

Miners in Britain open fight for wage increase

BY PETE CLIFFORD

SHEFFIELD, England — A special delegate conference of the National Union of Mineworkers held here October 11 decided to hold a membership vote on a proposal to ban working overtime. Through such action, the miners are attempting to force British Coal to open negotiations over their demand for a £50 (£1=US\$1.85) per week pay raise for all miners. Voting will take place November 15 and 16.

NUM President Arthur Scargill said union leaders will campaign for a yes vote through leaflets and a series of meetings at coal pits throughout the country. "Because British Coal refuses to talk to the NUM," he said, "we have had enough. We are no longer prepared to accept the contemptuous attitude of British Coal." Scargill reported that the overtime ban would affect 30 percent of the underground coal mined in Britain.

Since the 1984-85 national strike by the NUM, British Coal has imposed pay rates on the NUM without negotiations. Overtime and productivity bonuses now make up an average of 46 percent of a miner's pay. Basic pay for underground miners is £151.80 per week and for surface miners, £137.40.

The company has refused to bargain with the NUM, demanding the union agree that the Union of Democratic Miners can represent NUM members in pits where a majority of miners belong to the UDM. A proemployer organization set up by strikebreakers at the end of the 1984-85 strike, the breakaway union holds a majority only in the Nottinghamshire area. More than 80 percent of all miners are NUM members.

In response to the vote of the delegates conference, the employee relations director at British Coal threatened to end the union's dues check-off. "We have no intention of helping bankroll union activists who are intent on causing disruption," he said.

The decision to seek membership approval for an overtime ban came the day after delegates gave a vote of confidence to their national union officers in response to an eight-month witch-hunt against them. The October 10 session of the conference had

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Thousands say 'no' to U.S. war in Mideast

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

NEW YORK — A diverse crowd of more than 10,000 marched through midtown Manhattan to demonstrate their opposition to the massive U.S. military buildup and war threats in the Middle East on October 20. The New York action was the largest among dozens of internationally coordinated protests demanding, "Bring the troops home now!"

Held in more than 26 cities across the United States and in 10 other countries, the first such day of coordinated protests was organized by a broad coalition of peace, student, solidarity, and other political groups; religious organizations; and trade union officials.

Since early August, the Pentagon has amassed more than 200,000 troops, along with battleships, planes, helicopters, tanks, and other weapons of war in Saudi Arabia and the surrounding waters.

A fragile coalition of 25 governments has taken part in the war preparations under cover of a series of United Nations Security Council resolutions, since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait August 2.

Enforcing an embargo of food and medicine to Iraq, Washington's stated goal is the immediate withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the return of the Kuwaiti monarch to his throne.

In Washington's massive preparations for war against Iraq, body bags have already been shipped back to the United States carrying victims of military accidents.

GIs and reservists opposing U.S. intervention and refusing to be deployed to the Mideast, family members of GIs stationed in the Gulf region, and veterans of past imperialist wars led off the New York march. They marched together — youth in their early twenties; Vietnam veterans wearing faded fatigues, some in the bright T-shirts of Black Vets for Social Justice; and elderly people



Militant/Eric Simpson

October 20 march in Seattle. Protests took place in cities across the country.

riding motorized scooters with "Bring the troops home now" pennants flying from the handle bars.

They chanted in drill march style, "Hey, Hey, Uncle Sam; we remember Vietnam! Hell no, we won't go; we won't die for Texaco!"

Two young reservists spoke out at the rally, Stephanie Atkinson and Ronald Jean-Baptiste, a Haitian-born recruit. Referring to the U.S. ban on Haitians giving blood, Jean-Baptiste said, "If they won't take my blood, I

surely won't go to war for them."

David Cline, a leader of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, addressed a premarch rally at Columbus Circle. "The people who have to go and fight and die have to have a say in this war, and those of us who have fought before have to have a say. And we say no!"

"The best way to support our brothers and sisters serving in the Middle East," the anti-war veteran said, "is to bring them home now."

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Eastern strikers reach for new support

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

Over the past several months striking members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) at Eastern Airlines have traveled to new areas to speak about their continuing labor battle.

Strikers and Machinists union members have spoken to local union meetings, re-

gional and international union conventions, addressed labor rallies, and leafleted workers at plant gates in several areas. These efforts, they say, help win new backing for the strike, raise badly needed funds, broaden the knowledge and understanding in the labor movement of the stakes in their battle, and are key to "keeping the pressure on" Eastern.

Refusing to buckle under to the union-busting demands of former Eastern boss Frank Lorenzo, the Machinists struck the airline on March 4, 1989. Since then, they have waged a tenacious battle stopping Lorenzo in his tracks and preventing the establishment of another nonunion carrier.

Bob Taylor, general chairman of IAM District 100, said in an interview from Atlanta that he has traveled to Alabama and spoken "to locals of the Communications Workers of America, United Mineworkers of America, United Rubber Workers of America, and their support has been overwhelming."

Atlanta is one of the strike centers and Taylor said the picket lines there "are still strong." Having been invited to Alabama several times, unionists in the state have given "excellent support to Machinists on strike at Eastern and the Greyhound strikers," he said.

Taylor said he found many unionists in Alabama "know about the strike and welcome an update on where we're at." He said such speaking engagements, which reach outside cities where strikers are picketing, help deepen the national impact of the strike.

"Our situation of trying to reach fairness for the Eastern families is ongoing," he said. Reaching out and continuing the fight "will have an economic impact on Eastern and help us reach a successful conclusion in this dispute."

Nebraska and Iowa tour

In September IAM Local 796 member Nancy Brown, who is on strike against Eastern in Washington, D.C., visited Nebraska and parts of Iowa to gather support among working people there.

As a result of her tour, trade unions and other strike supporters held successful picket lines that began at the Greyhound terminal in Omaha in support of the Amalgamated Transit Union strike and ended up at the Continental Airlines entrance at Eppley Airfield in support of the Eastern strike.

Brown explained that many meetings she spoke at were set up after she arrived. "When I got there, four days of speaking engagements had been set up, which included meetings with the United Food and Commercial Workers, the United Steelworkers of America, and the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees. But we wanted to talk to other unions, too," Brown said.

One of the reasons the tour got rolling quickly, she explained, was that the Carpenters union gave her office space, a desk to work from, and a phone. "We started calling unions and received numerous invitations. The engagements were mainly union meet-

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Candidates speak out on big issues facing working people

SOCIALIST WORKERS '90 CAMPAIGN

BY YVONNE HAYES

In the 10 days leading up to the November 6 elections, Socialist Workers Party candidates and their supporters are aggressively campaigning to reach as many working people and youth as possible. Armed with the *Militant* and other socialist publications, they are speaking out against the U.S. war drive in the Mideast, discussing the deepening economic crisis of capitalism, and explaining why unionists should support the strikers at Eastern Airlines. In many cities, election campaign wind-up rallies and meetings will

be taking place (see listings on page 12).

Socialist campaigners were among the thousands who participated in the October 20 actions against the U.S. military buildup in the Arab-Persian Gulf region. In California, SWP gubernatorial candidate Joel Britton was one of the speakers at the Los Angeles antiwar rally.

"A central focus of my campaign," Britton said, "is U.S. hands off the Middle East! This is a bipartisan drive to wage a catastrophic war against the people of the Mideast. The five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council are giving cover to this unilateral U.S. aggression."

"Let's stay united on the basis of immediate and unconditional withdrawal from the Middle East," he said. "No U.S. blood for Big Oil!" Britton is an oil worker and member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic

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Garment workers in Fiji strike for better conditions

BY ROGER JACKSON

SUVA, Fiji — Some 400 garment workers struck the Just Cham Garment Company at Nausori, a small town several miles outside Fiji's capital, protesting starvation wages and sweatshop conditions.

Strikers were averaging US\$14 for a 40-hour week. Because of illegal deductions by their employers, some take home less than \$10 a week. The workers, all women, are also denied lunch and other breaks, forced to work Saturdays unpaid, and subjected to sexual harassment from management, such as strip searches, allegedly to look for stolen garments.

The garment workers are organized by the Fiji Association of Garment Workers. Association organizer Ema Druavesi, also secretary of the Women's Wing of the Fiji Trade Union Congress (FTUC), explained in an interview that the Fiji garment industry grew rapidly in 1985 after the government extended tax-free status to clothing exporters. As a result, many New Zealand-based clothing companies and Asian investors relocated to Fiji, taking advantage of the low wages, while retaining or gaining privileged access to markets in Australia, New Zealand, and North America, Druavesi said. There were now some 9,000 women working in the industry, she estimated, often under totally unacceptable conditions.

With the connivance of the government, the unionist said, the garment bosses have disregarded the country's labor laws and denied access to inspectors responsible for monitoring compliance with the basic health and safety regulations. In addition, no minimum wage regulations apply to the industry. An industry tribunal, established after earlier union agitation, had proposed a minimum hourly rate of \$1.13 for experienced workers. However, after the employers threatened to close down and move out of Fiji, the government gave in to the employers' proposal to set the minimum wage at 50 cents an hour, said Druavesi.

Garment and other tax-free export industries were promoted even more in the face of an economic slump precipitated by the reactionary military coup of May 1987, which toppled a newly elected Fiji Labour Party-led coalition government.

The coup aimed to entrench the power of Fiji's high chiefs, who have ruled the former British colony, with the backing of foreign capital, since independence in 1970. Coup leaders also hoped to contain demands for expansion of democratic rights and trade union struggles by workers and tenant sugar farmers. The Labour Party, founded by the FTUC in 1985, opposed the privileges of the chiefs and their racial policies that divided working people into ethnic Fijians or Indians. The latter are descendants of indentured la-

borers brought to Fiji at the turn of the century to work Australian-owned sugar plantations.

Immediately after the coup, Sitiveni Rabuka suspended all trade union rights. However, with the assistance of unions in Australia and New Zealand and the International Transport Workers Federation, which embargoed trade with Fiji, the labor movement was able to force the regime to retreat. The Association of Garment Workers won government recognition in 1989.

Permanent Secretary for Trade and Commerce Navi Naisoro, during a visit to the United States, alleged that the current garment strike was "politically motivated" by the FTUC to "undermine" the government. He was in the United States attempting to negotiate a large export order, primarily from Just Cham.

Druavesi rejected the charge, pointing out that representatives of Just Cham workers had approached the FTUC to demand that a strike be organized.

With the support of the Nausori community, the strikers established themselves in a vacant lot and church hall opposite their struck plant.

This is the latest in a series of strikes by garment workers seeking to narrow their wage gap with other Fijian workers, who may earn four or five times a clothing worker's wage. In response, the government has announced the creation of a Garment Industry Wages Council that includes representatives of unions and employers to propose guidelines for the industry on wages and working conditions.



Cuban diplomat speaks at Detroit meetings

BY STEVE CRAINE

DETROIT — "The enemies of Cuba say Cuba is the last domino, that socialism has failed; but all this is wishful thinking," Clinton Adlum, first secretary of the Cuban Interests Section in the United States, told an October 5 citywide meeting at Wayne State University here.

At the meeting and several others during his three-day tour here, Adlum explained the course of the Cuban revolution today and the Cuban government's opposition to the U.S. economic blockade and mounting war threats against Iraq.

Before, its revolution in 1959, the diplomat explained to the more than 100 people in attendance, Cuba was totally dominated by the United States. "The motivation for our revolution was the degree of racism, the degree of corruption, the degree of sickness" that came with capitalism and foreign domination. "Can you imagine going back to capitalism? There is no going back to that mess. In Cuba, independence and socialism are synonymous for us," he said.

Far from having failed, Adlum pointed out, Cuba's socialist policies are "creating the new human being — a human being practicing solidarity day by day, incapable of amassing wealth while others sink into poverty."

"This is our proudest accomplishment. We don't believe people have to be greedy. We think there is plenty wrong with greed. We are convinced that humankind is trustworthy. This is why we believe in socialism."

He explained, however, that the development of socialism and the new human being is not an easy task because the legacy of thousands of years of exploitation have to be overcome. That is why, he noted, "the construction of socialism is an

ideological and political task."

At an informal meeting with student activists at the University of Michigan, Adlum was asked about the Cuban rectification process and how it differed from the changes taking place in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

"Rectification means to revise, recheck our course — not to change our goal, but to correct our course toward that goal. We do not intend to change our policies to please anyone," he stated. "We are convinced we are on the correct course."

"We are not opposed to change," he said. "Change is a constant fact of life in society as well as in nature. But, please," he emphasized, "don't ask us to change in a backward direction."

'We were creating a monster'

At the Wayne State meeting, he elaborated on these ideas. Prior to rectification, economic policies like the free farmers' market were "creating a monster" in Cuba, he said. "Some Cubans were becoming millionaires and were becoming a social force" in the country. "You can't build socialism with market mechanisms," he continued. "If we were to concentrate only on the economic aspect of constructing socialism, we would only be creating another form of capitalism. We must reject this kind of 'new thinking.'"

Adlum added that changes in the economic and trade policies in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe are seriously affecting Cuba. As of January 1, he noted, Cuba will have to trade with these countries on the basis of hard currency, which is difficult to acquire because of the U.S. trade blockade of Cuba.

Because of cuts in the shipments of oil from the Soviet Union, Adlum told each of his audiences, Cuba is in the process of importing

some 200,000 bicycles and will construct its own bicycle factory. Cuban planners also anticipate increased reliance on oxen for both plowing and transport, he said. "But," he added, "Cuba will not succumb. We do not know the meaning of the word surrender."

U.S. intervention in Mideast

At a meeting at the Hartford Memorial Baptist Church, Adlum also discussed the Cuban government's view of the U.S.-led intervention in the Mideast. While opposing Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, he blasted Washington's hypocrisy in condemning Iraq after its own invasions of Panama and Grenada.

"And where were the five permanent members of the UN Security Council for the last 10 years, when South Africa was illegally occupying Namibia?" he asked. Cuba opposes the embargo against Iraq because "Cuba would never use food as a weapon," he added.

Adlum's talk culminated a three-day tour in the Detroit area sponsored by the Justice for Cuba Coalition. As the first representative of the Cuban government to visit here in many years, Adlum was greeted by many different groups in the city.

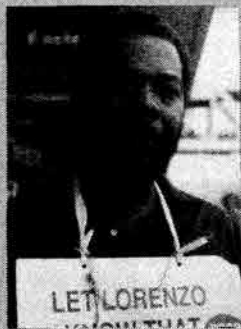
He was presented with a unanimous resolution of the Detroit Common Council, which welcomed him and urged "the United States government to drop restrictions on trade and travel to Cuba so the people of both countries can learn to live in peace and friendship."

Adlum also addressed a luncheon sponsored by the National Lawyers Guild and the Michigan chapter of the National Alliance of Latin American Lawyers, and an Afro-American studies class of 40 at Wayne State.

'The only factual information I have read in regard to the real struggles of labor at Eastern has been in the *Militant*. It not only tells the Eastern facts but the facts for all labor.'

HERB BRADLEY

member Machinists Local Lodge 1932, Eastern Strike Coordinating Committee in Los Angeles



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Pamphlet exposes U.S. war drive in Gulf

BY STEVE CLARK

(First of two parts)

Opponents of the U.S. government's escalating war drive against Iraq now have an important tool to use in their antiwar efforts. Pathfinder has just published a new pamphlet entitled *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations: Fidel Castro and Ricardo Alarcón on the Iraq-Kuwait Conflict and Washington's War Moves*.

A campaign in coming weeks to get this pamphlet into the hands of as many people as possible is an important part of the international effort to mobilize opposition to Washington's war preparations. The 82-page pamphlet will also be an aid to everyone who seeks to expose and condemn Washington's criminal blockade of food and medicine to all those living in Iraq and Kuwait.

The booklet rolled off the presses just a few days before the October 20 demonstrations against the U.S. military buildup, and many copies were sold at these protest actions. A Spanish-language edition will be available in mid-November. Excerpts will appear in the forthcoming fall issue of the French-language quarterly *Lutte ouvrière*.

The central political themes documented and discussed in the pamphlet are explained in the opening paragraphs of the introduction by Mary-Alice Waters:

"The U.S. government is preparing on a massive scale for war against Iraq.

"It is using the unanimous votes of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to give cover to unilateral U.S. acts of aggression.

"Washington's response to the August 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was not motivated by support for national sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. It was an opportunity seized by the U.S. government to advance its imperialist interests.

"Working people the world over are already paying dearly for the U.S.-organized war buildup. The cost in lives and economic well-being will be incalculable if efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict continue to be blocked by Washington."

Big stakes for working people

Whether the U.S. rulers unleash their massive arsenal against the people of Iraq, or choose to try to achieve their ends short of a military onslaught, Washington's war preparations in the Mideast are at the center of world politics today. There will soon be nearly 250,000 U.S. troops on land and sea in the region, in addition to tens of thousands of troops from Britain, France, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, and some 20 other countries. Altogether there are several heavy armored divisions — equipped with more than a thousand modern tanks — on the ground in Saudi Arabia; more than 850 aircraft from the U.S. and allied governments; and some 100 warships, including two U.S. aircraft carrier groups.

This is not only the largest U.S. military operation since the Vietnam War. It is also the largest French military mobilization since the 1954–62 Algerian War and the largest British military action since its war against Argentina to reconquer the Malvinas Islands in 1982. Japan's capitalist rulers are seeking to take advantage of the war buildup to deploy "noncombatant" troops to the Middle East, thus breaking the post-World War II political limits on their use of military power abroad; Germany's rulers are closely following the outcome of Tokyo's initiative with an eye to busting through the ban on their own deployment of military forces beyond their borders.

The stakes in halting the U.S. war drive are very high for working people — especially young workers, farmers, and students — in the United States, the Middle East, and around the world. U.S.-organized aggression would result in the deaths of tens of thousands of civilians and soldiers in Iraq and Kuwait, as well as heavy losses for young people in the uniforms of the U.S. armed forces and those of other armies that make up Washington's fragile coalition.

Disastrous consequences of war

A war would have disastrous consequences for the economic and social conditions of working people the world over, striking with particular vengeance at those in oppressed nations throughout Africa, Asia, the Pacific, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

As Cuban President Fidel Castro warned

in a September 28 speech included in the pamphlet, a U.S. war against Iraq "will not only cost many lives on the battlefield there. Such a war would also be a catastrophe for the world economy. . . . For every life lost on the battlefields of the Arab-Persian Gulf, a thousand persons will die of hunger in the Third World."

