior Col. Li Chon Bok, a representative of the Korean People's Army on the Military Armistice Commission, reported that Washington has placed the latest operational equipment and artillery in the DMZ.

The agreement also banned introduction into all of Korea any new combat aircraft, armored vehicles, weapons, and other military equipment, except to replace existing equipment as it wore out. This, too, has been repeatedly violated by Washington.

'Two Koreas policy'

The wall, which was built over a period of time beginning in 1977, has served "to freeze the division and institutionalize a 'two Koreas policy,'" Li said.

Earlier the same day the U.S. group had visited Panmunjom, located right on the Military Demarcation Line. This was the site where the armistice discussions occurred and where negotiations have continued ever since.

Panmunjom is just a few miles southeast of Kaesong. The buses with the U.S. visitors, their hosts from the Korea Anti-Nuclear Committee, and their translators drove through a DPRK military checkpoint to enter the DMZ. In this part of the DMZ, rice paddies stretched out from both sides of the paved road and an occasional ginseng field could be seen. Egrets peacefully standing in the fields and swallows darting overhead seemed out of chord with one of the most tense borders in the world today.

Panmunjom is a joint security area 600 feet in diameter. The U.S. and North Korean sides each have 30 soldiers and five officers in the area. Several temporary buildings sit in a row straddling the Demarcation Line.

Each side maintains sturdy structures and observation posts, surrounded by well-manicured lawns and shrubbery, on opposite edges of the security area. This gives the truce village somewhat of a permanent appearance.

Before 1976 the entire area was open to the security forces from both sides, but after a series of incidents, including a serious provocation that year, the area has been divided in two. In that incident U.S. troops cut down a tree in the security area and damaged a Korean guard post. Two U.S. soldiers were killed.

The delegation from the United States took a look around the inside of the building where the Armistice Commission meets. But within a few minutes the visitors were hurried out because a meeting was to begin exactly at 11:00. Several U.S. military officers entered a door on their side of the line and the same number of officers from the Korean People's Army went in from their side. U.S. military policemen stood in the rain without raincoats, glowering at the antiwar delegation from the United States. Altogether there are 46,000 U.S. troops in Korea, the only foreign military forces stationed on Korean soil.

Propose decreasing soldiers

To reduce tensions, Li explained, the DPRK government has proposed decreasing the security teams from 30 to 10 soldiers and disarming them.

It also calls for dismantling all military posts on the DMZ and getting rid of weaponry that is forbidden by the 1953 agreement. If these steps are agreed to, Li said, then the North and South should reduce their armed forces in stages to less than 100,000 each, and the withdrawal of U.S. troops and 1,000 U.S. nuclear weapons could begin in stages.

As a unilateral initiative the DPRK has reassigned tens of thousands of soldiers to building roads and housing projects.

On September 3-4, a couple of days after its visit to this area, the U.S. delegation met with Korean representatives and adopted a joint declaration calling for the right of the Korean people to determine their own affairs. It urged support for peaceful reunification of Korea.

The resolution also proposed that the Korean War's cease-fire agreement "be replaced by a permanent peace treaty."

The joint meeting demanded that Washington and the South Korean government stop their annual Team Spirit military exercises, which "are provocative and intimidating and increase tension on the peninsula."

Full open-door policy

The Korean and U.S. representatives called for a "full open-door policy between the north and south of Korea, including the right of the Korean people to travel, contact, and communicate freely between the north and the south."

In Kaesong the delegation from the United States met with five people who described the hardship of being separated from mem-

bers of their families for many decades because of the division of the country. They are among thousands who are unable to visit, telephone, or communicate in any way with brothers, sisters, and parents.

The declaration called on the United Nations to implement a resolution adopted in 1975 by the UN General Assembly to dissolve the UN Command in South Korea. U.S. troops in Korea are still under the UN flag.

Moreover, it urged the UN not to admit the two parts of Korea to membership separately as that "will only serve to legitimize the division and will create a new obstacle to Korea's reunification."

The U.S. and Korean activists 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."



Militant/Heather Randle
A worker at the Taean Heavy Machine Complex in North Korea.

Philadelphia college teachers strike over health benefits

BY HENRY HILLENBRAND

PHILADELPHIA — The day after Labor Day means the beginning of the school year on many campuses. However, at Temple University the first week of school was marked by picket lines, daily rallies, a sit-in on the main street running north-south in the city, and cancellation of 75 percent of the classes.

The actions were in support of a strike by professors, librarians, and other staff and was kicked-off at a 7:00 a.m. rally September 4 in the center of campus. The strikers are members of the Temple Association of University Professionals (TAUP), which is American Federation of Teachers Local 4531.

At the rally TAUP President Arthur Hochner reviewed the strike issues. He remarked, "It's amazing that the Temple administration forced us to go out for a second time in four years." This was in reference to a three-week strike in 1986 over the termination of several faculty members.

The major issue in this year's action is the demand by the administration that all employees begin to pay from \$250 to \$300 a year for medical insurance.

Other issues include a cost-of-living increase to keep up with inflation and funds to boost the pay of longtime faculty members, many of whom earn less than newly hired professors.

In an informational flyer addressed to Temple students, the TAUP points out, "Only

23 cents of every Temple dollar goes to instruction. And this includes *all* instruction costs, *not just* faculty salaries."

On the first day of the semester the Graduate Student Employees Association voted to strike for union recognition. GSEA organizes teaching and research assistants and is affiliated with the National Union of Hospital Health Care Employees 1199C (AFSCME), which represents Temple University Hospital workers and campus office workers.

Cynthia Carter, a GSEA spokeswoman, said, "All we want is a fair subsistence and a chance to go to the doctor when we are sick."

Members of the Brotherhood of University Employees participated in the picket lines the morning the strike began. The BUE organizes maintenance and janitorial workers and truck drivers. BUE President Ray Foreman said their contract expires on September 30. "Their [TAUP] issues are our issues."

On September 7, Students in Solidarity with University Professionals sponsored a rally of 400 students in support of the strike. There they announced that in two days over 1,200 students had signed a petition backing TAUP's demand for binding arbitration.

The university's response was to get a court injunction against AFSCME, prohibiting the unionists from mass picketing, blocking entrances, holding mass rallies within one mile of campus, and other unspecified activities. This is seen as a direct challenge to the teaching assistants' strike.

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Nicaragua unionists debate course as government steps up antilabor offensive

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — "What are we going to do? Keep signing agreements with the government? How long are we going to keep acting like fools?" asked a union official from the Arlen Siú food processing plant.

He was one of many who voiced frustration at a September 9 meeting here of several hundred local union officials from around the country. They came from industrial unions affiliated to the National Workers Front (FNT), the labor federation that supports the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN).

The meeting had been called to discuss how to respond to the capitalist government's continued assault on wages, jobs, and union rights.

Unemployment in Nicaragua is estimated at 35 percent by the government and widely assumed to be higher. Many factory workers are earning less than \$25 a month, far below subsistence. Rice here costs 50 cents a pound; beans, 40 cents a pound; and cooking oil, \$5.60 a liter.

July strikes

The FNT carried out a national strike in July and won a 43 percent wage hike. This increase only partially compensated for the constant drop in real wages that has plagued the working class for years.

In the agreement that ended the strike, most of the pressing issues that impelled workers to walk out were referred to government-company-union commissions. In these commissions, the government has pushed hard for major concessions from the unions.

Since taking office here in April, the National Opposition Union (UNO), which defeated the FSLN in elections last February, has not resolved the fate of hundreds of factories and farms confiscated in the early 1980s by the workers' and farmers' government then in power. These properties remain in state hands today.