The structure of the pamphlet — built around documents and speeches from the UN Security Council — derives from a promi-



F-14 prepares to launch from USS Independence

nent aspect of the U.S. government's war moves.

The Security Council resolutions initiated by Washington as pretexts for its military buildup have had unanimous backing from the council's four other permanent members — the governments of Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and the People's Republic of China. The collaboration of these five governments has provided cover for Washington to act as if its imperialist goals somehow represent the will of the majority of humanity — vaguely equated with what is called the United Nations.

As the history of the 20th century amply confirms, the U.S. government is quite prepared to defend its strategic interests by force of arms — in the Middle East, or anywhere else — without the fig leaf of international cooperation. But the pretense that the military moves against Iraq are UN actions, not unilateral U.S. aggression, is not primarily for Washington's benefit.

Above all, it provides indispensable cover for the governments of the Soviet Union and

various Arab countries to join in the U.S. rulers' reactionary crusade. Thus, the collaboration of the five permanent members of the Security Council is playing a prominent role in the unfolding crisis.

The Pathfinder pamphlet contains each Security Council resolution on the Iraq-Kuwait crisis adopted in August and September, together with the statements related to these measures by Cuba's permanent representative to the UN, Ricardo Alarcón, as well as by Castro. As Waters explains in the introduction, "The government of Cuba, now serving a two-year term on the Security Council, has been the sole voice in the UN to speak out clearly and consistently against the [Bush] administration's war preparations, which are backed by the bipartisan Democratic and Republican coalition in Congress."

By publishing the statements of Cuban government representa-

tives on Washington's war moves, the pamphlet helps break the embargo that the big-business media has imposed on this persuasive voice of opposition. The course of the Cuban government since the outset of the Middle East crisis is powerful testimony to the principled revolutionary internationalism that has been a hallmark of its foreign policy for more than 30 years.

What is most significant about the materials collected in this pamphlet, however, is not who said them, but what they say. The speeches and statements by Castro and Alarcón explain Washington's military

buildup and — in clear, powerful, and reasoned terms — rebut each of the U.S. government's pretexts and rationalizations.

Castro and Alarcón emphasize the Cuban government's commitment to the principles of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, of rejection of military force, and of respect for national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. They condemn the August 2 Iraqi government invasion of Kuwait, as well as its annexation of that sovereign country and attacks on the rights of foreign nationals working in or visiting Iraq and Kuwait.

Washington uses UN cover

At the same time, Cuba's representatives have exposed and denounced each one of Washington's efforts to drape its war moves in the mantle of the UN. As the pamphlet's introduction explains, "Cuba refused to vote for economic sanctions against Iraq or to endorse military steps to force compliance with the trade embargo. Cuba denounced as inhuman — and as an unconscionable violation of fundamental human rights — the measures denying food and medicine to the people living in Iraq and Kuwait. Cuba was the only member of the Security Council to vote against an air embargo of Iraq."

Castro and Alarcón point to the hypocrisy of the U.S. government, which has repeatedly vetoed proposed Security Council measures against its own military intervention in Panama, Grenada, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, the Dominican Republic, and elsewhere during the 45-year history of the UN. Cuba's representatives detail the flagrant U.S. double standard in world affairs:

- Washington's demand that the Security Council enforce an embargo against Iraq, while blocking sanctions against Israel for its occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territories;

- the U.S. rulers' unilateral breach of UN trade sanctions against the racist regimes in Southern Rhodesia — today Zimbabwe — and South Africa;

- Washington's condemnation of the Iraqi regime's hostile actions against diplomatic personnel in Iraq and Kuwait, conveniently ignoring its own aggression against embassies and embassy staffs of other countries as recently as the U.S. invasion of Panama; and many others.

Events since August 2 have placed a spotlight on the political reality of the UN, which, despite the fine words of its charter, is not and has never been an instrument to advance world peace, sovereignty, or national self-determination.

In truth, the very term "the United Na-

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Good beginning sales for Mideast pamphlet

BY SELVA NEBBIA

"I guess the most common response to the pamphlet has been 'It's great that somebody published this,'" said Steve Warshell. He was referring to the new Pathfinder pamphlet, *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*. Warshell and a team of three others sold the new pamphlet from a literature table along the route of the October 20 demonstration against the U.S. war drive in the Mideast in New York City.

Dozens of people at similar demonstrations around the country bought the pamphlet, which had just come off the press a couple of days earlier.

"The biggest problem we faced is we did not order enough," said Jon Hillson from Cleveland. Two days after the Cleveland Pathfinder Bookstore order of pamphlets arrived, they had sold all but two. "At the demonstration we got a good response," he said. People were very interested in reading about Cuba, the "only country that had the honor of voting no at the UN."

"Several people we spoke to said they had heard little about Cuba's position at the UN and wanted to find out more about it," Warshell said. "Most were also very interested in reading the UN resolutions themselves and getting the whole picture of what is going on in the Security Council."

Some 65 pamphlets were sold at the New York action. Among those who bought it were a Puerto Rican Vietnam veteran, several Palestinian youths, a Black woman from Harlem, an immigrant worker from the Ca-

nary Islands, and a young student from Brooklyn. "One guy, a passerby, came up to the Pathfinder literature table and said, 'I think Hussein is like Hitler,'" said Warshell. "After a brief discussion with us, he bought a pamphlet."

In Toronto, Canada, some 3,000 people turned out for a "Rally for Peace and the

Environment." A high school student, reported Pathfinder salesperson Margaret Manwaring, bought the *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* pamphlet and said, "I'm glad there is one country standing up against the war."

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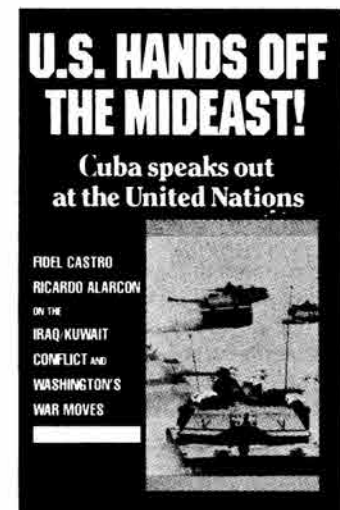
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Candidates address issues facing workers

Continued from front page
Workers Union.

"For the last week I have traveled up and down the Yakima Valley," said Matt Herreshoff in an interview. He is running for U.S. Congress in Washington State. "I've spoken to many hundreds of working people. And it's hard to find anyone who supports this war."

Socialist candidate for state representative Elizabeth Bours, a member of the Young Socialist Alliance, toured the area with Herreshoff. At a lunchtime meeting at Columbian Basin College, she explained to students that "while the U.S. government is spending millions each day to protect the profits of the oil companies, it is cutting back on funds for people with AIDS and other socially necessary services."

Herreshoff also traveled to Pasco, Washington, near the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. The socialist candidate is campaigning for a complete shutdown of the facility. He was also interviewed on a Spanish-language call-in radio show that is popular among farm workers in the area.

Need for labor party

Noting recent struggles by farm workers in the area, Herreshoff stressed the need for working people to take their struggles against war and the economic crisis into the political arena. "We could struggle more effectively if the labor movement organized a political party to unite working people and bring the full power of our unions to every struggle against the bosses, their government, and their parties," he said in an interview with the *Tri-City Herald*. The Democratic and Republican parties, Herreshoff explained are not the parties of working people, but of the ranchers and factory owners.

In North Carolina, SWP congressional candidate Naomi Craine explained that a labor party would be a vehicle for youth outraged by the U.S. war moves and a federal budget that makes war on working people. "Young working-class people should have a voice. We are the ones being sent to die in the Middle East for oil company profits," she said.

Craine, 20 years old, is a textile worker and member of the YSA. She and Walter Blades, the SWP candidate for state senate, announced their campaigns on October 16. They are running on a ticket with the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate, Rich Stuart.

'Breath of fresh air'

That evening Stuart fielded questions from more than 30 callers on a two-hour TV show. Topics ranged from the SWP's support for a woman's right to choose abortion to the struggles against police brutality, racist frame-ups, and the health-care system in Cuba. The socialist campaign is a "breath of fresh air," said a caller from Winston-Salem.

American Agriculture Movement to hold national meeting

BY KATE KAKU

A Rural Strategy Summit is being held in Kansas City, Missouri, November 8-10, sponsored by the American Agriculture Movement, Inc. The farmers organization is encouraging everyone, especially young people to come and participate in the event.

Larry Mitchell, spokesperson for AAM Inc. in Washington D.C., said in an interview, "This is an open forum to get ideas on what we need to do to change U.S. farm policy. This is wide open to everyone, not just members of the AAM. We want to target new people who have not been involved. These people will have new ideas that we haven't thought of."

The memorandum sent out by the AAM to build the meeting explains, "The 1990 Farm Bill coupled with skyrocketing energy costs and calamitous budget cuts, are not only aimed at the heart of AAM's membership, but at the rest of rural America as well. We must engineer a strategy to motivate and mobilize rural America into action this fall and on into next year."

At the same time as the summit, the National FFA — Future Farmers of America — convention and a national delegates meeting of the AAM will also be taking place in Kansas City.

"We're pulling for you in Hickory," said another from the western part of the state.

Socialist campaign teams are also reaching out to areas where the SWP is not fielding candidates this year. Neil Callender, the SWP candidate for Massachusetts state treasurer, and supporters traveled to Jay, Maine, the site of a bitter strike against International Paper that began in June 1987. The strike, which was in response to the paper bosses' demands for massive concessions, was broken when the company successfully brought in hundreds of scabs. Today more than 200 union members are back on the job, working alongside nearly 700 of those hired as strikebreakers.

Socialist campaigners got a friendly response to the *Militant* there. Union members remembered its coverage of their battles. Many agreed with the paper's call for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Mideast. "The government wants us to pay for this war twice," said one worker, "once with our pocketbooks and once with our lives."

Carole Lesnick from Los Angeles; Tony Di Felice from Vancouver, British Columbia; Devin Oldendick from Greensboro, North Carolina; and Kathryn Owen from Boston contributed to this article.



Joel Britton, SWP candidate for California governor, addressing antiwar rally October 20 in Los Angeles. Militant/Lisa Ahlberg

New pamphlet exposes U.S. war drive

Continued from Page 3

tions" is a misnomer. No such thing exists. What does exist is a complex of buildings in New York City, the capital of the imperialist world, where representatives of more than 150 governments gather to present their positions on various world events. Only five governments, however, have any say over what is actually done in the name of the UN.

The UN's executive powers are monopolized by the five permanent members of the Security Council. The Council's remaining 10 seats rotate for two-year terms among the other UN-member governments. These five permanent members, and only these five, exercise what Castro — in one of the items printed in the pamphlet — calls the "anachronistic, unfair, and undemocratic veto privilege." That is, each one of the U.S., British, French, Soviet, and Chinese delegations — on the basis of its veto alone — can block action by the Security Council on any substantive question. Or, when these five governments agree among themselves, that settles the matter.

On the other hand, the UN General Assembly, in which each member country casts an equal vote, has no powers of implementation. What's more, a two-thirds vote is required to adopt resolutions on many questions, including those related to "international peace and security." Thus, General Assembly votes largely register the state of world public opinion at a given time.

"In the General Assembly, we shout and we condemn, and it doesn't matter," Yemen's UN ambassador Abdalla Saleh Al-Ashtal told journalist John Newhouse recently. Moreover, Newhouse added in the October 8 issue of the *New Yorker*, Al-Ashtal and "other experienced diplomats agree that the UN was set up to allow the five permanent members of the Security Council — the major world powers — to more or less call the shots."

The UN response to the U.S. invasion of Panama last December is a case in point. The General Assembly adopted a resolution by a big majority vote of 75-to-20 "strongly deploring" the invasion. No action was taken against Washington, however, since the U.S., British, and French delegations vetoed even a resolution of condemnation in the Security Council.

The UN's reactionary structure is even more important for the U.S. rulers today than when it was established in San Francisco in April 1945. The composition and character of the General Assembly and UN bodies under its purview have evolved substantially over the past 45 years.

The UN's founding conference came just at the outset of the post-World War II upsurge of the colonial revolution, which over the next several decades resulted in political independence for the big majority of colonies in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. There were only 51 members of the UN at that time.

Most were either imperialist allies of the U.S. rulers or neocolonial governments tightly under the thumb of Washington, especially in Latin America.

Between 1946 and 1953, for example, the U.S. delegation was defeated on fewer than 3 percent of 800 General Assembly resolutions. Only two U.S.-backed measures failed.

This situation began to change by the early 1960s, as one former colony after another won political independence and was admitted to the UN. Washington no longer found it so easy always getting its way in the General Assembly — especially on matters related to anticolonial struggles, racism, and the inequitable economic and trade relations imposed on the world market by a handful of the strongest capitalist ruling classes.

In light of this evolution, revolutionists and fighters for national liberation and social justice began to view the General Assembly as one platform from which to win greater world knowledge of and support for struggles by the oppressed and exploited. Castro and Ernesto Che Guevara, leaders of the victorious Cuban revolution, traveled to New York City to speak before the General Assembly and — as Guevara put it in 1964 — to help "this assembly shake itself out of complacency" and block imperialism's efforts "to turn this meeting into a pointless oratorical tournament."

Fighters against the racist and colonial policies of the apartheid regime in South

Africa, such as the African National Congress and Namibia's South West Africa People's Organisation, won observer status at the UN, as did the Palestine Liberation Organization and other national liberation movements. Puerto Rican independence fighters took their case before UN committees, as did American Indian organizations. Malcolm X sought to get the question of the racist oppression of Blacks in the United States placed on the agenda of the General Assembly.

While supporters of struggles for national liberation and socialism could and did take advantage of this international rostrum, however, the UN's evolving membership did not alter the political character of the United Nations as the instrument of imperialist policy it was created to be. From the start, the degree of the UN's usefulness to Washington depended on the collaboration it was able to get at a given time from the Soviet government through the mechanism of the Security Council.

Thus, the "history" of the UN is nothing but the history of the shifting relations between the U.S. imperialist rulers and the bureaucratic caste that has held the government of the Soviet workers' state in its death grip since the triumph of Stalin some 60 years ago.

(Next week: Korea and the Congo, the UN's true face)

British coal miners conference opens fight for wage increase

Continued from front page

been called to consider allegations that Scargill and NUM General Secretary Peter Heathfield had misappropriated union funds during the 1984-85 strike.

The October 10 meeting voted to note, rather than accept, the conclusions of a union-sponsored inquiry by attorney Gavin Lightman. Lightman charged that Scargill and Heathfield, who are also officers of the International Miners' Organisation, had misdirected funds raised by Soviet miners that were intended for use by striking British miners. He urged the NUM Executive to take legal action against the two as IMO leaders.

The police fraud squad followed suit by announcing an investigation into the affairs of the union and charges were brought by the government against the NUM. Kevin Barron, a leader of the Labour Party and a member of Parliament, called for Scargill's resignation.

But the response by the majority of NUM branches was to defend the union leaders. On September 10 the legal action by the NUM Executive against the IMO was suspended.

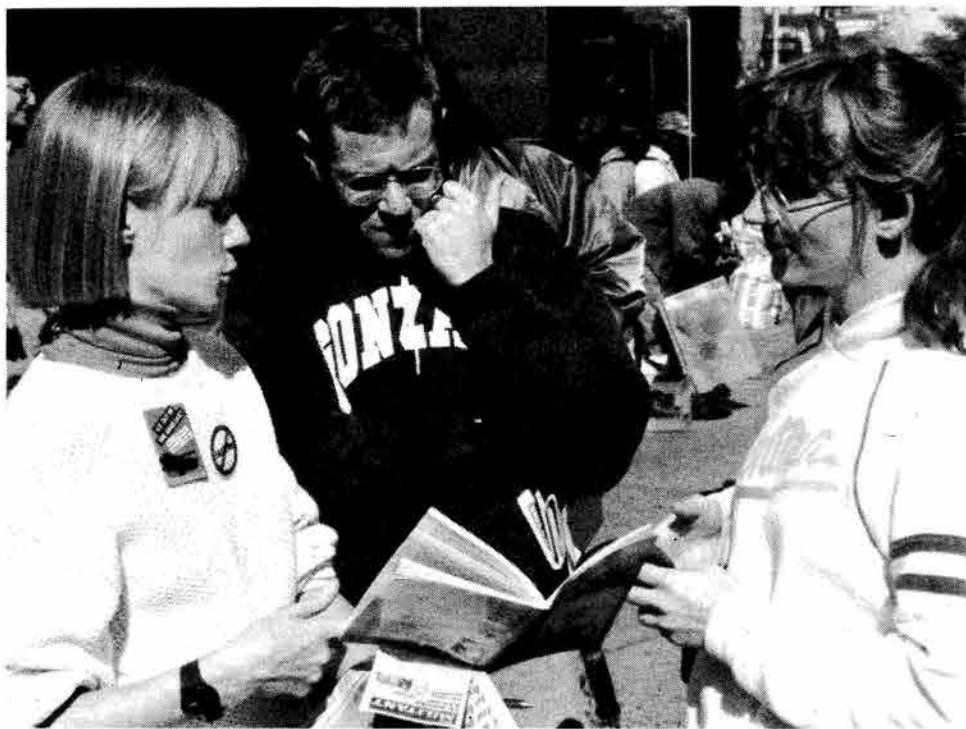
"There has been an overwhelming vote of

confidence in the national officials, a complete exoneration, and complete ratification of all they did to maintain the fabric of the union between 1984 and 1990," Scargill said following the meeting. "There has been a vote of support for the IMO and a commitment that the NUM will remain a part of the organization."

"It was time we stopped turning inward and attacking each other," the NUM president said, adding the union must "turn to the common enemy — British Coal and the Tory [Conservative Party] government."

Despite this victory, the campaign against the NUM continues. The police investigations into NUM finances and the donations by Soviet miners has not been suspended, and NUM leaders are required to appear in court in early November to face charges by the government's union certification officer.

In addition, Penguin — the largest publisher in Britain — has announced its intention to publish Lightman's report, without the union's agreement, as a book within the next few weeks.



Militant/Arthur Hughes

Militant sales on first day of target week at New York October 20 antiwar action. Opposition to U.S. war drive has been central feature of socialist election campaigns. Selling the Militant is the most effective way to get out the ideas of the campaigns over the next two weeks.

Subscription Drive SCOREBOARD

DRIVE GOALS		Total		Militant		Perspectiva Mundial		New Int'l		Lutte ouvrière	
Areas	Goal	Total Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES											
Austin, Minn.	90	49	54%	60	35	18	8	10	6	2	0
Price, Utah	80	43	54%	55	34	13	7	10	2	2	0
Baltimore	125	56	45%	90	32	12	6	20	16	3	2
Seattle	190	85	45%	115	55	48	17	25	12	2	1
Oakland, Calif.	190	82	43%	125	50	35	17	25	14	5	1
San Francisco	175	68	39%	110	42	35	19	25	6	5	1
Greensboro, NC	115	42	37%	85	26	13	7	15	9	2	0
Salt Lake City	185	66	36%	130	49	23	8	30	7	2	2
Miami	200	68	34%	110	53	30	6	40	2	20	7
Twin Cities, Minn.	225	74	33%	175	64	17	9	30	0	3	1
Los Angeles	400	130	33%	200	80	115	41	80	8	5	1
Detroit	180	56	31%	140	47	10	1	25	5	5	3
Kansas City	125	37	30%	88	31	10	3	25	3	2	0
Omaha, Neb.	120	32	27%	85	20	18	7	15	5	2	0
Phoenix	95	25	26%	55	18	28	6	10	1	2	0
Charleston, WV	135	34	25%	95	30	13	1	25	1	2	2
St. Louis	205	50	24%	162	46	10	1	30	3	3	0
Philadelphia	185	45	24%	115	17	38	9	30	19	2	0
Morgantown, WV	155	37	24%	115	37	8	0	30	0	2	0
Newark, NJ	340	77	23%	180	44	60	13	70	15	30	5
Birmingham, Ala.	170	38	22%	138	31	10	3	20	4	2	0
Brooklyn	345	75	22%	190	32	70	21	60	12	25	10
Des Moines, Iowa	180	37	21%	135	21	25	16	18	0	2	0
New York	520	104	20%	275	43	120	33	95	26	30	2
Atlanta	198	39	20%	135	16	20	7	40	15	3	1
Chicago	280	50	18%	185	35	45	9	45	2	5	4
Pittsburgh	130	22	17%	105	21	5	1	18	0	2	0
Cleveland	160	27	17%	115	18	18	3	25	6	2	0
Boston	235	36	15%	140	28	45	7	35	0	15	1
Washington, DC	150	22	15%	100	16	20	6	23	0	7	0
Houston	145	21	14%	98	11	25	2	20	8	2	0
Cincinnati	17	7	41%	12	4	2	2	3	1	-	0
Ft. Madison, Iowa	5	2	40%	4	2	1	0	-	0	-	0
Las Vegas, Nev.	5	0	0%	5	0	-	0	-	0	-	0
Louisville, Ky.	7	1	14%	7	1	-	0	-	0	-	0
New Haven, Conn.	14	11	79%	10	9	2	2	2	0	-	0
Portland, Ore.	11	4	36%	10	3	1	1	-	0	-	0
Other U.S.	-	0	-	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0
U.S. TOTAL	6,087	1,652	27%	3,954	1,101	963	299	974	208	196	44
AUSTRALIA											
BRITAIN	50	10	20%	30	8	12	1	6	1	2	0
London	174	54	31%	113	31	15	2	42	21	4	0
Cardiff	58	15	26%	40	9	2	0	15	6	1	0
Sheffield	100	23	23%	70	19	9	0	20	3	1	1
Manchester	62	8	13%	45	6	1	2	15	0	1	0
Other Britain	-	15	-	-	8	-	1	-	6	-	0
BRITAIN TOTAL	394	115	29%	268	73	27	5	92	36	7	1
CANADA											
Vancouver*	120	56	47%	80	36	15	9	20	9	5	2
Montréal	210	97	46%	75	52	35	11	35	9	65	25
Toronto	155	65	42%	100	43	25	10	25	12	5	0
CANADA TOTAL	485	218	45%	255	131	75	30	80	30	75	27
FAEROE IS.	10	3	30%	10	3	-	0	-	0	-	0
FRANCE	40	14	35%	10	2	5	1	5	1	20	10
ICELAND	43	9	21%	35	9	2	0	5	0	1	0
NEW ZEALAND											
Christchurch	60	30	50%	51	30	2	0	6	0	1	0
Auckland	110	35	32%	91	30	10	3	8	2	1	0
Wellington	70	17	24%	61	17	2	0	6	0	1	0
Other N. Z.	10	2	20%	9	2	1	0	-	0	-	0
N. Z. TOTAL	250	84	34%	212	79	15	3	20	2	3	0
PUERTO RICO	15	8	53%	2	0	12	8	1	0	-	0
SWEDEN	80	34	43%	43	17	25	14	10	3	2	0
Int'l teams	50	0	0%	10	0	34	0	5	0	1	0
Other Int'l	-	1	-	-	0	-	1	-	0	-	0
TOTAL	7,580	2,148	28%	4,829	1,423	1,170	362	1,274	281	307	82
DRIVE GOALS	7,800			5,000		1,225		1,250		325	
TO BE ON SCHEDULE		3,900	50%		2,500		613		625		163

* Raised goals during drive

Antiwar actions boost int'l target week sales

BY RONI McCANN

Militant supporters from Toronto to Salt Lake City, Utah, fanned out to working class neighborhoods, college campuses, and rural areas to kick off the international sales target week that began October 20. The goal of the target week is to redouble efforts to win new subscribers and put the circulation campaign on schedule.

Supporters worldwide are in a drive to win 7,800 new readers by November 17. In addition to signing up subscribers for the Militant, they are selling subscriptions to the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial* and French-language *Lutte ouvrière* and copies of the Marxist journals, *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale*.

October 20

The target week began as protests against the U.S. war drive in the Mideast took place in cities across the United States and in other countries. At a march and rally in New York, 26 participants signed up for subscriptions to the Militant and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Unlike the *New York Times*, *Toronto Globe and Mail*, or Britain's *Guardian*, the Militant is written in the interests of workers and farmers — who have the most to lose and nothing to gain from the war drive by Washington and its imperialist allies. The facts about the impending war, reports on actions by working people and students who oppose it, and an explanation on the high stakes involved for the working people around the world make the paper an invaluable resource and weekly guide to action for workers and union activists, farmers and farm workers, students and antiwar protesters.

In addition to Militant subscription sales, supporters at the New York action also sold 64 copies of the new Pathfinder pamphlet *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*.

The pamphlet documents the stand against Washington's war moves by Cuba — the only government in the world that has spoken out against the aggression. For the remainder of the circulation campaign those who subscribe to the Militant for 12 weeks can get the pamphlet for \$4 — a \$2 savings.

In San Francisco protesters at an October 20 action bought seven subscriptions and 44 individual copies of the Militant, along with 10 copies of the new pamphlet. Supporters from Seattle participated in antiwar events on October 20 in Portland, Oregon; Evergreen, Washington; and Seattle. As of October 23 they had won 10 new readers to the Militant, and sold 26 copies of the *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* pamphlet.

Campaign by selling Militant

Opposition to the U.S. war drive has been a central feature of the election campaigns of Socialist Workers Party candidates. Over the next two weeks the socialist candidates

and their supporters will be speaking at campaign rallies, on college campuses, at plant gates, and other political events as they wrap up their election activities.

The most effective way to get out the ideas of the socialist campaigns is by stepping up sales of subscriptions to the Militant. By signing up to get the paper for 12 weeks, those interested in socialist ideas — whether they are students on campus, farm workers in rural areas, or workers on the picket lines — will not only get a piece of campaign literature or hear a talk but can read a socialist paper every week.

"We've picked up the pace of the sales drive here in Boston," said Militant supporter Dave Ferguson. "By going door to door and explaining what the socialist candidates stand for, people get an understanding of what the Militant is about. And we're selling more subscriptions as a result."

Regional teams

Many cities kicked off the target week by sending special teams into the region to farm worker areas and college campuses.

Supporters in Baltimore fielded three teams to migrant farm labor camps and won seven new readers.

Supporters in Salt Lake City and Price, Utah, sent five teams out over the target weekend to mining regions in Colorado, Wyoming, and the Navajo Nation. They won 35 new readers on the teams and six on Saturday sales in Salt Lake City and Price. By October 21 both cities were half way toward meeting their target week goals.

A three-week team to sell Pathfinder books and win new readers to the Militant hit the road in Canada, heading for Calgary, Alberta. On two college campuses in Sudbury and Thunder Bay, Ontario, 11 students signed up to get the Militant. After visiting striking steelworkers in Sault Ste. Marie, two strikers decided to subscribe to the paper.

A two-week sales team departed St. Louis on October 20 for Illinois, Indiana, and parts of Kentucky.

Next week's issue of the Militant will include an *International Socialist Review* supplement containing an overview of the 20-month strike by Machinists against Eastern Airlines as well as a feature on the Socialist Workers Party campaigns, listing all the socialist candidates running in the November 7 elections. Supporters will want take special steps to get the paper into the hands of Eastern strike activists, other unionists and workers, and young people.

By continuing this stepped-up pace of circulation and explaining why buying a subscription to the socialist press is essential for learning about and opposing the employer-government offensive against working people worldwide, the sales drive can make substantial progress.

Eastern strikers reach out

Continued from front page

ings. There were so many in fact, I couldn't get to all of them. For example, there were three union meetings one night."

Brown said the dilemma was solved by visiting two unions earlier in the day. "I gave them material and they raised the strike at their meeting, even though I couldn't actually be there. Both unions ended up giving sizeable contributions to the Eastern strike effort."

Brown pointed out that the response she got was very enthusiastic, but also found that due to a lack of information many she spoke to were unaware the strike was still on. Based on her experience, these kinds of strike support activities can be repeated in many parts of the United States, the strike activist said.

Some \$3,600 were raised during the tour. Brown spoke at 23 union meetings, met with the executive board of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the executive council of the Building and Construction Trades, and numerous union officials.

With the help of the Omaha AFL-CIO, thousands of leaflets to build the picket line in support of the strikes at Greyhound and Eastern were produced and distributed to

unionists throughout the area. In addition, leaflets explaining the strike and advertising discussions with Brown following work were handed out at several worksites.

"The strikes by Eastern and Greyhound union members are examples of the increased struggles by unionists against the employer's attacks," a leaflet building the picket line read.

"All working people are in a stronger position to fight cuts in wages and working conditions because of these strikes and the fights of other union workers, like the coal miners who won their battle against Pittston Coal." The leaflet concluded by saying that the Eastern strikers with the help of "union brothers and sisters" will "stay out on the picket line as long as it takes."

"This is something our union can do more of," Brown said. "Our union locals that are near areas where there are no Eastern strikers need to get there and talk to people about our fight."

Brown said that members of her local were surprised by the response from an area where there are no strikers. "People in my IAM local thought the results of the tour were fantastic, and it really gave a big boost to our morale," Brown concluded.

Why struggles of Natives, Québécois deserve support of working people

BY ROBERT SIMMS

MONTRÉAL — On October 16, 1970, in a massive reactionary assault on democratic and national rights, the Canadian army occupied Québec to enforce martial law. On the 20th anniversary of the occupation a discussion has opened in Québec on whether or not the use of the army this past summer against two Mohawk communities near here amounts to a similar attack.

In 1970 the federal government claimed that 'Canadian unity' was threatened by an 'insurrection' allegedly prepared by two tiny groups of the Québec Liberation Front (FLQ) that had kidnapped a British attaché and provincial government officials. The real target of the government crackdown, though, was the rapidly developing struggle of Québécois against their national oppression as a French-speaking minority in Canada. In addition, the ruling families in Canada hoped to blunt the rising labor militancy and working-class consciousness that had developed at the time.

For example, trade unions here helped launch a labor party on the municipal level,

Canada's rulers needed to step up efforts to divide working people along racial and national lines.

the Political Action Front (FRAP). The FRAP's central political slogan was "wage earners to power" and the party advanced some anticapitalist demands. This threatened to deepen the broad discussion taking place in the labor movement in Québec at that time on the need for working people to form their own political party.

Some 450 trade unionists, political and nationalist activists, and students were arrested under the War Measures Act, which suspended most democratic rights throughout Canada. They were held without charges or even the right to see a lawyer. The FRAP never recovered from the severe political repression and soon disappeared.

The assault on the Mohawk communities of Kanesatake and Kahnawake near here began July 11, 1990, when 100 cops from the Sûreté du Québec (SQ — the Québec provincial police) attacked a peaceful barricade at Kanesatake set up by Mohawks to stop the expansion of an exclusive golf course onto their land.

Gov't sends in army

Failing in that assault and their attempts to remove a solidarity blockade erected by Mohawks on the nearby Mercier Bridge, the Québec government asked the federal government on August 27 to send in the army to take down the barricades.

The army surrounded, then invaded the Native communities. A racist terror campaign was waged by the government and army against the Mohawks. Food deliveries were blocked from the communities, and dozens of Mohawks were arrested or beaten. After winning widespread support across Canada and worldwide recognition of their struggle, the final group of Native fighters ended the standoff September 26.

In an interview on the debate Michel Dugré, the Communist League's candidate for mayor in the November 4 Montréal municipal elections, said, "Most of those Québec nationalists who support the federal and Québec governments' racist attack against the Mohawks insist that there is no comparison between the two acts. They claim that the army's intervention was justified because the Mohawks' fight for their land and for political sovereignty is a threat to the unity and territorial integrity of Québec."

Dugré pointed out that the leaders of the Parti Québécois (PQ), the main political party

that calls for Québec sovereignty, support the claims of the federal and Québec governments: that the use of the army to crush the Mohawks was necessary because they were 'armed criminals' and 'terrorists.'

Dugré, a member of the Steelworkers union, insisted that such arguments are a "reactionary position that should be rejected by all working people, including all supporters of Québec's right to self-determination."

"The fact is that the same arguments have been used by Canada's rulers to justify their attempts to crush the fight of Québécois against our national oppression as a French-speaking minority in Canada, not only in 1970, but to this very day."

The problem with accepting such a framework, Dugré stressed, is that it allows Canada's billionaire ruling families to pit one layer of the oppressed against another, and leads to supporting the use of the army and cops against their struggles. "There is no way that working people can unify and fight to defend our interests with that as our starting point," he said.

The two governments' anti-Mohawk campaign emboldened and gave a green light to racists, who formed mobs in Châteauguay, where nightly demonstrations of up to 10,000 burned and hanged Indians in effigy and called for the army to crush their resistance. Ex-cops and small businessmen were key organizers of these events and were backed by several local members of parliament and other capitalist politicians. They utilized Québec nationalist slogans to win broader support.

"As a result, the slogan — 'Québec for the Québécois' — which was born in the fight against national oppression, was now being directed, not against the oppressor — this country's ruling rich and the governments that serve their interests — but against another layer of the oppressed," Dugré explained.

The media promoted the false idea that Québec is more racist than the rest of Canada, and this is a result of the fight of Québécois against their national oppression.

Deepening class and social polarization

"The Mohawks' struggle is not a fight of one nationality against another. It is instead a result of the deepening class and social polarization between the bosses and their governments, courts, cops, and armies on one side and the oppressed and exploited on the other," the Communist League candidate said.

"There was nothing specifically Québécois about these racist attacks on the Mohawks. It was the federal government of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney that sent the army into Québec. It had the full backing of Québec Premier Robert Bourassa and PQ leader Jacques Parizeau, not because they are Québécois, but because they are capitalist politicians who share the same class interests as Mulroney," Dugré said.

The results of the repression of the struggle in 1970 are that "instead of a working-class party being built that could lead the fight for the rights of working people, including Québécois and Natives, a capitalist party, the PQ, came to win the leadership of the Québec national movement," Dugré said.

"But when it formed the government between 1976 and 1985, it turned out to be just as anti-working class as any other capitalist political party," he continued. "For example, it imposed 20 percent wage cuts on government workers and suspended their right to strike."

"Despite this, the PQ continues to be supported by most of Québec's union officials. The fact that the PQ fully backed Ottawa and Québec's racist assault against the Mohawks, using nationalist arguments to justify their position, confused many working people," Dugré said.

The socialist candidate went on to explain that the capitalist rulers badly needed to step up their efforts to divide working people along racial and national lines because of



Militant/Monica Jones

August action in Montréal backing struggle by Mohawks. Sign at center reads, "Natives, like Québécois, want their land and their freedom."

several political developments in Canada over the past months.

"A half-million Québécois celebrated in the streets the day after the Meech Lake constitutional accord was defeated last June," he said. "The accord was meant to put Québécois in a constitutional straitjacket with fewer means to fight against our national oppression and the discrimination we face because we speak French."

"Those in Québec who opposed the deal found allies among most Native people who opposed this constitutional setup for being a complete denial of aboriginal rights. A number of key Native leaders also stressed their support for Québec's national demands," he said.

The struggle against the accord and its eventual defeat led to a significant rise of support for political sovereignty for Québec. At the same time the fight of Natives for political sovereignty was also strengthened.

"This growing resistance of the oppressed, combined with the broadest strike wave in Canada in some years, has led to a deepening crisis for the ruling rich," Dugré said. "Particularly threatening to the rulers is the growing consciousness among a layer of working people that they have common interests in uniting to fight the bosses, not in defending the bosses' government, country, or companies."

"Nevertheless, this understanding is still only that of a minority of working-class fighters in Québec and elsewhere," the candidate explained. "It will take a qualitative deepening of the crisis of capitalism and much bigger battles by working people before we begin to see the development of working-class consciousness on a mass scale."

"Meanwhile, the capitalist propaganda campaign found a response among a broad layer of workers who still believe that they have a stake in defending Canadian or Québec unity against other oppressed peoples. As a result there was a sharp polarization between workers who supported and those who opposed the Mohawk struggle."

"In Québec, this polarization was strengthened by the fact that over the past three decades, some of the gains won by Québécois in their struggle against national oppression have given rise to a social layer here whose interests are opposed to the just demands of Natives," Dugré continued.