The government has been seeking the collaboration of union officials in dismantling the considerable social benefits and rights won by workers in state-run factories, as well as agreement to significantly reduce the work force and privatize or close some plants.

The government calls this collaboration *concertación*. The word means an agreement between different social classes, in which each class supposedly sacrifices for the good of "the nation."

The term *concertación* was first used by the FSLN-led government in the late 1980s as it decisively turned away from the anti-capitalist course it had followed at the beginning of the decade.

The Sandinista government increasingly offered concessions to businessmen and large landowners in the hopes of forging an alliance with them to solve the country's deep economic crisis. The demands of workers and peasants were subordinated to that goal.

'Nicaragua needs stability'

Since its February electoral defeat, the FSLN national leadership has intensified its call for a social pact between conflicting classes. It argues that the key to reviving the capitalist economy is "stability."

As FSLN leader Daniel Ortega explained at an August 31 forum on *concertación*,

where he spoke along with UNO figures, "it's not in the interest of any country to have strikes. Above all, Nicaragua needs stability."

The FSLN leadership calls for an alliance with what it terms the "democratic" UNO forces around President Violeta Chamorro. The alternative, the Sandinistas say, is "social chaos" that could result in "counterrevolutionary" forces gaining control of the government, resumption of the contra war, or even a U.S. invasion.

Workers in the FNT are divided over what to do. "Another strike could open up a social crisis that neither the FSLN nor the government could control," said Mario Martínez, a lathe operator and FNT official at the EMEMSA metal fabricating plant in Managua. He favored hiring a lawyer to help workers get stock in the company in order to keep it from closing down.

A few unions, such as those organizing bank workers and health-care employees, have continued to carry out work stoppages

FSLN leadership stepped up call for social pact of conflicting classes, says economy needs "stability."

or other direct actions to pressure the government to raise their wages.

A layer of unionists has also raised boycotting further *concertación* meetings with the government, without having a worked-out perspective for action beyond that.

UNO forces have been pressuring the Sandinista leaders to call dissident workers to order. As the pro-UNO daily *La Prensa* editorialized September 7, "the whole nation is declaring itself in favor of dialogue and *concertación* — except for ultraleft groups inside and outside the FSLN." The paper charged that "in the squalid halls where these extremists meet, the architects of social agitation are trying to put the final touches on a new plan of strikes and destabilizing actions."

It gave as examples the one-day occupation of a bank in Matagalpa by farm workers demanding back pay and the brief takeover of the government-owned television station by disabled veterans pressing for a raise in their benefits. In both cases, the protesters won some of their demands.

Anti-FNT unions spreading

Few workers who feel uneasy about *concertación* favor another national strike at this time. Their experience in the July strike was that those who backed it were mainly FSLN supporters in the plants. Many workers, nervous about losing their jobs and lacking confidence in the FSLN, did not agree with the strike tactic. Most stayed at home, however, rather than scab.

The relationship of forces was such that in some workplaces, such as the telephone company, strikers agreed that employees opposing the walkout could cross picket lines and come into work.

In a number of workplaces, such as the EMEMSA plant and La Toña brewery, some workers began organizing a second union to



Worker at La Fundidora machine shop in 1989. Unionists are debating privatization of some factories nationalized following overthrow of Somoza regime in 1979.

challenge the FNT for recognition, recruiting workers who were against the strike.

At the September 9 FNT meeting, FNT General Secretary Lucio Jiménez opened the agenda with statistics showing that thousands of industrial workers are joining rival unions led by pro-UNO forces in plants the FNT has traditionally organized. Jiménez said the strongest bases of support for these unions are in sugar refineries, plastics and paper manufacturing, construction, docks, and coffee processing, but that they are organizing throughout industry.

Following Jiménez' report, there was discussion of a recently concluded pact between FNT leaders and the government on the fate of state-owned garment and textile plants, most of which are bankrupt. FNT leader Carlos Borge reported that the agreement signed included government financing for the plants and a no-layoff guarantee for three months. "We've achieved stability in this industry," he stated.

Jiménez spoke after Borge's report to criticize the coverage given to the garment-textile pact by the pro-FSLN radio station "La Primerísima." The station attacked a little-reported aspect of the accord. FNT negotiators' agreement to a "restructuring" of the industry will mean layoffs of an estimated 1,500 of the 5,000 garment and textile workers in the state sector.

Jiménez defended the decision to accept restructuring. "A shutdown of textile and garment was imminent," he asserted. "We managed to preserve the majority of jobs. Fifteen hundred out of 5,000 is not so bad."

Questions on garment pact

Mabel Aguirre, president of the union local at the Agrotex garment shop in Granada, took the mike to ask questions about the agreement, which covers her plant.

"My understanding is that this meeting is so the FNT can know what the workers are thinking," she began. The agreement at Agrotex, she continued, guaranteed wages and no layoffs for only one month, ending September 1. No raw materials had arrived at Agrotex yet. Workers wanted to know what was happening, since the boss was telling them the FNT had agreed to restructuring of the plant.

Second, she said, the boss also claimed FNT negotiators had agreed to bring back the old owner as a vice-president of the company. Was this true?

No one took the floor to answer Aguirre's questions.

Another FNT official from Granada spoke. "Our revolutionary conquests are being whittled away," he said. "We can't keep allowing this. We should say no to *concertación* with a proimperialist government."

A metal worker from Masaya pointed out that the employers "are just parasites. We're the ones who produce." He proposed the FNT demand a freeze on prices and layoffs before it sits down to more talks with the government.

Privatization of factories

A union official from La Fundidora machine shop in León spoke out sharply against privatizing his plant. "We say no to privatization!" he declared.

FNT leader Ronaldo Membreño responded. "Look," he said, "La Fundidora is

barely working. What if a foreign investor comes and offers \$2 million in financing?"

Membreño argued that while supporters of dictator Anastasio Somoza should not be allowed to regain ownership of plants, investment by foreign capitalists could be positive "as long as it doesn't go against the interests of the working class."

Four days after the meeting, the government laid off 141 of La Fundidora's workers. Only 25 remain in the plant.

Several officials from the FNT's construction union debated whether to sign a contract with the government that includes major layoffs in the industry.

Some opposed signing it. Others argued that the pact was going to go through anyway because the Union of Carpenters, Bricklayers, and Fitters (SCAAS), which represents many construction workers in Managua, had already signed. The SCAAS is led by the Nicaraguan Socialist Party.

'Crime will rise'

The final speaker was Luis Carrión, a member of the FSLN National Directorate's Executive Committee, who had observed the meeting.

Taking up the discussion on the garment-textile agreement, Carrión said, "we can't think we're going to maintain what we had in garment-textile. Resources are scarce."

Stability, he stressed, must be the workers' priority. "We've got to get the situation in the countryside in order," he insisted, pointing to a recent series of land conflicts involving small peasants. If stability is not achieved, "the peasants will start assaulting food centers. Crime will rise," he said.

"If the revolutionary workers movement isolates itself from *concertación*," Carrión warned, "the government will say you were responsible for the economic crisis."

Concertación, he promised, can pressure UNO forces in the government to stop taking antilabor measures "unilaterally." For example, he proposed, before the government goes ahead and returns property confiscated under the Sandinistas, "they have to negotiate with the people and find out what the people think."

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Los Angeles

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.

CONNECTICUT

New Haven

Why Is a Socialist Running for Governor? Speaker: Carl Weinberg, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor. Presentation and discussion. Thurs., Sept. 27, 7 p.m. Dwight Hall Common Room, Yale University, High St. between Elm and Chapel. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (203) 772-3375.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Two Young Socialist Alliance Class Series. Series 1: "U.S. Out of the Arab East!" Tues., Sept. 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.

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.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

What's Ahead for Working People in the 1990s? Rally to launch Socialist Workers election campaign. Sat., Sept. 22. Reception, 7 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

Democratic Rights vs. Government Censorship in the Arts: The Fight for Freedom of Expression. Panel discussion. Sat., Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN

Southfield

Israel, Palestine, and the Middle East Crisis. Speaker: Lea Tsemel, attorney from Jerusalem active in Israeli peace movement and defense of Palestinians. Mon., Sept. 24. Refreshments, 7 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Highway (exit Lodge at 10 Mile Road). Donation: \$2. For more information call (313) 841-0160.

MINNESOTA

Austin

National Health Care Crisis. Speaker: Craig Honts, Socialist Workers Party candidate for lieutenant governor. Sun., Sept. 30, 7 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (507) 433-3461.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

East and West Germany: What Is the Drive for Unification All About? Speaker: Peter Thierjung, *Militant* staff writer. Translation to French and Spanish. Sat., Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

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U.S. Out of the Arab East! Bring the Troops Home Now! Class sponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance. 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.

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Meet the Socialist Workers Candidates: Open House. Sun., Sept. 23, 3 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

OREGON

Portland

Middle East Crisis: A War for Oil? Speakers: Abdeen Jabara, president American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; Elizabeth Furse, director Oregon Peace Institute; M. Reza Behnam, Institute for Advanced Middle Eastern Studies; John Savage, administrator, Policy and Planning Division, Oregon Department of Energy. Fri., Sept. 21, 7 p.m. Lincoln Hall Auditorium, Portland State University. Sponsors: Coalition Against U.S. Military Intervention in the Middle East, PSU Middle East Studies Center, Global Forum Campus Christian Ministry. For more information call (503) 230-9309 or 223-1923.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

An Evening to Defend Mark Curtis. Speaker: Héctor Marroquín, Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Sat., Sept. 22, 7 p.m. Ethical Society, 1906 S Rittenhouse Sq. For more information call (215) 849-0819.

Pittsburgh

The Killing Fields of Cambodia: How Washington Backs the Khmer Rouge. Video presentation. Sun., Sept. 23, 7 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

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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.

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Labor's Fight for Affirmative Action. Speaker: Sheila Ostrow, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Sept. 29, 7 p.m. 253 E Main. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (801) 637-6294.

Salt Lake City

Out of Control. Video presentation on worker safety in oil refineries. Sat., Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WEST VIRGINIA

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The Grounding of Frank Lorenzo: The Meaning of the Eastern Strike and Other

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Speakers: Bobby Castillo, International Treaty Council Political Prisoners Project Coordinator, Bay Area chairperson Leonard Peltier Committee; Jacquie Henderson, Socialist Workers Party, member International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 101. Sat., Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m. 3702 Telegraph Ave., Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (415) 420-1165.

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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.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Speakers: Geraldine Harte, Indian Treaty Rights Committee; Justine Smith, Women of All Red Nations; Carol Burke, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Sept. 29, 7 p.m. 545 W Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018.

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Sat., Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

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Labor Battles. Speakers: International Association of Machinists Local 1044 representative on strike against Eastern; Moe Carpenter, International Union of Electronics Workers Local 756 on strike against Asplundh; representative IUE Local 756 Women's Auxiliary; Doug Hord, Socialist Workers Party candidate for state senate, member United Steelworkers Local 1640. Sat., Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

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German Unification. Fri., Oct. 5, 7 p.m. 19 Terry St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: 02-281-4616.

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Rising Labour Fightback. Speaker: Cliff Mack, member Canadian Auto Workers on strike against Ford, just returned from *Militant* reporting trip to Cape Breton coal miners' strike; Gary Watson, Communist League, member United Steelworkers Local 2423. Sat., Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m. 6566 boul. Saint-Laurent. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

Speak Out Against Racism. Speaker: Simone Berg, Communist League candidate for Montréal city council. Sat., Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m. 6566 boul. Saint-Laurent. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

ICELAND

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Keep Sanctions Against South Africa. Speakers: Tim Maseko, African National Congress chief representative to Iceland, Denmark, and Faeroe Islands; Loa Bjarnadottir, member Nelson Mandela Reception Committee; representative Iceland Federation of Labor; Svavar Gestsson, minister of education. Sat., Sept. 29, 3 p.m. Concert to follow. Hotel Bort. Sponsor: Nelson Mandela Reception Committee.

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War, Economic Crisis, and the Challenges Before Working People in 1990. Hear the Communist League candidates. Sat., Sept. 29, 7 p.m. 157a Symonds St. Sponsor: Socialist Forum. Tel: (9) 793-075.

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The Launching of the ANC Women's League. Speaker: Yolisa Modise, took part in launching of Women's League in South Africa in August. Sat., Sept. 29, 2 p.m. Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

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

Workers behind prison walls speak out

Arizona inmates' group celebrates contributions of revolutionary leaders

BY HARVEY McARTHUR

PHOENIX, Arizona — The African Cultural Workshop at the Federal Correctional Institute near Phoenix recently hosted a banquet. The celebration was dedicated to Nelson Mandela, "a true freedom fighter for all the peoples of the world," explained Balagoon Moyenda. Malcolm X, Amilcar Cabral, and Franz Fanon were also honored.

Some 125 inmates attended, mostly Blacks but including a number of white, Native American, and Latino inmates as well.

The prison cafeteria was decorated with streamers in the black, green, and gold of the African National Congress; the red, black, and green of the Black nationalist flag; and the red and black of a "liberation flag" that Balagoon said was originated in the prison at Leavenworth, Kansas, but had been adopted by others throughout the federal prison system.

Pathfinder Press posters of books by Mandela and Malcolm X were hung on the wall. Balagoon urged others to read Man-

dela's *The Struggle Is My Life* and explained that its publisher, Pathfinder, offers a 50 percent discount to prisoners of slightly damaged books. He later introduced Danny Booher from the Phoenix Pathfinder Bookstore and presented him with a \$50 contribution "so that prisoners who lack the resources can obtain these books." The contribution was used to send books to two prisoners' groups.

Balagoon also showed the gathering a copy of the *Militant* with an article on a previous meeting the ACW had organized. This "shows people around the world that we're not dead even though we're in prison, but that we're standing up for the rights of others."

We are getting away from the use of material incentives. Our primary reward should be no more than a good feeling that we made a contribution toward making life a little better under such oppressive conditions.

When one comes face to face with the reality of his condition and finds himself dissatisfied with the condition he is under, it is time to bring about a change. Those who seek the knowledge of how to change a condition will study the theories and methods others have used for social change.

The ACW is constantly involved in cultivating the minds of the oppressed proletarians with the books from the Pathfinder Bookstore and other literature that will uplift the moral, social, cultural, economic, and political consciousness of working-class people. We attribute our economic success to the studies of socialistic theories from Che Guevara and others who have applied socialistic theories that work.

Some of us came to prison from a street life of having good things, having attained some amount of luxuries by whatever means. Some of us have the experience of suffering from the pains of capitalism in poverty, and have also suffered from the greed it breeds once we had attained some success under this same system.

We have lived to know that a capitalistic economy doesn't work for the proletarians. We see the rich becoming more corrupt and the poor becoming more subjugated and oppressed.

The very word "socialism" spells out people, and we need a system for the people.