Changing class composition in Québec

"Today about half of the largest companies in Québec, like Bombardier and Lavalin are owned by wealthy Québécois families," he said. "As part of this process a large layer of professionals, top-level business executives, and government bureaucrats also developed. Before the 1960s hardly any corporations in Québec were either owned or run by Québécois."

"These social layers are the backbone of the Parti Québécois which uses Québec nationalism not to lead a fight against national oppression," Dugré said, "but to justify the defense of the wealth and privileges of this new economic and social elite. In fact, the Québec Liberal government does exactly the same thing."

"The union officials in Québec are part of this new privileged layer, and seek to identify the unions with it. They fully share this reactionary nationalist perspective, including their opposition to the rights of Natives, im-

migrants, and non-French-speaking people," he said.

"In the factories, a majority of workers initially supported the Mohawk demands, though many opposed their use of arms and the occupation of a commuter bridge. A significant minority of workers correctly argued that Natives were justified in using any means necessary to defend their land and their rights," the candidate continued. "But when the labor officials did nothing to mobilize union power against the anti-Mohawk campaign — or joined it — the racists, often led by company foremen, began to feel emboldened."

"But now, after the army and police mistreatment of Mohawks has been shown on TV, many more workers are challenging the racists," Dugré said. The Montréal Labor Council of the Québec Federation of Labor discussed on September 11 a resolution inviting Native spokespeople to a future meeting. Several delegates said it was wrong not to have responded against the racists during the summer.

Schoolboard reverses racist ban

A leader of the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN) council in the Châteauguay region spoke at a pro-Mohawk rally in Kahnawake. And protests by the Québec Teachers Federation, as well as the mobilization of 300-400 parents in Châteauguay, forced the school board to reverse its racist ban against allowing Mohawk children to attend school.

Pierre Vallières, one of the main leaders of the Québec nationalist movement in the 1960s and 1970s, spoke at several pro-Mohawk rallies stressing that Québécois will never win their national rights without unconditionally supporting the Natives' struggle against oppression.

Dugré argued that "Vallières is right. However, the real challenge is to see the question in working-class terms, not in a nationalist framework. Workers in Québec and across Canada need to support both Québec sovereignty and Native sovereignty as a key way to promote national equality and unify all workers, including Québécois and Natives, in fighting to replace a tiny handful of ruling capitalist families with a government of working people."

"The use of the army, the beatings and torture by the police, the unrestrained and conscious use by the capitalists of racist mobs, and now the frame-up charges against Mohawks that will escalate in the weeks to come, are all a massive attack on the democratic rights of all working people across Canada," Dugré said.

"But the Mohawk struggle has aided working people because it brought tens of thousands of Natives into militant political action and inspired tens of thousands of workers. I know of four different strike picket lines from Alberta, to Toronto, to Montréal, where workers erected barricades at factory gates to stop scab operations and called them 'Mohawk' tactics," Dugré said.

"These events also showed how much workers need a labor party based on the unions that can unite workers across Canada in support of the demands of all working people, including Natives and Québécois fighting against national oppression and for political sovereignty. This perspective is at the center of the Communist League's election campaign."

Sales teams win readers among farm workers

Supporters of the *Militant* are on a sales drive to win thousands of new readers of the paper by November 17. They are also signing up subscribers to the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial* and the French-language quarterly *Lutte ouvrière*, along with selling copies of the Marxist magazines *New Internationalist* and *Nouvelle Internationale*. During this campaign many supporters have traveled to the countryside to win new readers among

Most of the workers had come from South Carolina, where they finished up the tobacco harvest. Their next stop will be Belle Glade, Florida, to cut sugar cane.

While in Virginia the farm workers live in barracks-style dormitories hundreds of miles from their families. They earn 45 cents a bushel for the apples they pick.

"I'm supporting seven children in Haiti and I have to go where I find work," said one worker, explaining

hearing about the Socialist Workers Party election campaigns, and two asked how they could get involved. Others took campaign literature — including a campaign statement written in Creole — to learn more.

Mario, a worker from Haiti, bought a subscription to *Lutte ouvrière*, a copy of *Nouvelle Internationale*, and a pamphlet in French by Ernesto Che Guevara, a leader of the Cuban revolution. He had a list of books he wanted in his wallet, including *Maurice Bishop Speaks*. Mario explained that, like others, he had stopped over in Cuba on his way to Miami from Haiti. His boat was repaired there. He was given food and ended up staying for a year.

Altogether, farm workers bought three copies of *Nouvelle Internationale*, two subscriptions to *Lutte ouvrière*, 20 copies of and one subscription to the *Militant*, and several Pathfinder pamphlets.

Militant supporters spent a week and a half traveling through the Salinas Valley in California in mid-October. Since the beginning of the sales drive September 22, supporters from San Francisco, Oakland, and Los Angeles have participated in sales teams to the area — winning more than 30 new subscribers. During the most recent trip 23 farm workers, students, and others signed up to get the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Before sunup, farm workers in Salinas gather at a doughnut shop and roadside parking areas to board buses for the fields. Hundreds of workers show up each morning, hoping to get work for the day or longer from labor contractors. Many wait for hours without being chosen for work.

Diana Cantú, Socialist Workers Party candidate for lieutenant governor, and campaign supporters talked to workers, distributed campaign material, and introduced them to the socialist publications. Two workers decided to subscribe to *Perspectiva Mundial* and others bought individual copies.

In nearby Castroville, Cantú and campaign supporters spoke with 30 workers in an artichoke field, and one signed up for *Perspectiva Mundial*. The team also visited workers at the Norcal-Crosetti and Green Giant canneries and a United Farm Workers-organized nursery.

Cantú was invited to join a meeting of workers at Pacific Mist who had just won a UFW representation election and were fighting for a contract. As soon as the election results were in, the company had begun to retaliate with arbitrary layoffs and harassment of workers.

The sales team also visited area college campuses as well. At Cabrillo College near Watsonville, Cantú spoke to three political science classes. Two students sub-

scribed to the *Militant* and several bought Pathfinder pamphlets.

A sales team of *Militant* supporters accompanied Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress Matt Herreshoff on a week-long trip through the Yakima Valley in Washington State beginning October 7.

The campaign team distributed more than 1,000 pieces of literature, won 15 new readers to *Perspectiva Mundial*, four to the *Militant*, and sold one copy of *New Internationalist*.

Two workers subscribed at the giant Iowa Beef Processors packing-house near Pasco, Washington. Team members also stopped by the Burlington Northern rail yard there. In Yakima five farm workers signed up for *Perspectiva Mundial* outside their medical clinic and three workers bought copies of the socialist papers at the Boise-Cascade lumber mill.

At Yakima Valley Community College 13 students bought copies of the *Militant* and one subscribed. Many students signed up to get more information about the Young Socialist Alliance.

David Anshen from Charleston, West Virginia; Jim Altenberg from Oakland, California; and Tony Di Felice from Vancouver, British Columbia, contributed to this week's column.



GETTING THE MILITANT AROUND

farm workers across the United States.

Hundreds of migrant farm workers from Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, and the United States arrived in Winchester, Virginia, several weeks ago for the apple harvest. On the weekend of October 13 *Militant* supporters from Morgantown and Charleston, West Virginia, and Baltimore traveled to Winchester to meet the workers, discuss politics, and win new readers to the socialist press.

why he came to Virginia.

The workers were eager to discuss the U.S. government's war drive in the Mideast. Some Jamaicans explained that Washington had played an instrumental role in the defeat of the Michael Manley government in 1980. Several Haitian workers added that the U.S. government is currently trying to orchestrate phony elections in their country.

Many of the farm workers felt the situation for working people was getting worse and would have to change. They were interested in

Tablada gets enthusiastic response on Britain tour

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — Fifty people attended a reception at the Cuban Embassy here October 17 to welcome Cuban economist and author Carlos Tablada at the start of his six-week European tour. Tablada is scheduled to speak in 20 cities in seven countries on "Che Guevara and the fight for socialism in Cuba."

Participating in the embassy reception were two Labour Party members of Parliament, representatives of the African National Congress of South Africa and the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) of El Salvador, and leading members of trade unions, political parties, and solidarity organizations.

Welcoming Tablada and the guests, Cuban Ambassador Mary Flores said, "It is a great honor for me to welcome and sincerely thank you all for your presence on the occasion of the arrival in London of our distinguished good friend Dr. Carlos Tablada, who has very

kindly accepted the invitation from Pathfinder Books to undertake a tour of Europe.

"We are aware of the resonance acquired during Dr. Tablada's last world tour of the United States, Canada, Bolivia, Argentina, and Chile," she said. "Our aspirations are that the tour, which commences in London, will have the same results."

Tablada is the author of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*, published in English by Pathfinder. He conducted countrywide speaking tours of Canada in 1989 and the United States earlier this year. During the recently completed three-country tour in South America, he held a four-hour meeting with Bolivian President Jaime Paz Estensoro, Vice-president Ossio Sanjines, and the presidential staff. Tablada was interviewed by three national television stations in Bolivia — one, which lasted for two hours, was rebroadcast five times.

Also speaking at the London reception was Pathfinder representative Alan Harris. During Tablada's European tour, Harris said, hundreds, if not thousands, of people will hear the Cuban economist speak.

"The meetings will cover the course advocated by Che Guevara and how the Cuban leader's economic and political concepts relate to the political challenges facing Cuba today; why Cuba has survived in the face of 30 years of imperialist aggression; and why Cuba is stronger today than ever — playing a role in world politics far beyond its size and material resources," Harris said.

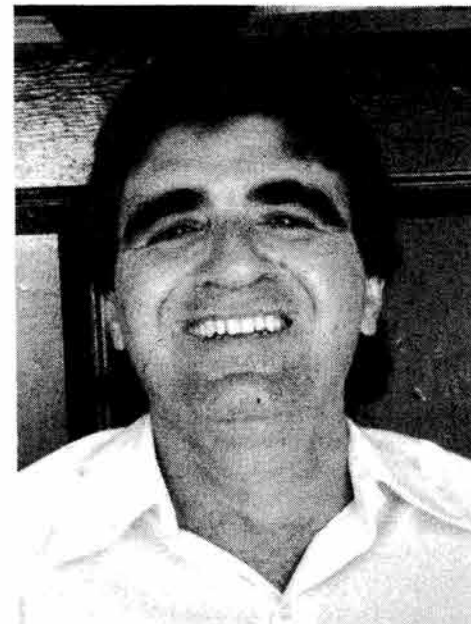
Some 85 individuals and organizations are supporting or hosting tour events in Britain alone. The list includes 22 members of the British and European parliaments and leaders of the Amalgamated Engineering Union; Broadcasting and Entertainments Alliance; Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians; Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions; the Manufacturing Science and Finance Union; Transport and General Workers Union; National Union of Mineworkers; and the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers. Other organizations supporting the tour include the Britain Cuba Resource Centre, the Wales Cuba Resource Centre (Cymru Cuba), and the Communist League.

Before departing for the Nordic countries, Tablada was able to engage in some valuable initial activities in Britain, including six media interviews.

Tablada also gave a seminar at Liverpool University's Institute of Latin American Studies. The event, attended by 45 people, lasted for nearly two hours due to a lively discussion following the presentation. Participants asked questions about life in Cuba today, how current developments in the Soviet Union would affect Cuba, the implications of the expansion of tourism in Cuba for the revolution, and Cuba's system of government.

A number of questions concerned Cuba's "rectification of errors" — a struggle launched in the mid-1980s. In response to a question about political changes initiated through the rectification process, Tablada explained measures recently implemented in Cuba.

"The number of departments of the Central Committee of the Communist Party has been reduced from 19 to 9," Tablada said. "The posts of five of the eight Central Committee secretaries have been cut, and the number of full-time party members, nationally and locally, has been reduced by a minimum of 50 percent. The purpose of the



Militant/Selva Nebbia

Carlos Tablada

measures is to reverse the bureaucratization of the party and to change the structures that were copied from the Soviet Union in the mid-1970s.

"The popular power system has also become bureaucratized," the Cuban said. This is the system through which delegates are elected to municipal, regional, and national governmental assemblies. "This system provides for democratic control by the people, but in fact the ministries are not under control," he said.

To turn the situation around new "popular councils" have been initiated, the first of which are under way in Havana. Special delegates elected to these councils — responsible only to those who elect them, not to anyone in "higher authority" — will have the power to order the arrest of people engaged in corruption. These delegates will regularly report to their areas on the progress in the fight against corruption, inefficiency, and other negative features of Cuban life.

"There has also been a 60 percent to 70 percent reduction in the staff of governmental ministries," Tablada said, in what he described as a "new stage in the process of rectification" being implemented in the course of the discussion leading up to the Fourth Congress of the Cuban Communist Party, scheduled for 1991.

The Cuban economist also will travel to the Faeroe Islands, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, and Iceland during his speaking tour.

Bush vetoes Civil Rights Act

BY JAMES HARRIS

Stating that the bill "employs a maze of highly legalistic language to introduce the destructive force of quotas into our national employment system," President George Bush vetoed the Civil Rights Act of 1990. The vote totals in the Senate and the House passing the legislation make it unlikely that Congress will override the president's veto.

The bill, supported by the leadership of major civil rights organizations, was put forward as a countermeasure to the blows delivered against affirmative action by the Supreme Court in 1989. In six separate decisions, the high court struck down affirmative action measures in Virginia, Michigan, and Alabama. The court also made it more difficult for workers to prove discriminatory practices against employers.

The civil rights bill, along with increasing the amount of financial compensation that juries could award those charging discriminatory practices, would have changed the "standards of proof" that employers must meet to defend themselves against discrimination suits.

In one of its 1989 decisions, *Wards Cove Packing Co. v. Antonio*, the high court ruled that statistics proving employment practices had a discriminatory impact are insufficient evidence to prove discrimination. The court also decided that plaintiffs must prove the employer had no business-related justifica-

tions for the challenged practices. The difficulties in getting such proof stand as a big obstacle to victims of job discrimination.

Under the vetoed legislation the burden of proof would fall to the employer to show that employment practices were a requirement for conducting business when the makeup of the work force differs from the local labor pool. This was intolerable to the Administration, which views the bill as too tough on the employers.

The White House has claimed that it supports civil rights, but said that the bill's provisions are so onerous it would force employers to use quotas to meet its requirements. All the major proponents of the bill, however, deny that it supported quotas. The bill stated that nothing in it "shall be construed to require an employer to adopt quotas." Even this explicit denial was not enough for the White House.

As Marlin Fitzwater, Bush's press secretary, put it, "After months of the most thorough review possible and the most painstaking negotiations, it is clear that this is a quota bill that sets back the course of civil rights."

To mask its rejection of affirmative action, the administration has submitted its own "civil rights bill," which many in Congress have labeled a sham. The October 23 *New York Times* reported that the White House bill "appears to outlaw all affirmative action plans, even those approved by federal courts."

Learning truth of U.S. role in Korea

Socialist Workers Party leaders visit North Korea, back reunification fight

BY MARGARET JAYKO

PYONGYANG, North Korea — Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes and I arrived here October 3. We were the party leadership's delegation to the celebrations marking the 45th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), the governing party of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea).

We stayed until October 12, meeting with WPK leaders; visiting important industrial, agricultural, political, and cultural sites; and

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

talking with delegations from other countries who were also here to participate in the week's events.

In the course of our visit, we saw and heard a great deal that convinced us that the fight for the reunification of divided Korea is a central issue in world politics today.

Given Washington's role over the past half century in instigating and maintaining the partition of this country, workers and farmers in the United States, especially, have a responsibility to learn about what the U.S. government has done to Korea and to energetically oppose it.

During the 1950-53 U.S. war against Korea, the Pentagon carried out such heavy bombing of the northern part of the country that virtually every factory was destroyed. Pilots bombed five of the 20 major dams, causing massive flooding and loss of civilian lives. The only reason U.S. and allied forces didn't destroy all the dams was because they feared an international outcry against the indiscriminate death and destruction that would surely result.

Since then, the workers and farmers in North Korea have successfully undertaken the Herculean task of rebuilding their devastated homeland.

Impressive in this regard is the West Sea Barrage. Built along the five-mile mouth of the Taedong River, which drains into the West Sea, it stores billions of cubic yards of water to irrigate 247,000 acres of reclaimed soil — a figure officials hope they can triple. This is no small question in North Korea. Much of the country is covered by a series of north-south mountain ranges separated by narrow valleys. Thus arable land is scarce.

The barrage also supplies drinking water to several major towns and villages. A railway, motorway, and sidewalks on top of the barrage make travel between the areas on opposite sides of the sea qualitatively easier.

The barrage is a huge structure consisting of three locks and 36 sluices. The locks open to enable large ships to sail up the river.

Construction of the barrage started in 1981 and was completed in five years by the Korean People's Army. More than 10 hills had to be removed to block off the sea and erect the dam, and more than 21 million cubic yards of stones were transported.

After touring the barrage, SWP leader Barnes noted that no anti-aircraft weapons or other defensive military equipment has been installed. "This is one more piece of evidence," he commented, "giving the lie to Washington's claim that North Korea is a belligerent country contemplating war against the South."

"This is simply the U.S. ruling class' justification," he continued, "for keeping more than 45,000 U.S. troops and 40 U.S. military installations in South Korea."

"It's obvious," he added, "that no one would dedicate the human and material resources that it took to build this barrage — an extremely vulnerable structure — and

other large public works that exist in the North only to start another war which would result in their destruction. The West Sea Barrage is a concrete illustration of the desire of the people of the North for peaceful reunification of their country."

Despite facing vastly superior firepower, the Korean People's Army, with the help of experienced volunteer troops from China, was able to fight the U.S.-led United Nations forces to a standstill in 1953 at roughly the 38th parallel, thus ending the Korean War.

Thousands of U.S. and Korean troops currently patrol both sides of the Demilitarized Zone, because a state of war still formally exists; Washington and Seoul have refused to sign a peace treaty. The border is a tense area, and the South Korean government has built a reinforced concrete wall along the entire length of it, 150 miles, on the southern side of the demarcation line. By comparison the Berlin Wall was 26.5 miles long.