Iowa prisoner tells of unfair trial

BY MICHAEL YOUNG

ANAMOSA, Iowa — At the present time I am an inmate at the Men's Reformatory in Anamosa, Iowa. I was charged with assault with intent to commit sex abuse. I am not guilty of this charge. I did not receive a fair trial.

The Black Hawk County attorney in Waterloo, Iowa, prosecuted the case. The county attorney and the Waterloo police covered up evidence. The police waited several hours before they took a statement from the woman who filed this charge. They also waited three months before they received a sex assault kit from the woman. They waited six months before arresting me.

Evidence was used against me that my attorney and I did not know about until the trial started. At the same time, I was not allowed to use certain evidence in my defense and a defense witness was not allowed to testify.

There are police reports, statements, and investigative reports that I was not allowed to see. I would like to see this information but was told that it would be illegal for me to see it. Others have informed me that this is not illegal and that the defense lawyer and the county attorney lied to me.

My defense attorney did not defend the case with my best interests in mind. It is very difficult to get a good defense from the Black Hawk County public defender's office because they don't work for the defendants. They work for and are hired by the state, and it is the state that prosecutes the defendant. They do not defend cases with the best interests of society in mind.

This is also true of some private, court-appointed lawyers.

My constitutional rights have been violated in this case. The Black Hawk County court allowed the woman to give perjured testimony in the trial. After one and a half hours of testimony, the court did not know what to believe because she was caught lying several times.

She could not keep her story straight when she was put back on the witness stand to repeat her testimony. It was again proven she lied several times.

The reason this charge was filed against me is that I, along with several others, had filed suit against this woman's husband. The suit involved thousands of dollars. It has since been resolved, and the other plaintiffs and I have received money settlements.

During the closing arguments at my trial, the judge left the courtroom for several minutes on other business. He told the attorneys to continue their arguments.

While the judge was gone, the attorneys had a disagreement and had to go get the judge and bring him back. I requested that a transcript be made of their closing arguments but this was not done.

The Black Hawk County Attorney James Metcalf has recently been suspended. His law license was suspended for the remainder of his term in office and he resigned. He would have served another seven months.

He was suspended because he instructed

his assistants to strike Black jurors from a Black defendant's trial. Other charges against him included abuse of authority and poor prosecutorial decisions.

In recent months Waterloo police officers have had criminal charges filed against them including pandering in prostitution, taking bribes from drug dealers, tax evasion, and gambling.

There is a lot of corruption going on in Waterloo, Iowa. It is time that the public opened their eyes and did something about it because innocent people are getting hurt by the corruption and wrongdoings in the court system. It's time the corruption was stopped and crooked officials removed from office.

Because of all the crooked officials and corruption in Waterloo, the defendant has already lost before he even goes to court.

Canada gov't anti-Mohawk drive continues

Continued from back page

ported on support for the Mohawks within the Canadian Labour Congress, the Canadian Auto Workers, and other organizations.

A protest at the United Nations drew some 40 protesters in early September. They demanded an end to the threats by Canadian and Québec governments against the Mohawks. The protest, which also marched to the Canadian consulate, was sponsored by the American Indian Law Alliance, the American Indian Community House, All-Peoples Congress, and the Solidarity Foundation.

A meeting of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, September 13 called for a peaceful settlement which guarantees the "fundamental human rights of the Mohawk people."

School board reverses decision

The racist campaign whipped up by the Canadian and Québec governments against the Mohawks, which at one point brought out huge mobs of racists who beat and stoned Natives fleeing the army, received a blow on September 11 when 200 people forced a meeting of the Châteauguay School Board to unanimously reverse its decision to exclude Mohawk children of the nearby Kahnawake reserve from its schools.

At a meeting of the Montréal Labor Council (CTM) which is affiliated to the Québec Federation of Labor (FTQ) on September 11, delegates debated what position the labor movement should take on the Mohawk struggle. Some supported the FTQ officialdom which has refused to condemn the SQ and army assault on the Mohawks, calling instead for an inquiry into the SQ's supposedly harsh treatment of the racist mobs.

The meeting adopted a resolution proposing that the CTM invite speakers, including Mohawk representatives, to discuss the demands of Native peoples to a future general meeting. Francine Lajeunesse from the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) said while unions have denounced apartheid in South Africa they have failed to condemn similar measures against the Mohawks. "When we demand Québec sovereignty in two years," he said, "the government will send the army against us."

While generally disagreeing with Mohawk armed self-defense, a majority of those present said that the main problem was not Native tactics but government disrespect for Native rights and the racist mobilizations, which the trade unions should have opposed.



Militant/Cheryl Pruitt

September 16 march through Oka, Québec, in solidarity with Mohawks

Delegate Michel Taylor of CUPE said the argument that tanks should have been used in the dispute because thousands of commuters were inconvenienced by the Mohawk bridge blockade echoed government claims

of public inconvenience used when public sector workers go on strike.

Steve Beren from Seattle and Martin Ahmet from New York contributed to this article.

— 10 AND 25 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

Sept. 26, 1980

As the first anniversary of the U.S. embassy occupation in Iran approaches, Washington is still refusing to meet any of the legitimate demands of the Iranian people.

In a statement issued September 12, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini reiterated some of these demands:

"I have said several times that the hostage taking by the fighting, committed, and Muslim students was the natural reaction to the damages that have been inflicted on our nation by the United States.

"On the return of the deposed shah's wealth and the cancellation of all the U.S. claims against Iran, a guarantee of no U.S. military and political interventions in Iran, and freeing of all our investments, the hostages will be set free."

The response of U.S. officials was that Khomeini's statement required "further exploration."

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

Sept. 27, 1965

Price 10c

The defeat of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party's challenge of the illegally elected Mississippi congressmen was a triumph for the racist rulers of this country. The vote against the challenge in the House was 228 to 143. In order to pass, the challenge required 218 votes — but there are 295 Democrats in the House, and the Johnson administration has been able to pass every single piece of major legislation it has pushed this year.

The fact of the matter is that the administration has openly lobbied against the MFDP challenge in order to assure that the Mississippi Dixiecrats remain in power.

After the overwhelming support that Negro voters gave Johnson in 1964, including the support of the MFDP, Johnson apparently felt he had the Negro vote in his back pocket. The Dixiecrat vote is less secure.

'Militant' Prisoner Subscription Fund

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

Defend British miners' union

A sharp new attack by the British government on the National Union of Mineworkers should be met with widespread solidarity from miners' unions, unionists, and fighting workers around the globe. This new assault can be pushed back by building on the recent victories scored against the months-long media slander campaign aimed at the union and its leadership.

Criminal charges for failure to keep financial records have been filed against Arthur Scargill and Peter Heathfield, the NUM president and general secretary, respectively. Moreover, an investigation has been opened on charges of criminal fraud against the two union leaders — charges that carry prison terms if convicted.

Based on antilabor legislation under the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act of 1974, the charges for failure to keep financial records are an attempt to pry into the unions' affairs and open it up to further victimizations, slander, and other attacks.

During their 1984–85 hard-fought strike, the coal miners organized to hold off government attempts to tie up the unions' funds. The government, in addition to putting the union into receivership, sought to break the miners' resistance to plans to close pits and lay off a massive number of union members.

Britain's ruling families believe they have the right to pry into the affairs of working-class organizations such as unions, committees defending political activists from frame-ups, or those working in solidarity with struggles around the world.

Protecting working-class organizations from government intrusion and defending the NUM today is an essential part of strengthening the ability of other unions to wage fights against the employer and government offensive. The legacy of the important miners' battles over the past two decades

and its fighting capacity today make the union a target of big business and bankers in Britain as they seek to break unions and increase their competitive edge in relation to other imperialist powers. Weakening the NUM would embolden the employers to step up their antiunion efforts.

An aggressive defense effort by the Women Against Pit Closures, Scargill and Heathfield, members of the NUM, and others who see the stakes in the fight has gained momentum and pushed back the slander campaign of the big-business media.

By fighting to prevent the attempts by the employers in Britain to limit labor's ranks from mobilizing and exercising power, the NUM ranks and Scargill and Heathfield have faced a concerted campaign against them. This has been waged by the big-business media, by the courts and government, and by some in the trade union and Labour Party hierarchy.

Aimed at framing up, scandalizing, and breaking the fighting capacity of the NUM, the antiunion drive also seeks to deal blows to the International Miners' Organisation.

A conquest of the worldwide solidarity won in the 1984–85 strike, the formation of the IMO was a step forward for mine workers everywhere. Aid has been raised through the IMO for other battles, and it has provided a forum for mine workers to discuss common struggles and challenges.

Member unions of the IMO — some 43 organizations in 39 countries — can take the lead in responding to the new attack. Mine union officials from Australia, France, and elsewhere have already spoken out in defense of the NUM and the IMO.

All working people should join in the international campaign to demand: "Hands off the NUM, Scargill, and Heathfield!" "Drop the charges and end the government investigation!"

Oppose parole moratorium

Alabama Gov. Guy Hunt's six-month moratorium on parole is a blow to prisoner rights and civil liberties. It is also a probe by the governor and other state officials to see if new restrictions can be placed on parole.

These actions have wide implications. If the moratorium is allowed to stand and restrictions on parole are imposed in Alabama, they will serve as a precedent that other states and the federal government will attempt to copy.

Parole is a right that was won by working people, who are most abused by the capitalist justice system and are the vast majority in prisons today. Denying parole will hit them hardest, especially workers who are Black and Latino — 20 percent of the U.S. population, but almost half of the total prison population.

This attack will also have an impact on frame-up victims and make it more difficult to win their freedom — from Johnny Imani Harris in Alabama to Leonard Peltier in Kansas, Geronimo Pratt in California, Mark Curtis in Iowa, Mumia Abu Jamal in Pennsylvania, Donnie Thomsbury and three other union miners in Kentucky, and many others.

The victimization by Hunt and other state officials of the entire prison population because of accusations of rape and murder against two parolees is patently unjust. It not only denies the two the presumption of innocence, but scapegoats all prisoners and further dehumanizes them.

Prison conditions in the United States are a scandal. Jails across the country are overcrowded. Many lack adequate facilities. The federal prison population is currently 66 percent more than jails are designed to hold. Between 1983

and 1988 the number of prisoners in local jails increased by 54 percent. More than 40 percent of inmates in the country's jails are held in cells smaller than the standard 60 square feet.

The federal prison population is expected to double by 1995. And the prisons are becoming a profitable business. Already more than 10 percent of the country's inmates are held in rental cells. The average cost of housing a Louisiana prisoner, for example, is \$22 a day, but local sheriffs can get twice that amount on the out-of-state rental market. The District of Columbia now pays \$29 million a year to rent jail space in other states.

The effort to undermine parole rights is cut from the same cloth as the drive for harsher and mandatory jail terms, limitations on the right to bail and to appeal one's conviction, expansion of the use of the death penalty, increasing restrictions on prisoners, construction of more prisons, and multiplying the number of cops.

These attacks on the democratic rights of working people and the oppressed are the result of the capitalist system's deepening crisis, not fighting "crime" as capitalist politicians claim. The U.S. rulers are preparing for the not too distant future when they will have to confront growing numbers of working people who will fight against the onslaught of imperialist war, continued union-busting, racist and sexist attacks, and rapidly declining living standards.

Every supporter of prisoners' rights and civil liberties needs to speak out against the Alabama moratorium. It should not be allowed to stand.

End food blockade of Iraq

Continued from front page

attempted to blame the Iraqi government for using "the food weapon" to deny food to Asians and other needy people in Iraq and Kuwait. But it is the ever-tighter squeeze that Washington and its allies have imposed on that country that is the real "food weapon." Under the cover of a UN Security Council resolution, a U.S.-engineered economic blockade has been in place against Iraq for more than a month.

The decision to limit humanitarian aid has gone hand in hand with efforts to draw even more tightly the noose around Iraq by cutting off all passenger and cargo air links to and from that country and calling for the detention of Iraqi merchant ships anywhere in the world. And a proposal is being floated to impose a secondary boycott — that is, to

extend trade sanctions to other countries caught breaking the embargo against Iraq.

The Cuban representative on the 15-member Security Council took the initiative in opposing the restrictions sponsored by the five permanent members on the council — Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union, and the United States. Cuba proposed an alternative resolution that would exempt all food supplies from the UN trade embargo.

This proposal deserved support. Its defeat and the adoption of the stiff restrictions shows the extent to which the UN body is being used to give cover to imperialism's savagery in attempting to force the Iraqi people to say "uncle" and to its preparations for military aggression against Iraq.

'Drawing the line' in Korea and Iraq

BY DOUG JENNESS

Last month, when President George Bush called for sending tens of thousands of U.S. troops to Saudi Arabia and nearby waters, he declared "a line has been drawn in the sand" against what he asserted was the threat of an Iraqi invasion of Saudi Arabia.

Almost exactly 40 years earlier a similar statement was made by another presidential administration. In a new book, *Drawing the Line: The Korean War, 1950-1953*, Richard Whelan quotes from the official minutes of a June 25, 1950, meeting then President Harry Truman had with top military and foreign policy advisers to discuss invading Korea.

"General Bradley," the minutes stated, "said that we must

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

draw the line [against Communist expansion] somewhere.

"The president stated he agreed on that.

"General Bradley said that Russia is not yet ready for war. The Korean situation offered as good an occasion for action in drawing the line as anywhere else."

Examining how Washington attempted to draw this line and why it failed to do so helps give a clearer perspective for major events of the past 40 years and for the stakes in Washington's current aggression in the Arab East.

Bradley and Truman's decision "to draw the line" was made only a few months after a victorious revolution had swept away imperialist domination of China and just a couple of years after capitalism had been overturned in Eastern Europe. The U.S. ruling families were particularly bitter about what they saw as their "loss" of China, as this had been the most coveted plum they hoped to pick following their victory over Japan in 1945.

Korea has been divided since 1945 as the result of an agreement between the Soviet and U.S. governments. In the North, with the aid of Soviet armed forces, capitalist rule was overturned, and in the South a dictatorial regime was set up by U.S. military forces.

A civil war was raging in the South, and in June 1950 military forces from the North swept into the South backing the popular struggle against the puppet regime. Washington saw this as an opportunity to assert its domination over the entire peninsula. It sought to redraw the line demarcating its area of domination — which had been located on the 38th parallel — at the Yalu River (known as the Amnok River in Korea) on the China-Korea border.

The Truman administration succeeded in getting important cover from the United Nations Security Council. That body adopted a resolution calling on UN members to provide military aid to Washington's puppet regime. The Soviet delegate, who had been boycotting the Security Council for several months protesting the absence of a delegate from the new Chinese government, was absent.

Although 16 governments sent troops that served under a U.S.-dominated UN command, the participation from countries other than the United States was minimal. Some 5.7 million U.S. troops served in Korea during the three-year war compared to less than 50,000 from the other 15 countries combined.