Panmunjom is the village on the border where the two sides meet and the building where the armistice treaty was signed is still



SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes (left) and North Korean Major Kang view Demilitarized Zone that divides Korea. U.S. military occupation of South Korea continues to this day. Washington's domination of South is the major obstacle to reunification of country.

used. The meeting room contains the flags of several of the 16 countries that fought on the U.S. side in the war, under the cover of the United Nations. Australia, Britain, Canada, France, and Turkey were among the countries whose governments sent troops.

A U.S. soldier took lots of pictures of our delegation while our guide, Major Kang Song Nam, a staff member of the Military Armistice Commission, showed us the area. He encouraged us to take photos, answered all our questions, put no limitations on our walking around, and was generally pretty relaxed.

The tone on the U.S.-occupied side is a bit different, however. We could see a group of U.S., Japanese, and — we assumed — Korean tourists on top of the observation tower across the demarcation line. We heard a U.S. soldier giving them instructions designed to convey the impression that the North's troops are trigger-happy.

"Don't make any sudden hand or arm gestures," the GI told the tourists in a grim tone. "Don't take any pictures. And," he emphasized, "don't talk to anybody."

We spent more than three hours visiting the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum here in Pyongyang. We could have spent three days. The museum is a large, modest-looking building, and was built by soldiers. It has more than 80 rooms; we only had time to view a handful of them. It tells more of the real story of the Korean War than any museum, monument, or movies ever released in the United States.

Lieut. Col. Li Hwang Chung, director of the Education Department, and Han Ok Hwa, our guide, showed us around. The

museum was first opened in 1953 and then rebuilt and expanded in 1974 by members of the Korean People's Army, she said.

We saw photos of secret U.S. documents that fell into the North's hands during the war. On display are some of the initial orders issued by U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur in 1945. After Tokyo was defeated in World War II, Washington and Moscow agreed to divide Korea instead of allowing the Korean people the unity and independence that they had fought for over several decades of brutal Japanese military occupation.

MacArthur declared U.S. military control of Korea south of the 38th parallel and made English the official language in the South in a Sept. 7, 1945, proclamation.

On November 2, the military government decreed that all the laws established by the hated Japanese occupiers would be enforced in the South. Those laws that had been promulgated by the insurgent "people's committees" were annulled, as the committees were violently repressed by the authorities.

With the beginning of the Korean War on June 25, 1950, military forces from the North

Korean army but was able to push its troops to the Yalu River, which borders China.

But the new workers' and farmers' government in China sent more than 1 million troops into the war on the side of the North. U.S. forces were pushed back, almost to where the demarcation line had been to begin with.

Large-scale bombing was carried out for more than two years by Washington and her allies, especially over North Korea, in order to try to force that country to give up. More than 428,000 bombs were dropped on Pyongyang alone — a city whose pre-war population was only 400,000.

According to museum exhibits, more than 717 million pounds of napalm — jellied fuel — was dropped on Korea, more than five times the amount used in World War II and a harbinger of what the Pentagon was to do in Vietnam a decade later.

"This museum should be required study for every young person, every veteran, every worker and farmer in the United States," commented Barnes.

"Many people in the United States don't know about the barbarous atrocities inflicted on the Korean people by Washington. And they don't realize that without the resistance of the Korean people in the 1950s that weakened Washington and ended the racist illusion of its absolute power, the Vietnamese victory over U.S. imperialism would have been much more difficult and cost an even higher price," the SWP leader continued.

"They don't know that Korea — not Vietnam — was the first big defeat suffered by the U.S. imperialists. They don't know that the burning down of villages and foodstuffs as a pattern of action began in Korea, not in the war against the Vietnamese. They don't know that Korean workers who lived in Japan were also victims of the atomic bombs dropped by Washington."

"But these are the things that we will talk about when we return home," he promised.

Our delegation was able to have several discussions with members of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea about world politics and the increasingly weighty place of the fight for Korean unification in the struggle between conflicting social classes in the United States. WPK leaders were interested in what communists who are committed to making a socialist revolution in the United States think about Korea and the world.

These discussions were shaped by the fact that three days before we arrived, the government of the Soviet Union had decided to establish normal diplomatic relations with South Korea, thereby giving a boost to Washington's efforts to freeze the division of Korea.

Moscow's decision was branded a "betrayal" by the WPK, and an editorial was run in the October 5 issue of the party's newspaper, *Rodong Sinmun*, pointing to Moscow's co-responsibility with Washington for dividing Korea in 1945.

In response to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's recognition of Seoul and the

Continued on Page 10

TV schedule for Korea series

Korea: The Unknown War, a television documentary, will be aired three consecutive nights in the United States, November 12-14 on most Public Broadcasting Service stations. Readers will want to mark their calendars and begin inviting coworkers and friends to watch the series.

The truth about the Korean War has been hidden from U.S. working people. It is a story of the slaughter Washington carried out against the people of Korea from June 1950 to July 1953. The goal was to maintain imperialist domination of Korea at any cost in the face of the advance of the Chinese and Korean socialist revolutions.

This documentary, which contains extensive footage of the events and interviews with those involved from several countries, is educational and thought-provoking — especially today as Washington is threatening to drag U.S. workers

and farmers into yet another war, this time in the Middle East to defend Big Oil.

The program consists of six one-hour segments to be aired two at a time from 9-11 p.m. on most PBS stations.

KCPT in Kansas City will air the programs at 8-10 p.m. CST, and WMFE in Orlando, Florida, will air them 11 p.m.-1 a.m. EST on the same dates.

Viewers in Philadelphia can watch the documentary on WHYH beginning November 13, 9-11 p.m. EST. Dallas station KERA has also slated the series for November 13-15, at 8-10 p.m. CST.

WEDU in Tampa will rerun the series at 1 p.m. EST on November 14-16.

Canadian viewers who have cable television featuring PBS programming will be able to watch the series beginning November 12. Others in Canada may be able to pick up transmissions from U.S. stations.

Readers can obtain a copy of the October 19 *Militant*, which reprinted the editorial from the North Korean daily *Rodong Sinmun* condemning Moscow's decision to establish diplomatic relations with South Korea, by sending \$1.50 to the *Militant*, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Sandinista Youth fifth national convention discusses FSLN's policies



Militant/Seth Galinsky
Carlos Fonseca Terán, a leader of July 19 Sandinista Youth, was among 600 delegates at meeting.

BY SETH GALINSKY

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The July 19 Sandinista Youth (JS-19) held its fifth national convention September 21-23. This was its first national gathering since the February 25 election defeat of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). The JS-19 is the FSLN youth group.

Six hundred delegates from around the country attended the convention, mainly high school and university students.

The first chapters of the JS-19 were formed shortly after the overthrow of the Anastasio Somoza dictatorship on July 19, 1979. The JS-19 threw itself into organizing the 1980 National Literacy Crusade. Thousands of young people spent months on farms teaching peasants how to read and write. The students, in turn, learned about the poverty and exploitation in the countryside.

The youth group also played a role in health brigades, people's militias, and other tasks of advancing the revolution. It helped organize mass demonstrations in solidarity with the fight of the peoples of El Salvador, Palestine, Grenada, and Vietnam.

With the escalation of the U.S.-backed contra war that began in 1981, the Sandinista Youth focused its attention on military defense of the revolution. Thousands of JS-19 members volunteered to go to the war fronts or were recruited there. Hundreds of its activists fell in combat.

"Winning the war became our central priority," said Elías Velásquez, a JS-19 activist. "We held classes on Marx, Lenin, and Carlos Fonseca during our early years. But after 1983, with the war, our political education was put on the back burner."

The 'rainbow' period

By 1987 the Nicaraguan army had dealt devastating blows to the mercenaries. This led to the signing of a peace settlement negotiated by the Central American governments.

As the war wound down, the JS-19 shifted its focus. It began what some activists call the "rainbow" period, downplaying political activities and focusing instead on sports, parties, and cultural events. This would attract more young people, it was argued.

In 1988 the JS-19 leadership decided to stop organizing young workers in the factories and peasants and farm workers in the countryside. "We used to have strong chapters on the banana plantations," noted Rafael Henríquez, a JS-19 leader. "But we pulled out all the full-time organizers and the groups folded."

The main topic of interest at the September convention was the election of new national officers. Twelve candidates vied for three positions.

Henry Petrie, the outgoing full-time coordinator of the JS-19, won reelection.

Carlos Fonseca Terán, who stated he is a "Marxist-Leninist," came in third, also winning a place in the leadership. Fonseca, a 23-year-old student, is the son of Carlos Fonseca, the founder of the FSLN.

Fonseca criticized "widespread" corruption and "opportunism" among the FSLN and JS-19 leading cadres. "The most important task facing us is to rescue and renew the

Sandinista mystique," he said in an interview.

"Some leaders say that we have peace and democracy now as a result of the elections," he continued. "But this is a bourgeois peace and democracy. Social injustice, malnutrition, and poverty are growing. This is not what we fought for."

Petrie, on the other hand, told the *Militant* that it is necessary to "limit the polarization in the country. We have to step away from partisan positions and think about the interests of the nation."

Fonseca and Petrie disagreed over whether the FSLN should join the Socialist International and whether the JS-19 should affiliate to the International Union of Socialist Youth. The FSLN and JS-19 presently have observer status in the two social-democratic organizations.

"I'm opposed because we are not social democrats," Fonseca stated. "It is the way Marxism-Leninism has been practiced that is in crisis, not Marxism-Leninism itself."

Petrie supported joining. "We need to win more political space internationally," he said. "The so-called social democracy played an important role in support of the Nicaraguan revolution."

"If we were to compare the principles of

the Socialist International with our principles, we would find that there is no chasm between us."

Fonseca and Petrie both expressed agreement with the FSLN policy of seeking a social pact between the government, the capitalists, and the unions, a policy known here as "concertación."

"I believe that the FSLN's political line from 1979 until Feb. 25, 1990, was correct, internationally and nationally," Fonseca stated.

Today, "Nicaragua is the only country in the world where a bourgeois government exists within the framework of a revolutionary reality, with the police and army in the hands of Sandinistas," he said. "It is possible for the people to take power through elections. It is this contradiction that also makes concertación possible."

Although over half the members of the Sandinista Youth are women, not one female candidate was proposed. In 1984, 40 percent of the JS-19 national committee, made up of the national officers and regional coordinators, were women. By 1989 there was only one woman on the committee.

"Women have to wake up and gain consciousness," said Petrie in an interview in

Barricada, the FSLN paper. "If there is an absence of women in these elections, it's the girls' own fault."

International delegations from the Social Democratic Youth of Sweden, the Communist Youth of France, the Revolutionary Student Front of Panama, the Intransigent People's Movement of Chile, the youth group of Mexico's Revolutionary Institutional Party, the Union of Young Communists of Cuba (UJC), and others attended the assembly.

"The slogan 'Cuba and Nicaragua united will triumph' is still relevant," UJC spokesperson Jorge Luis de la Rosa told the meeting.

Referring to events in Eastern Europe, the Cuban leader stated, "There is euphoria among the imperialists at the tumbling down of a socialism that demonstrated its illegitimacy by becoming alienated from the masses and the conscious practice of Marxism-Leninism."

These are difficult times, de la Rosa said. "But during these days of retreat and confusion in the revolutionary movement, the UJC reiterates that only socialism can achieve full dignity for humanity. Only socialism can lead our people out of the backwardness, dependency, and humiliation imposed by imperialism."

Ford Canada workers end 8-day strike

BY CLIFF MACK

TORONTO — Thirteen thousand auto workers in nine plants in southern Ontario voted September 23 to end their eight-day strike against the Ford Motor Company of Canada. A new three-year contract was approved by 91 percent of production and 88 percent of the skilled trades workers.

Under the pact Ford workers will receive wage increases of 3 percent, 2 percent, and 2 percent over three years. An improved cost-of-living clause (COLA) will give workers quarterly wage increases calculated by Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) officials to cover 90 percent of inflation. The COLA and yearly wage hikes combined add up to annual increases of 7.5 percent, 6.7 percent, and 4.8 percent, or \$3.60 (Cdn\$1=US\$.87).

Ford also agreed not to introduce mandatory drug and alcohol testing of employees, a practice by some companies that has been condemned by the CAW and by the Canadian Labor Congress as a violation of democratic rights. Four additional holidays for all workers are also included in the pact.

Many CAW members felt that given the slow-down in the economy and stagnant auto sales the contract was the best that could be won. "We didn't give anything up," is a comment frequently heard on the line.

As in previous contracts, Canadian auto workers rejected the lump-sum payment scheme accepted by the United Auto Workers (UAW) in the United States for the second and third years of its recent contract with General Motors. Lump-sum payments, instead of percentage increases each year, result in a lower base wage at the end of the contract.

Ford management's proposals on the "absenteeism problem" were also rejected. Auto

companies are seeking to implement strict controls on absenteeism and reporting late to work in order to further slash the size of their work forces. UAW officials in the United States have agreed to participate in such programs, which include firing workers who miss more than 20 unexcused shifts in a year.

Most workers are convinced that the strike prevented Ford from imposing these and other concessions in the contract.

"The company wouldn't have given us anything without a strike," said Achille, who works in the trim department of the Ford plant here.

Dan, also in trim, said, "We had to go on strike. Even if it was a longer strike, it would have been worth it."

Some workers believed that more could have been accomplished. Moe, for example, pointed out, "We have still not regained the concessions that we made in 1982." These included the two-tier wage system which keeps newly hired workers' pay below the base rate for at least one and a half years. Other workers felt that the wage increases were too small. "Our raise this fall will be eaten up by the gas price hikes alone," one worker said.

Bob White, president of the CAW, argued "This is the best agreement ever negotiated for Ford Canada workers."

CAW officials focused on provisions purported to protect income and job security during the negotiations. Similar to terms negotiated by the UAW, estimates are that these aspects of the pact will cost Ford \$100 million over three years, while ensuring the company's competitive position.

The provisions, though, include the right to six month's notice for layoffs due to tech-

nological change or "outsourcing," the contracting out of jobs, and one year's notice for a plant closure.

These measures are touted as gains for union members who still have jobs. But the fact is that the number of auto jobs in North America is shrinking. In the event of a recession, Ford's \$100 million security fund could disappear quickly.

In a climate of cutthroat competition each auto company is seeking to produce more cars at lower costs with fewer workers. Union officials in both the United States and Canada accept the inevitability of plant closings and the intensification of work on the line.

The movement of jobs outside the main assembly plants to lower paid or non-union factories also continues. This shaped up to be one of the main issues in negotiations with GM leading into the October 10 strike deadline. About 700 jobs were scheduled to be outsourced at the GM trim plant in Windsor. That plant, which manufactures car seats, seat covers, and doors, employs 2,500 workers, 60 per cent of whom are women.

White had indicated that the job loss would be a strike issue. However, an 11th hour agreement between the bargaining committee and GM was reached October 10.

The GM contract, which has since been ratified by a 90 percent vote, follows the same pattern as the Ford agreement. The agreement accepts that there will be an immediate loss of 400 jobs at the Windsor plant and another 2,500 jobs lost when GM's Scarborough van plant closes in the spring of 1993.

Cliff Mack is a worker at Ford's Oakville, Ontario, plant and a member of Canadian Auto Workers Local 707.

Socialists set meetings on Korea, world politics

BY JAMES HARRIS

"Five dollars was all I could spare for now," a contributor to the Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund wrote in a note enclosed with his check. "I am a 68-year-old Santa Fe Rail Road retiree with 40 years service. I've been through the mill on

To meet our goals on time and in full, and close the gap in pledges, branches of the Socialist Workers Party are raising their area fund drive goals. They are also organizing payment schedules so that everyone who wishes to contribute is able to do so.

national class struggle. With the reunification of Germany, Korea is the last divided country coming out of World War II. But the political dynamics of the reunification of Korea are the opposite of those in Germany.

"Washington has no intention of allowing Korea to be unified," Jayko explained. "South Korea is occupied by thousands of U.S. troops who are there to defend the repressive regime against increasingly dissatisfied working people. The highly-touted economic miracle of South Korea has led to extreme class polarization and spurred the desire of the Korean people for a unified and independent country. South Korean workers are fighting for social justice, democracy, and reunification," Jayko continued.

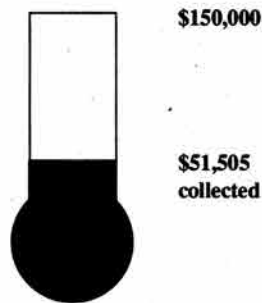
"Working people in North America need to know the facts about this struggle, support the drive for reunification, and see its place in the world fight for socialism," she said.

Jayko will be speaking in Los Angeles October 27 and Barnes will be speaking in New York City on November 10.

Other leaders of the Socialist Workers Party will be giving talks focusing on the U.S. war drive in the Middle East and how the world's toilers can confront the effects of the coming recession in the imperialist countries and the full-blown social and economic crises wracking the Third World. There will be plenty of time for an exchange of ideas and discussion at these meetings.

In the coming weeks, this column will feature articles on the progress being made toward the fund's goals in different areas of the country.

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY-BUILDING FUND



union organizing. We started with a yellow-dog union and worked up to a pretty good one until Reagan came along.

"I've always been a socialist," he continued. "Made more than one trip to the office in school over politics. I am a great reader of Debs, because he was a railroader. I got my first socialist books when I was in Sydney, Australia in 1944. I enjoy reading your paper."

This contributor has captured the spirit of the party-building fund. The fund will need many such contributions to get back on schedule and successfully raise the \$150,000 goal. We are behind schedule with \$51,505 in hand. To be on schedule \$80,000 should have already been collected. In addition, \$5,000 more in pledges needs to be raised.

A focus of activity for participants in the fund effort will be meetings planned in cities across the country by party branches and supporters. These meetings will feature political talks given by SWP leaders on the big political questions before workers and farmers in the world today.

To kick off the meetings, SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes and National Committee member Margaret Jayko will speak in several North American cities on the fight for the reunification of Korea. Barnes and Jayko recently returned from North Korea where they attended celebrations marking the 45th anniversary of the governing Workers Party of Korea.