During this war the U.S. imperialist rulers resorted to the same savagery they have demonstrated many times before and since, including in Vietnam, to try to impose their will. U.S. troops committed countless atrocities, slaughtering thousands of civilians, including children, considered to be "communist suspects." In Sinchon County, one of the worst-hit areas, some 35,000 people, one quarter of the population, were killed in 52 days of occupation during the fall of 1950.

Cities were subjected to saturation bombing, including with napalm, and irrigation ditches were bombed.

In spite of this torrent of death and destruction the Koreans in the North not only refused to surrender but handed Washington its first military defeat. With indispensable aid from hundreds of thousands of Chinese troops, the U.S. forces were driven back to the 38th parallel from the China-Korea border, preventing Washington from dominating the entire peninsula and posing an even greater menace to China.

The U.S. government's defeat was a major step in altering the relationship of forces between the imperialists and the toilers around the world in favor of the latter. Among other things, it helped make possible the victory won by Vietnamese fighters against Washington in the early 1970s.

Since the Korean War Washington has maintained tens of thousands of troops and 1,000 nuclear weapons in the South and continued provocative actions against the North. Whether or not Washington can step up its provocations and build up its military forces or must agree to concessions de-escalating its military presence in the South will depend on what it can get away with in other parts of the world.

Today, for example, the stakes are immense for working people throughout the world, including in Korea, as Washington — against using UN cover — attempts "to draw a line in the sand" in the Middle East. If the U.S. government can score a military triumph there, it will be a blow to all working people and to the efforts to get U.S. troops out of Korea.

Book tells of fight of Amazon rain forest workers

Fight for the Forest: Chico Mendes in His Own Words. Edited by Duncan Green. London: Latin American Bureau (Research and Action) Ltd., 1989. 96 pp.

BY GENE LAWHORN
AND FRED NELSON

"They call up the union hall and ask things like 'Is Chico Mendes OK? Would you like to be OK like Chico?'" explained Osmarino Amâncio Rodriguez, secretary of the National Council of Rubber Tappers (CSN). He spoke at a July 31 news conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, about continuing threats by giant cattle ranchers against unionists

IN REVIEW

fighting to save the Amazon rain forest. The ranchers are extending their holdings destroying the forest.

Chico Mendes was the president of the Xapuri Rural Workers Union and a leader of the CSN who was gunned down by hired assassins on Dec. 22, 1988. *Fight for the Forest* tells his story. It is the story of rain forest workers, rubber tappers, and nut collectors, who are dependent on the "fruits of the forest" for their livelihoods, and their conflict with wealthy landowners, who are razing the forest.

This 96-page book consists of an interview with Mendes by Brazilian sociologist Candido Grzybowski just a few weeks before Mendes' murder. The reader is provided with an abundance of maps, drawings, and data describing the economic and ecological condition of the Amazon. The Amazon is the earth's single largest source of oxygen and an important source of pharmaceutical products. Two-thirds of the earth's surface water is in this forest, and one-third of the known species of plants and animals live there. Besides tapping rubber, Native peoples use jute, babacu, and tucuma found there to make baskets, hats, hammocks, and alcoholic beverages.

The forest is also the home of the Brazilian nut tree, which will only produce nuts within the confines of a complex rain forest ecosystem. It is against the law in Brazil to fell a nut tree. But when other plants and trees surrounding them are cut, the trees are rendered worthless.

In the mid-1970s Mendes set out, with others, to organize rural workers in the state of Arce near the Bolivian border. By the early 1980s rubber tappers were unionized in all of the municipalities there.

Rubber estates in the Amazon keep tappers in a state of debt slavery supported by illiteracy and archaic laws. Workers are prevented from leaving these estates until their debts are paid. This, of course, almost never happens.

Along with leading a literacy drive, the CSN organizes health posts and cooperatives to try to break down these feudal-like conditions. Its main goal, however, is the fight to prevent the deforestation of the Amazon.

A key weapon in this fight is called the *empate*. These are mass meetings of rubber tappers, nut collectors, their families, and Indian communities that peacefully confront workers who have been hired by ranchers to cut down the forests to make grazing land. The protesters try to convince the workers to lay down their tools.

Inevitably, these mobilizations are met with organized violence by ranchers and police, backed up by the courts. "Since 1975 the rubber tappers of Brasileia and Xapuri have carried out 45 *empates*," Mendes explained. "These have led to about 400 arrests, 40 cases of torture, and some of our comrades have been assassinated. But our resistance has saved more than 1.2 million hectares of forests. We've won 15 and lost 30 *empates*, but it was worth it."

In forging an alliance of workers, Native peoples, and environmentalists, the struggle begun by Mendes provided inspiration. "Our proposals are now not just ours alone," Mendes said, "they are put forward together with Indians and rubber tappers. Our fight is of all the peoples of the forest."

He explained that the rubber workers are not against the

economic uses of the forest, but are against its senseless destruction. One hectare of rain forest can provide 20 times the income of a "forest cleared to cattle," Mendes argued.

Fight for the Forest shows that workers' struggles to unionize and the fight to protect the environment go hand-in-hand.

Mendes' political experiences are detailed in a lively and rich manner. After having been elected to the Municipal Council as a member of the Brazilian Democratic Movement (MDB), a liberal capitalist party, Mendes was nearly expelled from the party and removed from office for his attempts to organize rubber workers. "It was how I found out how the political machine works, how workers are conned," he recounted. "It's a tragic, ridiculous system. Without realizing it workers are like the person who meets an injured lion, cures the lion, and then gets eaten by it! The workers strengthen the politicians who then defend the workers enemies. And many workers have not yet discovered this." Mendes later joined the Workers Party (PT).

The introduction to the book explains why the debt imposed on Brazil by the imperialist banks is responsible for the destruction of the rain forest. Brazil has the largest debt in the Third World.

The introduction notes, "Chico's [Mendes] death was number 90 in 1988's catalogue of murders of Brazilian rural workers and their supporters — church outreach workers, lawyers, and education workers."

Fight for the Forest is a short book that contains a wealth of important information. Mendes is another one of those heroes who are like shooting stars. They are only here for a short time, but while they're here they brighten up a cold dark night with their passing.

Fred Nelson is a member of the International Woodworkers of America-Canada Local 1-357 in British Columbia, and Gene Lawhorn is a member of Lumber and Sawmill Workers Local 29-49 in Sutherlin, Oregon.

NOTES FROM SUBSCRIBERS

Every week the *Militant* circulation office sends letters to readers whose subscriptions are about to expire, encouraging them to renew. In the letters discounts on the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist* are offered.

Militant supporters around the world also carry out organized renewal campaigns. The most recent such campaign was conducted in July. Many of the subscribers who were called and visited had taken advantage of 12-week trial subscriptions to the paper during the March-May subscription drive. During that nine-week campaign, 5,033 new readers signed up.

Below are excerpts from comments received from readers who resubscribe.

Eastern strike

I really appreciate the job the *Militant* is doing in covering the Eastern strike. It is the best source of news about it available. It's newsy and makes you feel good to hear about strike support around the country.
An Eastern striker
Louisville, Kentucky

If possible, any analysis or predictions on what Eastern management or the trustee will do if the airline continues its financial nosedive.
R.L.
Boonton, New Jersey

Enjoy it

Enjoy reading the *Militant*, especially the article by Doug Jenness, "Learning about socialism."

I've worked in a slaughterhouse for years. I just changed jobs, now I work for Pirelli Armstrong tire company. If by any chance you get any news on rubber workers contracts or what have you, I would appreciate it. Still enjoy reading about slaughterhouse workers also.

I also enjoy reading what other workers in other countries are going through.

K.N.
Lemoore, California

I just think you are doing a great job! I learn a lot from reading your paper. I'm only 14 years old and this knowledge is very important to me.

Keep up the good work!

C.A.
Raleigh, North Carolina

More info on SWP

Enclosed is a check for a 12-week subscription. Along with the newspaper, I would really appreciate more info about the SWP.

Thanks bunches! I am so glad that there is an organization such as yours around. It's much needed.

K.S.
Palm Bay, Florida

Pipeline to truth

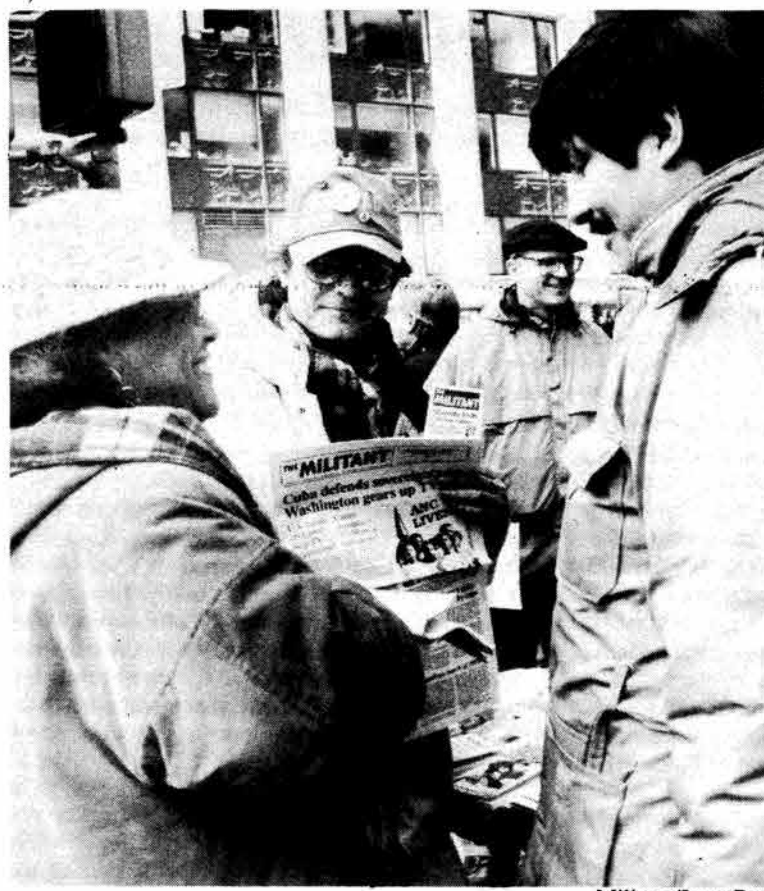
I love the *Militant*! Read it from cover to cover every week. I am a disabled former student and union activist and the *Militant* is my pipeline to the truth.

I love reading Doug Jenness and Harry Ring. I look forward to your coverage of South Africa, Cuba, and the Eastern Airlines strike.

Justice to Mark Curtis!
D.J.
Santa Monica, California

Cuba

My consciousness continues to grow. The U.S. oligarchy has succeeded in destroying every country



Militant/Janet Post

Militant supporters participated in April 7 "Hands off Cuba" action in New York City, selling 17 subscriptions along with 113 copies of the paper and 20 copies of the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*.

that doesn't bow to its wishes. Except of course Cuba.

Castro is not getting any younger. Does Cuba have contingency plans in the event Castro dies or is assassinated?

S.L.
Danbury, Connecticut

Mideast idiocy

I've been a subscriber off and on for a decade. After reading your August 24 issue covering the burgeoning Mideast idiocy — as well as articles dealing with successes in the union movement with the defeat of Frank Lorenzo and updates on the Curtis case — I'm extending my subscription for six months.

This issue is yet another example of your superb coverage. I look forward to six more months of the *Militant* with enthusiasm.

G.H.
Seattle, Washington

Mark Curtis

My favorite piece was written by Mark Curtis and his warden. It was really informative to see both views side by side. It showed the way people lie and then showed the true story.

Keep up the good work.

K.S.
Houston, Texas

Would you please advise me as to the mailing address of Mark Curtis. I want to write to him. Thanks.

C.N.
Seattle, Washington

Editor's note: Address letters to Mark Curtis #805338, Box 316 JBC Dorm, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627. Sender's full name and address must be in the upper left of the envelope and the name must be signed in full at the end of the letter. Greeting cards and photos less than 8 1/2 x

11 inches are permitted.

South Africa

As South Africans we value your progressive coverage of the unfolding struggle in South Africa. As international educators, we find your internationalist approach to humanity universally is only matched by your unpretentious, readable coverage of most issues.

Amandla!
N.M. and M.M.
Burlington, Vermont

I am a Black working-class woman and I find your coverage of weekly events to be indispensable. I am especially looking forward to your reports from South Africa and on the domestic Black liberation struggle.

I regard myself as a friend of the Socialist Workers Party and write in SWP candidates whenever I vote.

D.M.
Berkeley, California

Tenant's rights

I suggest a story on the recent passing of an apartment registration fee by the Seattle city council. This tenant tax will raise millions of dollars for the Seattle general fund at the expense of working people.

Also the city has approved a mandatory home inspections bill, which means the city of Seattle can inspect my home with or without my consent. These mandatory inspections will violate the rights of many working people.

R.W.
Seattle, Washington

From New Zealand

Very good, informative international news. Good perspective on overseas, not filtered through general media.

A student
Wellington, New Zealand

Donation of \$45 for whatever you think best. Thanks for a good paper — even though a bit U.S. oriented. That's understandable.

J.T.
Auckland, New Zealand

Corrections

Last week's *Militant* article on the Eastern strike incorrectly identifies a contributor to the article, Bill Schenk, as an Eastern striker. Schenk is a retired Machinists Grand Lodge representative and a strike activist from North Carolina.

The editorial in the same issue on "Challenges for Curtis backers" states that organizers of a recent United Nations meeting in Havana had invited Mark Curtis Defense Committee leader Kate Kaku to speak before the conference. In fact, the organizers of the event had invited leaders of the defense committee to attend the conference where they would have had the opportunity to get on a speakers' list had their travel not been delayed by the U.S. State Department.

Canadian miners' strike holds firm against antiunion moves

BY NANCY WALKER
AND CLIFF MACK

GLACE BAY, Nova Scotia — Striking Cape Breton coal miners are strengthening their fight against the Cape Breton Development Corporation (DEVCO) here on Canada's Atlantic Coast. At three mass meetings September 12, strikers decisively rejected DEVCO's latest attempt to break their strike.

"If 30 Mohawks can tie up the country, then a couple thousand miners can take on DEVCO," declared one striker, emerging from a spirited meeting at the Glace Bay Miners' Forum arena. He was referring to the Mohawk Indians in Oka, Québec, who have spent the last two months behind barricades, holding off government and army attempts to steal their land.

The 2,300 members of the United Mine Workers (UMWA) District 26 walked out August 15. DEVCO, a federal government-owned corporation, broke its contract with the miners by contracting out 24 coal-hauling jobs at its Prince colliery and selling its coal trucks while miners were on vacation. Unionists then set up pickets to prevent entry of the nonunion trucks.

When DEVCO responded by locking out the Prince miners, union members struck the company's remaining operations at Phalen and Lingan mines, as well as at the coal preparation plant, warehouse, and machine shops.

The Canada Labour Relations Board promptly ruled the strike "illegal" and the courts ordered pickets down at the Prince mine, now decorated with a sign declaring "Camp Mohawk."