"We will explain," said Jayko, "why the fight to reunify that divided country is a centerpiece of the inter-

Where We Stand

Area	Pledged	Paid	% of Total
Houston	4,575	2,895	63
Austin, Minn.	1,500	830	55
Twin Cities, Minn.	4,220	2,135	51
Philadelphia	4,205	2,105	50
Detroit	5,950	2,760	46
Cleveland	5,280	2,435	46
Omaha, Neb.	2,125	943	44
Chicago	7,570	3,265	43
Brooklyn	6,135	2,635	43
Los Angeles	11,236	4,676	42
Atlanta	6,245	2,590	41
San Francisco	3,955	1,630	41
Miami	1,700	700	41
Phoenix	1,400	550	39
Oakland, Calif.	9,500	3,590	38
Charleston, W.V.	3,570	1,300	36
Pittsburgh	6,690	2,385	36
Salt Lake City, Utah	3,250	1,100	34
St. Louis	7,600	2,530	33
Des Moines, Iowa	1,820	600	33
Washington, D.C.	2,470	790	32
Kansas City	2,905	755	26
New York	8,041	2,071	26
Morgantown, W.V.	3,554	714	20
Newark, N.J.	5,945	1,135	19
Baltimore	3,800	550	14
Birmingham, Ala.	5,175	725	14
Price, Utah	1,450	100	7
Greensboro, N.C.	1,575	80	5
Boston	2,325	75	3
Seattle	5,705	0	0
Other U.S.	2,755	2,035	
International	1,821	821	
TOTALS	146,047	51,505	35
Should Be	150,000	80,769	54

Contributions can be sent to Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund, 406 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Curtis wins support for November 20 parole bid

BY PRISCILLA SCHENK

DES MOINES, Iowa — On October 23 Mark Curtis filed applications from 35 union, political, and human rights activists requesting to attend his upcoming hearing in Fort Madison before the Iowa State Board of Parole. They are urging that Curtis be released from prison after having served more than two years of his jail term.

Curtis, a union and political activist serving 25 years in state prison on frame-up charges of rape and burglary, will appear before the parole board on November 20. Supporters of his release who are approved by prison authorities will be able to attend

the hearing.

The three dozen supporters who have applied to attend the hearing include the entire executive board of United Auto Workers Local 270 here, as well as Doug Womack, president of UAW Local 893 in Marshalltown, Iowa.

The list includes three members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431 from the Swift-Monfort meat-packing plant in Des Moines. Curtis worked at the plant and was a member of the local before his arrest. Just prior to his frame-up in 1988, he was involved in mobilizing union members to support 17 Mexican and Salvadoran

coworkers illegally seized in an immigration raid at the plant.

Pat Stell, president of the Seattle-area Puget Sound Coalition of Labor Union Women; Larry Ross, newsletter reporter for Steelworkers Local 67 in Granite City, Illinois; and Denis Stephano, secretary-treasurer of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 8-234 in Linwood, Pennsylvania, will be traveling to Fort Madison to attend the hearing.

A number of farm and civil rights activists have also signed up to attend and have shown their support, including Larry Ginter, a leader of the American Agriculture Movement in Iowa, and North American Farm Alliance

President Merle Hansen.

Eddie Carthan, former Mayor of Tchula, Mississippi, who was forced out of office in a racist frame-up; Barriston Staples, a Black community activist from Des Moines; Chris Nisan, director of the Africana Student Cultural Center at the University of Minnesota; and Myung Mi Kim, director of Student Support Services at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, plan to attend.

Others include Adelheid Butkus, youth leader of Namibia's South West Africa Peoples Organisation and student at a Des Moines college; Black rights fighter and Iowa Women's Hall of Fame member Edna Griffin; St. Louis activists Rev. C. Gamett Henning and Benjamin Hoover, Sr.; and Hollis Watkins, from Jackson, Mississippi.

Five of Curtis's relatives and 10 other supporters from Des Moines are on the list.

In addition to those who have requested permission from authorities to attend the hearing, dozens of letters urging the parole board to free Curtis have been received by the defense committee.

"I have been following Mark Curtis' case for two years," wrote Robert Turcotte, Boston Eastern Airlines strike coordinator and vice-president of the International Association of Machinists Local 1726.

"I feel Mark has served enough time for a crime I'm not sure he committed," he said. Turcotte urged the parole board to "release Mark Curtis on parole on November 20, 1990."

Michele Wilson, a professor in the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, explained in her letter that she knew Curtis when he lived in Birmingham. Some conversations with Curtis "centered on my activity as a rape counselor and as an activist in the battered women's movement," Wilson said.

From these experiences, as well as the professional judgement of "an academican with degrees in Criminology and Corrections," Wilson concluded, "I am writing to support the parole plea of Mark Curtis."

Urging his release, Regula Burki, a past president of Utah Women Physicians, wrote that Curtis' "personal and work record while in prison have been exemplary, which was acknowledged at his first parole hearing last

Continued on Page 13

Reporter's notebook: True U.S. role in Korea

Continued from Page 8

fact that most East European governments had already normalized relations with South Korea's government, no delegations were invited to the 45th anniversary celebrations from the Communist parties or governments of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Many of the contingents that were present, however, disagreed with the view of the WPK officials that the Soviet government's actions were a betrayal.

While the October 19 *Militant* reprinted the *Rodong Sinmun* editorial for the information of its readers, many people present from other parties and governments said that Soviet normalization of relations with South Korea was a good thing, that it would have a "moderating" impact on the Seoul regime, and that it was the only "realistic" course for Moscow to follow given the fact that Korea is divided.

We discussed these and other questions in several meetings with top party officials including Kim Il Sung, who is general secretary of the WPK, as well as president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. As the first delegation to meet with him during the anniversary celebrations, and the only U.S. delegation to do so, television, radio, and newspapers gave our meeting prominent and ongoing coverage.

In our hour-long discussion, continued over lunch, the president explained to us his view that there is only one "superpower" left

in the world because the Soviet Union is weak and has become an ally of Washington. He discussed the increasing arrogance of U.S. imperialism, pointing to the examples of the invasion of Panama last December — right after U.S. President George Bush met with Gorbachev in Malta — and the recent decision to send troops to Saudi Arabia in order to defend oil interests in the region.

Kim said that the decision of the North Korean government never to join the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) has proven to be correct. The CMEA is an organization that includes the governments of most of the countries where capitalism has been overthrown. It organizes trade and economic relations between them.

The problem, Kim explained, was that by joining this international body, Korea, as an underdeveloped country, would have been assigned the role of producing pig iron and coal, having to rely on other member nations for finished products like tractors. Thus, the process of developing heavy industry in Korea would have been retarded, and Korea would be devastated as a result of the crisis taking place in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe today.

Barnes explained that the SWP leadership views the Korean struggle for unification and against imperialist occupation of the southern part of the country as an important front in the world struggle against capitalism.

He stressed that it is capitalism, not communism, that is in crisis today. The events in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, said Barnes, are the definitive proof that trying to build socialism through bureaucratic, nationalist methods will only result in crisis and failure. But working people in those countries will continue to fight back against the unemployment, homelessness, shortages, and other social ills which are the payoff for decades of bureaucratic mismanagement and abuse.

Barnes stressed in this meeting and other discussions with party leaders the need to bring veterans, unionists, and working farmers from the United States to Korea to see for themselves the harm that Washington has carried out and continues to carry out here and the truth about the peaceful intentions of the people in the North.

Participants in such trips could then bring little-known facts about the Korean War and the fight for reunification to people in the United States.

Barnes concluded by explaining that revolutionaries in the United States have a special responsibility to work with people everywhere in the world who are fighting to free themselves from U.S. oppression and exploitation — regardless of their political views. He promised that the SWP would continue to meet that responsibility.

Thousands say 'Bring troops home now'; protests hit U.S. war threat in Mideast

Continued from front page

A fact sheet put out by the national Coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention in the Middle East noted that French Foreign Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement, quoted in the September 9 *New York Times*, said U.S. military intervention against Iraq would quickly result in 100,000 dead on both sides.

Regional participation

People came from many areas in the mid-Atlantic region to participate in the New York action. Gerald Meadows, president of the Roanoke, Virginia, United Labor Council, explained, "We came up here to support the brothers and sisters who put this rally together. We think our fight is here with the corporations and not overseas."

Another participant in the small labor contingent, Charlene Lowe of the Daughters of Mother Jones, added, "I don't approve of the war. I came up here to support the families that have men and women going to war over there. I don't support what the government is doing. I feel for their lives — I don't think it's right. I think it's a crime — I really do."

The New York demonstration was notably multiracial and included several generations. A young Native American woman was one of the first speakers at the rally. She declared, "Native people will not go to die for the same corporations that stole our land and resources." She pointed to the big upsurge in the Native struggle that has taken place recently and said, "The big lesson of the Mohawk struggle in Canada is that we do not stand alone. The mobilizations that took place in support of the struggle prevented a massacre."

Seung Eun, a leader of Young Koreans United, also spoke at the rally. She said, "The U.S. intervention in the Mideast reminds the Korean people of our own experience. We say: U.S. troops out of Korea! U.S. troops out of the Middle East!"

Israeli gov't cracks down on Palestinians; rejects UN vote

BY SELVA NEBBIA

The Israeli regime has escalated its repression against the Palestinian population since the killing of 21 Palestinians by Israeli police on October 8 at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and the wounding of hundreds of others.

- In the Deir Ammar refugee camp in the Ramallah area, Muhammad Ali Zeid, 20, was shot dead by Israeli soldiers.

- In Jabalya, Faraj Muhammad Battah and Mansour Abdel Sharif, both 25 years old, were killed when Israeli soldiers opened fire on a demonstration against the massacre at the mosque. Some 60 people were injured, reported *Al Fajr*, a Jerusalem Palestinian weekly.

- Demonstrations broke out in Wadi al-Joz, an East Jerusalem neighborhood, the day after the massacre. The demonstrators were attacked by soldiers with tear gas and bullets.

- In the Jabalya refugee camp, soldiers raided the house of one of the victims of the Israeli violence and shot at mourners, injuring 16 people, nine seriously.

- In Jenin, on the West Bank, Israeli troops shot to death a 14 year-old and imposed a curfew on the town.

- On October 22, Israeli policemen surrounded Jerusalem with roadblocks, preventing Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip from entering Jerusalem. Thousands of paramilitary border policemen were sent as reinforcements to keep Palestinians out of the city following the October 21 stabbing death of three Israelis by a young Palestinian.

Many said this was the first time the entire city of Jerusalem had been declared off limits to Palestinians. The city includes formerly independent Arab communities that came within the city limits when Israel annexed East Jerusalem in 1967.

"The closure of Jerusalem emphasizes the need for the United Nations presence here," said Mahdi Abdul Hadi, the director of a Palestinian research center. "It proves that



Participants in New York October 20 march of 10,000

Other speakers included former U.S. attorney general Ramsey Clark, radio celebrity Casey Kasem, and anti-intervention activist Leslie Cagan.

Led by Palestinian children chanting, "End the occupation now! Long live Palestine! Long live the PLO!" a contingent of Palestinians filled an entire block along the march route.

Neil Saad, a leader of the Palestine Solidarity Committee, told the rally, "The oil in the Gulf belongs to the people of the Gulf. They can solve the conflict. If George Bush is truly concerned about human rights, then where has he been for the past 23 years of the brutal occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip by Israel?"

"Students won't die for oil company prof-

its," read the banner of Students Organizing for Social Justice, who marched in a large contingent.

"We have a small, hard-working coalition at Hunter College," explained one student. "We had a teach-in and the turnout was pretty good." The Hunter College banner read, "Bring the troops home now!"

BY ARNOLD WEISSBERG

SAN FRANCISCO — Led by a contingent of Vietnam veterans, some 5,000 people marched and rallied here, calling on Washington to withdraw its military forces from the Mideast. The overwhelmingly young crowd came from many area campuses, solidarity and environmental organizations, and from as far away as Reno, Nevada. Three hundred people made a 40-mile train trip from San José.

Signs indicated the broad range of concerns that the threat of war has focused, from health care to the environment — from "Health care for all, not war for oil" to "Exxon: First Alaska, now the Mideast." Hundreds of people carried signs declaring opposition to fighting for the oil companies.

Vietnam veterans organizations played a major role in building the demonstration and several veterans spoke, including Charlie Trujillo, a Chicano. "If the U.S. is really interested in human rights and democracy," he said, "they should invade El Salvador, Guatemala, and South Africa. They should invade Israel and give back the occupied territories."

"They should invade themselves; they should invade the Ku Klux Klan; they should invade the border patrol," Trujillo said to a big round of applause.

Marine reservist Erik Larsen, who has publicly stated he will refuse orders to go to the Mideast, got a big hand from the crowd also. Larsen, just returned from a tour of Europe to organize opposition to the international imperialist intervention in the Gulf, appealed to active-duty GIs and reservists to consider what the government was asking them to do.

"Your right to be a thinking citizen doesn't end" when you enlist, he said. GI resistance helped end the Vietnam War, Larsen noted. "There's no amount of oil or profits that's worth the death of a single human being," he said to a standing ovation.

Also speaking were Angela Sanbrano of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, Maja Khoury of the Palestine Mission to the United Nations, Seymour Kramer of the United Transportation Union, a representative of Young Koreans United, representatives of Palestinian organizations, and others.

BY JON HILLSON

CLEVELAND — Scores of chanting college students led 250 marchers through downtown Cleveland as part of the nationally coordinated day of actions. More than half the crowd were youth in their early twenties or younger.

During the action, called by the Committee Against U.S. War in the Persian Gulf,

marchers chanted "Bring the troops home now!" "Human needs yes, oil profits no!" and "Money for tuition, not ammunition!"

Contingents of student protesters came from Kent State and John Carroll universities, and Oberlin, Hiram, Ursuline, and other colleges.

They were joined by high school students, peace and political activists, union members, Vietnam veterans, and nearly two dozen Palestinian adults, teenagers, and children, some waving the flag of their nation.

Marchers carried homemade signs and placards, many demanding an immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Middle East and slamming the profiteering of the oil companies. Some demonstrators held signs urging negotiations, calling for UN mediation of the crisis.

Speakers at the rally included Stanley Tolliver, chairman of the Cleveland Board of Education; Grace Jones, coordinator of the Free South Africa Movement; Vietnam veteran Al Long; Ionne Biggs, president of Women Speak Out for Peace and Justice; Arab community leader Bishari Constadi; Central America solidarity and peace activists; and student leaders from Oberlin College and Kent State.

In interviews, young marchers stressed the need to speak out against the war danger as their reason for participating in the protest. "Youth shouldn't die for oil profits," explained Ari Desano, a 20-year-old student at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Kabir Sayed, a 19-year-old studying at Kent State, marched because "you can't support the injustice of what is happening. The U.S. government is invading for oil without concern for human rights."

An appeal by rally chairperson Jerry Gordon for support to the committee's continuing work garnered 95 names on a sign-up sheet.

BY TOM O'BRIEN

MINNEAPOLIS — Chanting "Hell no, we won't go; we won't fight for Amoco!" and "No blood for oil!" 400 people marched here October 20 from the Uptown neighborhood along Hennepin Avenue to the edge of downtown Minneapolis, where a rally was held at the Wesley Memorial Church.

Organized by the Persian Gulf Crisis Coalition, protest participants carried banners and signs from Women Against Military Madness, University of Minnesota Progressive Student Organization, Pledge of Resistance, and Up and Out of Poverty Now, an organization of homeless people.

Cheri Honkala, a leader of Up and Out of Poverty Now, said, "The reason I'm involved in this demonstration today is because we are the poor people who are being affected by the continuous military spending in this country. And there is a real war on the poor."

A young protester said, "I just walked out of the National Guard two weeks ago and quit. I don't believe in our risking our lives for the oil and for the companies, for the large corporations. There's no point to it."

Renee Zeeveld, a marcher from Rosemont, carried a sign saying, "Trade Kuwait for Palestine." "The biggest issue in the Mideast," she said, "is Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. The UN resolution calling for Israeli withdrawal that was passed 23 years ago was never enforced. If the UN claims they're so strong now, why aren't they enforcing that?"

In Los Angeles some 400 attended a spirited demonstration and rally. Vietnam veteran Ron Kovic spoke, calling for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. forces from the Gulf. A similar number also marched in San Diego.

At a march of 500 in Portland, Oregon, the mother of an active-duty GI stationed in Saudi Arabia spoke. Some 300 demonstrated in St. Louis and a similar number held a march and rally in Indianapolis, Indiana.

In Japan a human chain of 23,000 surrounded a U.S. military base outside of Tokyo, demanded the base be closed, and protested the Japanese government's decision to send a "self-defense force" to the Mideast.

Ten thousand demonstrated in Paris, in addition to rallies in other French cities, calling for the withdrawal of British, French, and U.S. troops from the Middle East.

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Free South Africa — Youth to Youth 1990 Tour. Speaker: Brian Thami Hlongwa, founding member of South African Youth Congress (Sayco). Mon., Oct. 29, 7 p.m. UAB, University Center Auditorium. Local sponsors: 21st Century Youth Leadership Training Project; First World Imports; PeaceWatch; Malika Yamini; Dawah Committee; Masjidul Quran; Bobby Singleton, youth activist; Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call: (205) 322-1136 or 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

The Fight for the Reunification of Korea: A Historical Perspective. Speaker: Margaret Jayko, chairperson California Socialist Workers Campaign Committee, recently returned from two-week visit to Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Sat., Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

Oakland

Crisis in the Environment. Speakers: Jeff Hamill, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress; representative Forests Forever; representative Greenpeace. Sat., Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. 3702 Telegraph Ave., Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (415) 420-1165.

FLORIDA

Miami

Harlan County, U.S.A. Video documentary. Sat., Oct. 27. Dinner, 6:00 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$3, dinner, \$3, program. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Parole Mark Curtis! Speakers: Virginia Ramsey, president AFSCME Local 1644; Rev. Emory Searcy, national director Clergy and Laity Concerned; Johnny Flounnory, business representative United Food and Commercial Workers Local 442; Georgia Fleming, prison rights activist; R. Shields, United Auto Workers Local 882; representative Southern Christian Leadership Conference; representative Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Sat., Nov. 3. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. UFCW Local 442 Hall, 12488 Lakewood Ave. Sponsor: Georgia Supporters of Mark Curtis Defense Committee. For more information call (404) 577-4065 or 875-5692.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Defend British Coal Miners! Speaker: Mary Zins, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate, member United Mine Workers of America Local 2295. Sat. Oct. 27, 7 p.m. 545 W Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018.

IOWA

Des Moines

Abortion Rights Under Attack: Defend a Woman's Right to Choose! Sat., Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Independent Political Action: The Case for a Labor Party. Speaker: Betsey Soares, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress. Sat., Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation:

\$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Socialist Campaign Rally: Why Working People Need Their Own Foreign and Domestic Policy. Speaker: Rashaad Ali, Socialist Workers candidate for governor. Sun., Nov. 4, 4 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Socialist Workers 1990 Campaign Committee. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Socialist Workers Campaign Weekend: Stop the Rulers' Wars Abroad and at Home. Rally — Speaker: Ernie Mailhot, Eastern strike coordinator at New York's La Guardia Airport, co-chair New York Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. Sat., Nov. 3, 7 p.m. 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$5. Classes on Sunday by Ernie Mailhot and Cleve Andrew Pulley; Vietnam-era antiwar GI and Socialist Workers candidate for Congress. Sponsor: Michigan 1990 Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA

Austin

The Coming Recession: The Battles Ahead for Working People. Speakers: Gale Shangold, Socialist Workers candidate for secretary of state; Manuel Payan, member United Auto Workers Local 2125; Gerardo Sanchez, chairperson Hispanic Student Cultural Center, co-chairperson Minnesota socialist campaign; Craig Thompson, student antiwar activist; Henry Zamarron, Socialist Workers candidate for state treasurer. Sat., Oct. 27. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (507) 433-3461.

St. Paul

U.S. Out of the Mideast: Workers, Farmers, and War. Discussion with socialist candidates. Sat., Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

The Coming Recession and the Struggles Ahead for Working People. Speakers: Lee Olesen, Socialist Workers candidate for governor; Pat Leamon, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress; representative Students for Choice. Sun., Nov. 4, 5 p.m. Translation to Spanish. 140 S 40th St. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (402) 553-0245.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

The Battle Against AIDS. Speaker: Marty Anderson, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. Translation to Spanish and French. 464 Bergen. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (718) 398-6983.

Manhattan

Socialist Workers Campaign Rally: Confronting the War in the Mideast and the Recession at Home. Speakers: Craig Gannon, Socialist Workers candidate for governor; Susan Annuth, Socialist Workers candidate for lieutenant governor. Sat., Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: New York Socialist Workers Campaign. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Hear the Socialist Candidates. Sat., Nov. 3, 7

p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cleveland

Protest Israeli Massacre of Palestinians! U.S. Troops Out of the Middle East! Panel discussion. Sat., Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Forum. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Socialist Workers 1990 Campaign Rally. Speakers: Kathleen Mickells, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor; Josefina Otero, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress, Eastern Airlines striker; Len Bryant, Greyhound striker; Linda Flammer, member Temple Graduate Student Employees Association. Sat., Oct. 27. Buffet, 6 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 9 E Chelton Ave. Donation: \$6. Sponsor: Eastern Pennsylvania Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (215) 848-5044.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Sat., Oct. 27. Program, 7 p.m.; party to follow. 147 E 900 S. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

Socialist Workers Party 1990 Campaign Meeting. Speakers: Doug Jenness, SWP national campaign director; West Virginia SWP candidates. Sat., Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. Ramada Inn, Rte. 19 S at U.S. 48. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

Che Guevara and the Struggle for Socialism in Cuba Today

Hear: Carlos Tablada, Cuban economist

FINLAND

Helsinki

Fri., Nov. 2, Noon. Centro Iberoamericano. University of Helsinki. Vironkatu 78.
Fri., Nov. 2, 6 p.m. Finnish-Cuba Friendship Society Hall. Sponsors: Finnish-Cuban Friendship Society, Pathfinder.

ICELAND

Reykjavik

Tues., Oct. 30, 8 p.m. Kornhloftulofth Bankastraeti. Donation: 200krónur. Sponsors: Pathfinder, Cuban-Iceland Friendship Society. For more information call (91) 17513.

NORWAY

Oslo

Weds., Oct. 31, 7 p.m. Festsalen, Byggningsarbeidernes Hus, Henrik Ibsengt 7, close to Rokkefeller. Sponsors: Norway-Cuba Friendship Society, Pathfinder.
Thurs., Nov. 1, 2 p.m. Senter for utvikling og miljø, Blindern, University of Oslo.

SWEDEN

Gothenburg

Tues., Nov. 6, 2 p.m. History of Ideas De-

BRITAIN

Cardiff

Defend Arthur Scargill, the International Miners Organization, and National Union of Mineworkers. Sat., Nov. 3, 7 p.m. 9 Moira Terrace, Adamsdown. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 0222-484677.

London

The Struggle for the Reunification of Korea. Fri., Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 71-401-2409.

Manchester

Building Fighting Trade Unions Today. Celebration of Pathfinder's publication of *Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay*. Speakers: Eddie Cope, Transport and General Workers Union, Manchester Airport; John Keeney, Offshore Installations Liaison Committee; representative Communist League. Fri., Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 061-839 1766.

Sheffield

Malcolm X. Video showing. Fri., Nov. 2, 7 p.m. 2A Waverley House, 10 Joiner St. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 0742-729469.

CANADA

Montréal

Communist League Election Campaign Meeting. Speakers: candidates of the Communist League, Socialist Workers Party in U.S. Sat., Nov. 3. Benefit supper, 6 p.m. Donation: \$5-10. Sponsor: Communist League Campaign. For more information call (514) 273-2503.

Vancouver

Cuba's Fight for Socialism Today. Speaker: Lynda Little, Communist League, recently returned from brigade to Cuba. Fri., Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

partment. University of Gothenburg.

Tues., Nov. 6, 7 p.m. Folkets Hus. Sponsors: Sweden-Cuba Friendship Society, Pathfinder.

Stockholm

Weds., Nov. 7, 6 p.m. Latin American Institute, University of Stockholm.
Sat., Nov. 10, 3 p.m. SIDA:s U-forum, Birger Jarlsgatan. Sponsors: Sweden-Cuba Friendship Society, Pathfinder.

Umeå

Thurs., Nov. 8, 1 p.m. Samhällsvetarhuset, University of Umeå. Sponsors: sociology, political science, and education departments.
Thurs., Nov. 8, 7 p.m. Café Nyfikat. Sponsors: Sweden-Cuba Friendship Society, Pathfinder.

Uppsala

Mon., Nov. 5, 6 p.m. Humanistcentrum, Room K320, University of Uppsala. Sponsors: Department of Sociology, Latin American Seminar.
For more information: Pathfinder Books, Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

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He's been around the block — "I have a strong suspicion we're going to fight for the interests of the United States." — Yevgeny Kogan, an Estonian delegate to the Soviet



Harry Ring

parliament, on Moscow's role in the Gulf crisis.

Pungent protest — At opening ceremonies for a new Airbus plant

in Toulouse, French President François Mitterrand was greeted by farmers protesting falling prices and cuts in government subsidies. Demonstrators and burning tires blocked the entrance. Ceremony guests had to leave their cars and walk through liquefied pools of steaming manure sprayed on the road.

Can't ya take a joke? — "HOT SPRINGS, Virginia — Corporate leaders at a conference here urged consumers to remain confident in the American economy, while their companies are laying plans to cope with a possible recession." — *New York Times* report on meeting of the Business Council.

Tsk — Elite flyers grouse that first class is losing its class. Increasingly, the select seats are occupied by frequent flyers — ordinary people using up their freebies. These intruders reportedly hit the free bar service, talk with strangers, and have a good time. Some even bring their kids. Sniffed one of the elite, "Some of these people, they just don't belong here."

The British empire — "MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — British soldiers piling sandbags around an air base on this Arabian island have run out of sand and are even importing some building-quality sand from distant Wales, a spokesman said."

Marriage and mortality — Older men without spouses face a higher risk of dying than those who are married, and the same holds true among women, according to University of California-San Francisco researchers. With the unwed men, the higher risk is attributed to lack of spousal companionship and decent meals. Among the unwed women, the greater mortality risk is explained by their lower income.

With all that great programming? — Most people say they feel more relaxed while watching TV than they did before they started, but they feel far less relaxed after they

stop, reports a Rutgers University psychologist.

Perestroika — For the first time, canned dog food is on sale in Moscow. A company spokesperson said, "We hope to ease some of the tension over meat supplies. At the moment, dogs are eating the same meat that's intended for people."

Thought for the week — "We must remember this certainly was not the Nobel Prize for economics." Gennady Gerasimov, Soviet foreign ministry spokesperson, on the Gorbachev Nobel Peace Prize award.

Canada miners force DEVCO to drop charges

BY CHERYL PRUITT AND BEVERLY BERNARDO

GLACE BAY, Nova Scotia — After facing a five-week strike by 2,300 United Mine Workers of America coal miners, the Cape Breton Development Corporation (DEVCO) went to court September 24 to request that all contempt-of-court charges against 14 UMW strikers and five union officers be dropped. DEVCO had filed the charges after miners refused to obey an August 18 labor board order to end their walkout. The miners insisted on the dropping of the charges as a precondition for any settlement.

In the days following their return to work, miners described the deep frustration that had been building in the pits since January 1990, when the threatened closure of the Langan Colliery convinced them to accept a four-year contract with no wage or benefit increase in the first year. Within months of signing that contract, DEVCO announced layoffs at Langan, despite the agreement.

Adoption of the four-year contract emboldened DEVCO to embark on a reign of terror against the miners. If a miner could not report for work due to injury or illness, he faced firing under what the company calls "innocent absenteeism." DEVCO increasingly disciplined miners under its "stages" system of verbal warnings, written warnings, lengthy probation periods, suspensions, and firings.

In July this frustration boiled over when DEVCO fired a miner without any previous warnings.

'Treated like dogs'

"We were tired of being treated like dogs, really," said Dan Jimmy White, president of UMW Local 2501, as he described a 24-hour strike by miners at the Phalen mine. During the day 200 miners marched to

DEVCO's offices in Glace Bay to demand the reinstatement of all the miners fired in the previous six months whose cases had not already been decided by arbitration. Twenty-five workers crammed into DEVCO President E. Boutilier's office until, white-faced, he signed an agreement on the spot to rehire the 16 workers.

But on returning from their summer vacation, the miners discovered that DEVCO was eliminating 25 jobs hauling coal from the Prince Colliery to the preparation plant and was selling the contract for this work to a nonunion outfit.

On August 13, four UMW officers began picketing the entrance to the Prince mine to prevent entry of the first of the privately owned trucks. DEVCO then locked out all of the workers at Prince. UMW miners responded by walking out at the Langan and Phalen mines and the preparation and transport divisions of DEVCO.

UMWA members, their families, and supporters quickly took the struggle in hand. The union organized food banks in mining communities. Donations — including a generous plant-gate collection by the United Steel Workers of America at the Sydney Steel Company — financed the food banks.

Miners used the lessons they had gained in building solidarity with the 11-month Pittston coal miners' strike in the United States and reached out in solidarity to striking hospital and bank workers, sending large groups of UMW members to reinforce their picket lines. The Cape Breton miners had sent rotating teams to Toronto to help build solidarity with the Pittston strike in the labor movement there. Shannon MacPherson explained that many UMW members in Cape Breton "first became active in the union during the Pittston strike."

Charges against 14 strikers

When DEVCO filed contempt charges against 14 strikers, the UMW printed up handbills and posters with photos of the 14 that said, "Wanted by DEVCO for standing up for pride, dignity, and community."

On September 11, local radio stations announced that UMW District 26 officers were calling all the miners back to work in order to get a signed agreement. DEVCO's president boasted on television that the mines would be operating in 3 to 10 days, even though he claimed that everything was "still up in the air."

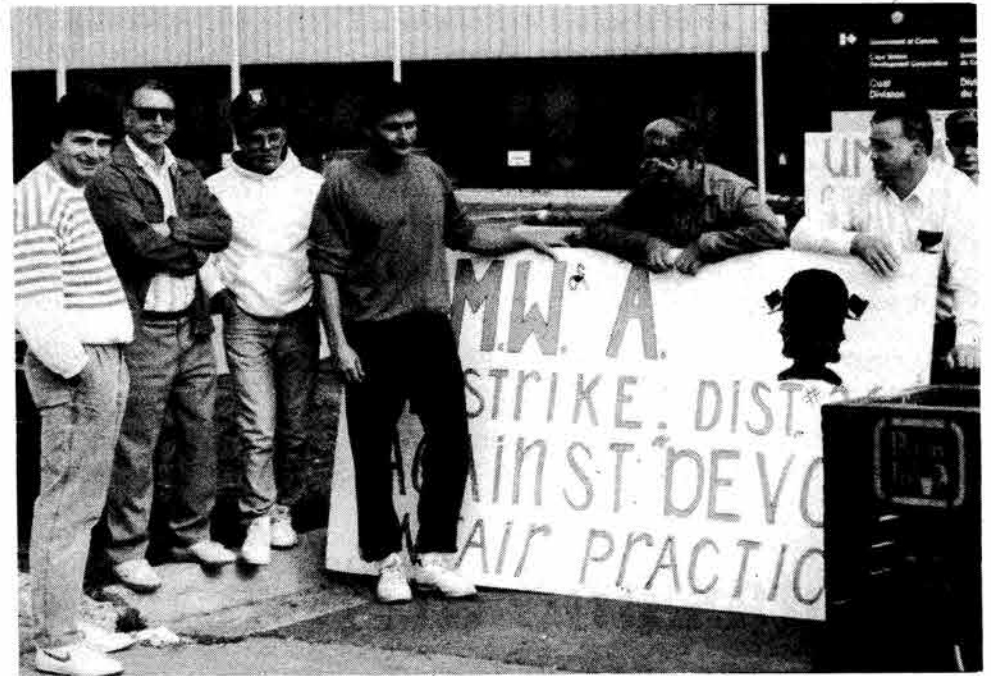
Miners responded immediately by holding mass meetings and expanding food banks to prepare for a longer strike. Many miners insisted that any agreement should first be presented to the membership for a discussion and democratic vote, and the District 26 officers apologized and went back into negotiations with DEVCO.

By September 19 a new agreement was reached, discussed by miners in a series of local meetings, and adopted by a 2-1 margin.

Terms of agreement

The agreement includes the dropping of all contempt charges against strikers. No internal company discipline will be taken, although DEVCO claims it may press charges against the international union if any work stoppages take place within the three years of the contract.

When DEVCO does eliminate an estimated 40 jobs at the Langan Colliery, no one is to be laid off. The miners will be absorbed into other DEVCO jobs or take early retirement.



Militant/Jeff Mack

UMWA members on strike against DEVCO in September in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia.

Six of the disputed trucking jobs will remain at DEVCO as UMW jobs. The union will try to win back the remaining jobs through the grievance procedure.

Attached to the agreement signed by the company and union officials is an "understanding on illegal work stoppages," which states that the procedures of the collective agreement must be followed "if the corporation is to succeed." It reminds all employees that they may be disciplined according to the terms of their contract for participating in any further illegal strikes.

While they made some real gains in push-

ing back DEVCO's attacks and strengthening the union, many miners shared the opinion expressed by one Phalen miner that "if we'd stayed out for another week, we could have had it all."

In the aftermath of their strike, miners continued to support 1,000 striking hospital workers who were facing cop attacks on their picket lines and arrests. Miners know the need for quality health-care services, given the dangers of underground coal mining. Unionists in Cape Breton recognize that miners have always led the way in trying to build a strong and united labor movement.

Curtis wins backing for November 20 parole bid in Iowa

Continued from Page 10

year. He has a strong record of serving others and taking part in various prison community activities, i.e. as the secretary of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Organization."

"Because Mark Curtis has an otherwise clean record as a citizen, because Mark Curtis has served time as a 'good' prisoner, because Mark Curtis would not be a threat to society, and because the time already served is not unusually short prior to parole in such cases, I ask that you look with favor on the application of Mark Curtis for parole," wrote Walter Galvin. Galvin, who sent the letter in an individual capacity, is the director of the Des Moines Education Association.

John Brandham, business representative of Sheet Metal Workers' Local 32 in Florida, wrote on behalf of the local's membership, "Please release Mark Curtis as all of his human rights have been violated."

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is asking that letters supporting Curtis' parole be addressed to the Iowa State Board of Parole, but mailed to the committee at Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

The committee is planning to have a delegation deliver all the letters and hold a press conference at the parole board's office to show the breadth of community support for Curtis' release.

— 10 AND 25 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST WEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Oct. 31, 1980

Iranian Prime Minister Mohammed Ali Rajai denounced the Iraqi invasion of Iran and the role of the United States before an October 17 session of the United Nations Security Council.

"I have come here straight from the front," Rajai said. "The spectacle of the dead and the wounded would have moved the most heartless of men. I saw the spectacle with my own eyes. The land-to-land missiles which struck the city of Dezful demolished a large part of the city, and many of the courageous population perished."

Rajai exposed the Iraqi regime's pretext for launching its aggression against Iran. "The true aim of the Iraqi regime and its masters is not to gain a few kilometers of territory," he declared. "What they are trying to achieve is to throttle the revolutionary movement of the Iranian revolutionary people."

In an appeal to the people of Iraq, the Iranian prime minister said, "We will not only expel the aggressor but we will allow the friendly, fraternal people of Iraq to become aware of the tyrannical and dependent nature of Saddam Hussein's regime."

"They will then be able to deal a lethal blow to American imperialism," he said of the Iraqi masses, "which directly or indirectly has been helping the Baathist government of Iraq."

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Cuba continues to firmly press its revolutionary foreign policy. This is apparent from the speech delivered by Cuban Foreign Minister Raul Roa to the General Assembly of the United Nations on October 15.

The Cuban people, Roa declared, remained resolute in "their independent view, their anti-imperialist and socialist view."

He delivered a slashing attack against U.S. imperialism, which he branded the principal threat to peace in the world and declared it could be set back only by a united, resolute struggle of all the anti-imperialist forces.

Indicting U.S. aggression, the Cuban spokesman declared, "It is they who brutally attack the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. . . . They supply weapons and money to check the emancipation of the subject peoples of Angola, Mozambique, and so-called Portuguese Guinea. It is they who indirectly bomb Laos, who threaten the independence of Cambodia, who undermine the sovereignty of Cyprus, who oppose the restoration of the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations, who indirectly or directly organize individual or collective invasion against Cuba."