Criminal charges

DEVCO refused to negotiate with the union. But the miners held their ground. Fourteen members, along with several union officers, have been charged with defying the injunction. They go to court September 24.

The contracting-out of the coal-hauling operation is the latest in a series of attacks by DEVCO on the union. The company has been threatening to close its Lingan mine, as well as carrying out a harsh policy of disciplining and firing sick and injured miners.

DEVCO President Ernie Boutilier previously headed up SYSCO steel works in nearby Sydney. There he presided over the elimination of thousands of jobs in the past decade. As striking miner Ernie MacQueen said, "He came to DEVCO to do the same thing."

Miners say they are fighting for their dignity, their future, and that of their communities. According to William Gillis, president of the UMWA Prince local, "We've got 600 people in the district looking for work in the mines." Coal mining jobs are the main source of employment in Cape Breton.

Working people in Nova Scotia suffer an official unemployment rate of 10.6 percent as compared to Canada's overall official rate of 7.7 percent. Conditions in the Cape Breton region of Nova Scotia have always been more severe, forcing workers to migrate south and west in search of jobs.

On September 11, miners heard a radio news report stating that District 26 officials were calling them to return to work that night in order to get DEVCO to sign an agreement.

Within hours, more than 600 miners and their families had gathered in front of DEVCO offices in Glace Bay to protest and discuss the next steps in the fight. Strikers were outraged at the coal bosses' attempts to force them back to work without a signed agreement on the subcontracting and other grievances and while some union members face court charges.

Donna, a miner's wife who had spent the morning picketing DEVCO, said, "The men can't go back now with nothing. They've



Miners picket Cape Breton Development Corporation headquarters. Strikers have rejected latest company attempt to break their strike.

worked too hard for this strike."

"The strike's not over!" local strike leaders declared and the crowd roared its agreement. A call went up for mass union meetings to decide on the company proposal. Speakers appealed to miners' wives and children to join the fight. Miners vowed to strengthen the picket lines to prevent any DEVCO at-

tempts to start up operations. Hundreds headed out to the mine gates and remained there until morning.

Coming out of the mass meetings the following day after rejecting the company's proposal, there was wide-ranging discussion on how to continue the fight against DEVCO's union-busting drive, as well as lots

of work to do to prepare for the possibility of a long strike.

At Glace Bay, miners rolled up their sleeves to move hundreds of cartons of food into their local's new food bank. Lauchie McLeod and Shannon MacPherson of the UMWA Crisis Committee said, "The response of town merchants has been excellent." Several days earlier their committee distributed about 760 bags of new school supplies to the children of miners. The United Steelworkers of America (USWA) plans to set up a plant-gate collection at the big SYSCO works in Sydney. The Nova Scotia Teachers Union has donated \$4,000 to the strike.

Across the bay in Sydney Mines, a food bank is already set up at the UMWA hall. A list of donors decorates the walls, stretching halfway around the main hall, and names other unions, local businesses, and farmers.

Cape Breton hospital workers and bank workers are also on strike. The 1,000 hospital strikers, members of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers, have shut down nine of the region's 13 hospitals in their fight for wage parity with hospital workers throughout the province. Many are miners' wives and there is much support between the two strikes.

Members of the USWA are also on strike against the Glace Bay Royal Bank. As miners rallied September 12 to march to a mass UMWA meeting, they joined the bank workers in a lively show of strength and together shut the bank down for the day, turning away a van full of management strikebreakers.

Dozens of striking bank and hospital workers, some of them wives and daughters of miners, attended the UMWA meetings.

Gov't continues anti-Mohawk drive

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO
AND ROBERT SIMMS

OKA, Québec — Some 45 Mohawk men, women, and children continue to refuse to surrender to the 400 heavily-armed soldiers of the Canadian army who surround their fortified refuge in a detoxification center at Kanesatake, a Mohawk community near here, about 30 miles northwest of Montréal.

These besieged Natives have been facing down the army for nearly three weeks. The army invaded Kanesatake on September 1 and dismantled barricades that had been up since July 11, when more than 100 Sûreté du Québec provincial police (SQ) attacked a peaceful blockade preventing the construction of an exclusive golf course on Mohawk land.

On September 15, the army cut all remaining phone lines connecting the Mohawk compound with the outside world. It has also cut back on food rations going to the besieged Mohawks and prevented warm clothing from reaching them.

Attacks on democratic rights

The army is trying to pressure the journalists remaining with the Mohawks to leave with threats that "it cannot guarantee their safety." It has jammed their cellular phone links, refused new film or batteries from crossing the army lines, and stopped any more journalists from entering the Mohawk compound. The Canadian Association of Journalists and the Québec Journalists' Professional Federation have denounced these measures as "a serious attack on freedom of expression."

To win court permission for the army's action jamming the journalists' phone links, the SQ charged before a judge that the Mohawks were using the phones to organize

massive sabotage of bridges to Montréal and hydroelectric power lines across Canada.

The SQ and the army together have effectively sealed off Kanesatake and Kahnawake, another Mohawk reserve south of Montréal, to all but residents and journalists since July 11. Some 3,000 troops have occupied and surrounded the two settlements since the end of August when Mohawk barricades at Kahnawake came down. The barricades had closed off a major commuter bridge to Montréal in solidarity with the Kanesatake struggle.

Broadening attack on democratic rights

The most recent army and SQ actions are part of a broadening attack on democratic rights. Eleven police associations representing 33,000 cops across Canada put a full-page ad in the Montréal daily *La Presse* September 13 demanding no amnesty be given to any Mohawks. More than 50 Mohawks have been arrested and charged by the SQ, including Randy Horne, who was brutally beaten by the army on September 8. Horne faces charges on five separate counts.

On September 14, 30 cops from the SQ and 40 soldiers in armored personnel carriers raided a flea market in Kahnawake. Later, they claimed they had found weapons in a nearby field. Mohawk leaders have vehemently denounced these ongoing raids.

Hundreds of Mohawks at Kahnawake demonstrated against the army occupation September 16, serving the army with an eviction notice, "effective immediately." Some 300 racists mounted a small counter-demonstration just outside the reserve at the same time, calling for the SQ to resume patrolling Kahnawake.

More than 500 Mohawk supporters joined a demonstration outside Oka on September

16. Most of those participating were Québécois from Montréal. François Saillant, one of the action's organizers, noted the parallels in the use of the army against the Mohawks with the sending of thousands of soldiers into Québec in 1970, under the authority of the War Measures Act, against a rising wave of Québec national and labor struggles.

Chief Dan Bearclaw, a Delaware Indian from Pennsylvania, condemned the Canadian government and relayed solidarity messages from Sioux, Seminole, and Apache Indians. "We are all brothers and sisters and there are no borders in the world that can change that."

A group of Australian aborigines sent their representative, Jim Everett, to express their solidarity with the fight of the Mohawk people.

Seattle meeting denounces gov't attack

In Seattle over 60 people turned out to hear an international panel of speakers denounce the Canadian government's violence against the Mohawks and other Native peoples.

Peter Leech of the Lillooet Nation discussed the rallies, sit-ins, and other peaceful protests organized over the last several weeks by Natives in British Columbia to push forward their fight for land rights.

Ron Dan of the Mount Currie Nation spoke at the meeting, organized by the Militant Labor Forum, along with George Lai Thom of the African National Congress. Thom noted the long relationship between the ANC and the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, and said the ANC has "a special feeling for the aboriginal people of this continent."

Colleen Levis, of the Communist League of Canada also spoke. A member of the International Association of Machinists, Levis re-

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