Build on October 20 actions

In cities across the United States, from New York to Seattle, thousands of working people, political activists, and youth demonstrated on October 20 in opposition to the U.S. war moves in the Middle East.

Whether they drew 100 protesters, as in Cincinnati, or 10,000 in New York, the actions — with their numbers of participants and range of cities where they took place — were significant. They took place before even one shot has been fired in the threatened U.S. war in the Mideast.

These initial mobilizations are an important sign of the opposition Washington faces to its drive toward a deeper conflict.

Antiwar activists in coalitions, on college campuses, in the trade unions, and all opponents of Washington's aggression can build on the October 20 protests. The demonstrations illustrated the potential to reach out widely among working people and youth to educate about the U.S. military buildup in the Arab-Persian Gulf.

Antiwar actions such as these will become increasingly important. Washington and its imperialist allies continue to prepare for a massive confrontation in the Mideast. In the last several days, U.S. President George Bush and his administration have discussed bolstering their forces by as much as a third. U.S. troops already stand at 240,000 in, or en route to, Saudi Arabia.

Because of the size of the military mobilization, millions of workers and farmers have husbands or wives, relatives, friends, or coworkers that have been sent overseas, or know someone who does. The questions on the minds of millions are: In whose interest is this war drive? Is it inevitable? What can we do to oppose it?

Antiwar protests — like the ones held on October 20 — and the coverage they received in national and local newspapers, and on radio and television — are effective propaganda actions. They can go a long way in educating a much more extensive layer of working people about the high stakes

involved for all of humanity in a U.S. war in the Mideast.

The resistance to accepting Washington's war propaganda is combined with the growing economic crisis and continued employer and government attacks on workers and farmers. This makes the capitalist rulers' job of selling the war to working people today that much more difficult.

Many workers and working farmers do not like the idea of giving their lives in a war for Big Oil and to guard the interests of the U.S. billionaire ruling families around the world. This is reflected by the small, but important, layer of trade unionists who participated in the October 20 antiwar actions. Many of them carried signs and banners demanding money for social needs, not war.

In the continued efforts to mobilize increased opposition to the U.S. government's war drive, working people have some important weapons — the *Militant* and the newly published Pathfinder pamphlet, *U.S. Hands Off the Middle East! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*. By studying and discussing this pamphlet, working people and other opponents of Washington's aggression can arm themselves with effective arguments to educate against the war drive. And by reading the *Militant* every week, they can stay abreast of the facts surrounding the fast-changing situation and be informed of continued opposition to the war, as well as news and analysis of other battles of workers and farmers worldwide.

The October 20 actions also helped to send an important signal to working people around the world — from Canada to Australia, from Britain to France, and from Japan to Syria — who oppose their governments' involvement in the Mideast conflict. The actions showed that worldwide efforts to condemn the imperialist war drive can be mounted.

The protesters' call — "Bring the troops home now!" — is an effective demand on the U.S. government that can draw in the broadest forces possible in opposing Washington's imminent war.

Quotas and affirmative action

President George Bush's veto of the Civil Rights Act of 1990 is a blow to all working people, whether they are Black, white, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Asian, American Indian, foreign-born, or female. While mouthing platitudes about support for civil rights and affirmative action, White House spokespeople vehemently opposed the bill, calling it a "quotas" bill — a buzz word to mask their opposition to affirmative action.

Supporters of the bill, with equal vehemence, denied that the bill would require quotas. In fact, written into the text of the bill itself is a passage that disclaims the use of quotas. Some supporters of the act in Congress dealt affirmative action a further blow when they spoke against the use of quotas themselves.

There can be no affirmative action without quotas. Under capitalism "voluntary affirmative action" is a contradiction in terms. Without quotas affirmative action measures are left to the discretion of the employers, who have no interest in enforcing measures that insure equality among working people in the job market or workplace.

What the Bush administration found so hard to swallow about the measure was that it contained provisions that would make it easier for those that have been discriminated against to take action against their employers, and it increased the monetary damages that could be paid to victims of discrimination. The Bush administration found even these modest steps impossible to accept.

Working people as a whole have suffered over the last

decade under the intensified attacks by the employers on their standard of living and working conditions. Those workers that are subject to special forms of oppression because of their race, country of birth, or sex have suffered disproportionately. The capitalist system constantly reinforces and reproduces inequalities to the benefit of the employers. Left to their own devices, capitalists will never pursue policies that can end inequality.

As the ruling rich press to make working people pay the price of their growing economic crisis and war moves in the Mideast, they will attempt to keep working people divided and unable to unify to wage an effective fight in their own interest. The capitalist class seeks to maintain and deepen competition between working people.

Affirmative action with enforceable quotas is a tool working people can use, in every country in the world, to break down these divisions as a means of achieving greater unity and equality in our class.

The labor movement should fight for:

- Affirmative action with enforceable quotas to achieve preferential hiring and upgrading of workers who are Black, Latino, or women.
- Seniority systems structured in such a way that when layoffs hit, the percentage of workers who are Black, Latino, and female does not decline.
- A raise in the federal minimum wage, which would help to increase the wage level for all working people.

Rulers lose one in Florida trial

The October 20 decision by a Florida jury that found the rap group 2 Live Crew not guilty of obscenity charges is an important victory for freedom of speech and for democratic rights.

This verdict follows the recent acquittal of the Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center and its director, Dennis Barrie, on similar charges for displaying the work of photographer Robert Mapplethorpe. Both decisions stand out because they help hold back Washington's drive to restrict and limit the democratic rights of working people.

On June 10 members of the 2 Live Crew band were arrested in Miami after a concert where they performed music from their "As Nasty As They Wanna Be" album. The record had been classified as obscene by a federal judge in Florida because of its sexually graphic lyrics. Police also arrested George Freeman, a Florida store owner, who refused to stop selling the album. Freeman was later convicted on obscenity charges.

"You take away one freedom, and pretty soon they're

all gone," said Beverly Resnick, a 65-year-old juror at the rap group's trial. Her comment pretty much sums up the U.S. rulers' objective. They hoped that by going after the works of a group whose sexist lyrics could be unpopular among supporters of women's rights they would succeed in isolating 2 Live Crew and chip away at the constitutional rights of all. But far from advancing the fight for women's equality, this campaign against First Amendment rights goes hand in hand with Washington's continuing attacks on other rights, such as the right to abortion or affirmative action.

As the U.S. rulers prepare for war, and as the capitalist economic crisis deepens, those who control the wealth in this country and around the world will attempt to restrict the democratic space workers have carved out through years of struggle.

The so-called obscenity laws should be repealed. They serve no other purpose than as a tool used to restrict the rights of all working people.

U.S. occupation and Korea's 'silver stallion'

BY DOUG JENNESS

Proof that people in the United States will "support a prolonged and costly commitment" of military forces in the Middle East, the editors of the *New York Times* recently argued, is that they have "done so for 40 years, for example, in Korea."

What the *Times* blithely skips over is how ill-informed people in this country have been kept about Korea, particularly about the staggering human costs of U.S. military intervention in that country — which began 45, not 40, years ago. And it omits how unpopular the "prolonged" occupation of U.S. military forces, including more than 45,000 troops, is in both the northern and southern parts of the Korean peninsula. The country has been divided against the will of the Korean people since 1945.

Today there's more interest and questioning in the United States about what Washington has done in Korea, including

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

the 1950-53 war, than there has been in some time. The coming broadcast of a documentary on the Korean War on PBS television in mid-November is an example of this.

In large part, the new interest in Korea has been stimulated by the strikes, farmers' protests, and student demonstrations in South Korea, and the growing strength of the struggle for reunification in both the North and the South. Washington, which fears the massive revolutionary struggle that will be unleashed if momentum for reunifying the country substantially increases, remains the principal obstacle to reunification.

The ferment in the South is also reflected in a few of the country's writers. A novel, *Silver Stallion*, by Ahn Junghyo, published in South Korea in 1986, is an example. It was translated into English by the author and published by Soho Press in New York earlier this year.

Junghyo's story is set in a peasant village in South Korea during the first months after the Korean War began in mid-1950. The settlement was so remote that it wasn't directly touched by the decades of Japanese colonial domination. Moreover, when North Korean troops moved south in June 1950, the peasants' lives in this village were not substantially altered.

But in Junghyo's narration the occupation of the area by U.S. military forces brought big changes in social relations and bitter consequences. From a temporary base called Camp Omaha, U.S. troops entered the nearby village at night to rape women.

A brothel, Texas Town, was set up at the edge of the military encampment where young women — some of them refugees and nearly all of them from poor families — sought to make a living.

During the day children rummaged through the mountains of garbage piled near Camp Omaha, scrounging for a bit of food or trinkets. At night some of the boys sneaked into Texas Town to get a peek at the activities there.

The story centers around a young widow who is raped by two U.S. soldiers. She is treated with shame by other villagers who won't have anything to do with her or her son. She ends up becoming a prostitute and going into business with another woman.

Rape, prostitution, hunger, and humiliation work to undermine the previous relations among the villagers and destroy the lives they had known. The story ends as the news arrives that North Korean and Chinese troops are rapidly moving toward the area. Most of the villagers leave to go further south, knowing that they will never return.

Junghyo deals effectively with a small piece of the atrocities committed by U.S. troops during the three-year war. His story gains a certain power through its narrower and more concentrated focus than it might have by overwhelming the reader with the full picture of the brutalities committed by the U.S. forces. That picture includes saturation bombing of cities and dams, massacres of civilians, and wide use of napalm to terrorize the Korean people.

Junghyo's book, set during the Korean War, isn't really about that war. Aply, his subtitle is "A Novel of Korea." It's indirectly an indictment of the continued U.S. occupation. The temporary encampments and their satellite brothels have become permanent. The humiliation and oppression are still there.

The book's name comes from a legend that when Mongols invaded Korea centuries ago, a seven-foot-tall general mounted on a silver stallion rescued the besieged kingdom and drove the invaders out.

The U.S. forces came as "liberators," but "if the legendary general had come galloping on his silver stallion in time, there would have been no need for the *bengkos* [Americans] to come to liberate them," a young boy says to himself at the story's end.

There is, however, a mighty general and his silver steed rising up in Korea today. It is taking the form of the powerful working class that has been created by 40 years of capitalist industrial development in the South and has been gaining experience in many battles. That force, united with the exploited and angry farmers, is going to drive the U.S. invaders out and reestablish a united Korea.

Omaha strikers reach out to immigrant workers

BY L. PALTRINERI
AND BOB PRESTON

OMAHA, Nebraska — While walking the Greyhound picket line at the depot here, a bus arrived. Many buses that come in are only partially filled. This one, however, was full, with 40 to 50 Latino workers getting off to stretch their legs.

We engaged them in a discussion about the Greyhound and Eastern strikes, and they explained they had been

UNION TALK

recruited by Iowa Beef Processors (IBP) to work in its Perry, Iowa, packinghouse.

They told us they had been picking lettuce and grapes in the San Bernardino Valley in California. An IBP recruiter came into the camps at the end of the season, knowing workers would be heading out to look for other work. The recruiter said they would be given good paying, permanent jobs with good working conditions and would get a free bus ticket. They didn't know the Greyhound workers were on strike.

The workers were given papers to sign and told they would start working at \$5.50 an hour. They received a copy of the work contract and a map of the United States that was blank except for a dot in the middle, pinpointing their destination.

These *compañeros* were from many different Central American countries, including Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. A worker from Guatemala explained he had helped lead a strike for higher wages at a packinghouse in his country. He was the only one who had ever worked in meat-packing before.

Many had questions about the industry and the plant because they were worried about some of the information the IBP recruiter told them. They were accustomed to bosses' promises that fall through, and they really were not sure what to expect.

For instance, they thought the bus trip would take 46 hours, but because of the strike, it was twice as long. They said the drivers were frequently lost and conditions on the buses were bad. They thought they would find it better in the United States, yet this reminded them of the poor public transportation systems in their own countries. They told us they hope the strikers win.

Also on the picket line was Nancy Brown, a Machinist who is on strike against Eastern Airlines. She was visiting Nebraska to help build support for the strike, including among meat-packers.

During her visit, we had a chance to talk to workers at the IBP plant in Dakota City, Nebraska. The plant currently employs between 2,500 and 3,000 workers in beef slaughter and processing and is one of the IBP plants that has brought thousands of immigrant workers into the area.

IBP hiring practices and working conditions have come more and more into public view recently. The accident and injury rate and resulting turnover are both high at the plant. One meat-packer estimated that 85 percent to 90 percent leave the job for one reason or another every year. IBP's solution is to offer five pounds of meat to those who go three months without a reported accident or injury. Because some of the families need the food, many accidents go unreported.

Bad working conditions and low wages force many of the newly recruited immigrant workers to quit after a short time on the job. But most of these workers have families in Central America who rely on their wages, so they look

around for better-paying jobs. Many cross the Missouri River to Sioux City, Iowa, to work at the John Morrell meat-packing plant. The wages are slightly higher, but the working conditions are similar.

IBP hiring practices have dramatically changed the composition of the population in the Midwest, which is the heart of the meat-packing industry. With this change have come attacks and threats from the Immigration and Naturalization Service. John Morrell was just fined \$345,125 for "employing illegal aliens and failing to verify work eligibility for people hired since 1986." This is one of the largest fines levied by the INS against an employer since passage of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 and has raised the fear that intimidation and raids by the INS in communities and factories will increase.

The Latino Center in Sioux City, the only place where Spanish-speaking people could go for help in solving the myriad of social and economic problems they face after moving to the area, closed recently. Initially the center was set up with a \$40,000 grant from IBP. But IBP didn't like the fact that the center's staff defended the rights of immigrant workers and finally refused to supply more funds to maintain the center's work.

Greyhound strikers in Omaha have taken the opportunity to talk with these fellow workers as they pass through here on their way to the packinghouses. On seeing the strikers, many that IBP hires feel a little more confident to talk, and get a better understanding of some of the fights unionists are involved in today.

L. Paltrineri is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 47P in Omaha; Bob Preston is a member of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1126 on strike against Greyhound in Omaha.

LETTERS

Iraqi invasion

After numerous discussions at work and on campus about the Middle East, I think there is a point the *Militant* should take up to help convince others to take an unequivocal stand in opposition to the intervention by imperialist troops.

The September 28 *Militant* correctly explained why class-conscious workers would oppose the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and would now stand in the forefront of defending Iraq against imperialist attack. A big stumbling block for many I have talked with is: Who could have stopped Iraqi President Saddam Hussein from invading Saudi Arabia if not the United States? If you think the invasion of Kuwait was wrong, how would you have prevented it?

The workers and peasants of the Mideast — against whom the massive imperialist presence in the region is a blow — have demonstrated their fighting capacity time and again — for example, during the Iranian revolution and the Palestinian *intifada*. A key component are the 17 million Iraqi toilers themselves, who are equally victims of the imperialist blockade and threatened war.

These millions can mobilize — given a clear perspective and leadership — to stand up to both the imperialists and local capitalist regimes such as that of Hussein.

Harvey McArthur
Phoenix, Arizona

Antiwar meeting

Forty students gathered at a campus in Auckland to discuss the situation in the Middle East. The meeting was sponsored by the Young Socialists.

The audience was addressed by a panel that included Jock Barnes, a veteran trade unionist; Ruth Gray, a candidate of the Communist League in the upcoming parliamentary elections; David Rhodes, president of the Auckland Technical Institute executive; and Maire Leadbetter, a peace activist. All four opposed a war of any kind against Iraq.

While several speakers said they were against the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, it was pointed out by others that our first responsibility is to demand that the U.S. military get out of the Gulf, that the New Zealand government not support any war moves, and that no sanctions be imposed against Iraq.

Four of those who attended have come to YS-sponsored discussions since and the student newspaper ran a sympathetic article about the meeting.

Kate Gore
Auckland, New Zealand

Rail worker rally

In the article "Rail workers hold rally in Maryland" by John Cox in the October 19 *Militant*, the writer refers to a rally held in West Virginia in August. The correct name of the city it was held in is Kenova, not Conoba.

Maggie McCraw
Charleston, West Virginia

Hiding behind war

A *Militant* sales team in Scotland recently went to Howden Pumps to sell the paper at the shift change. This factory of 500 workers is threatened with closure; and management blames the loss of business on the sanctions against Iraq.

We attended a public meeting against the closure in local council offices that afternoon. Representatives of the Labour Party, Scottish National Party, and Britain's ruling Conservative Party all spoke against the closure and called on the government to compensate the company for the losses it would sustain by breaking its contracts with Iraq. A shop steward said, "I'm heartened by the cross-party support. There's no politics in this."

A Conservative councillor distributed a copy of a letter to the prime minister saying that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein should fear not only the British tanks but also the Scottish bagpipe players.

By contrast, the steward who had told us about the meeting said the Iraqi business "is only about 5 percent to 6 percent of our workload. Management is using it as a smoke-screen. They are hiding behind the Mideast war."

Chris Morris
Manchester, England

Apartheid

I attended the Manhattan *Militant* Labor Forum program on the struggle to abolish apartheid in South Africa on October 6 and wish to congratulate the participants for deepening and strengthening efforts to end the racist brutality in that nation.

Not only were there two excellent



speakers — photographer Margrethe Siem, who was recently in South Africa, and a spokesman for the African National Congress — but there was a videotape of two appearances by Nelson Mandela during his recent visit to America, answering questions and presenting the ANC position with great eloquence.

I hope the *Militant* Labor Forum will present more programs that will intensify the worldwide movement to destroy apartheid in South Africa.

Jonathan Wallach
Yonkers, New York

Alfred Sharpton

In response to your September 14 article "Justice was not served in New York trial," I am an African, born in America. I respect the unbiased and uncompromising truth of the *Militant's* reporting. However I take exception to your characterization of Alfred Sharpton as infamous and breaking the solidarity of people who are against oppression.

You state that Sharpton generalizes by accusing whites of breathing easier after hearing the verdict and that Africans have no allies. You also go on to say that his comments fly in the face of reality. Do you think that because the *Militant* is on record opposing racism, sexism, and exploitation that you can lecture Africans in America about solidarity and unity?

Sharpton tells the reality of racism and the mentality of racist people in this country. Your paper only reports the result of or reaction to it.

Your article would give the impression that racism is an individual attitude, but it's not. Racism is institutionalized, and whites can be racist without even realizing it.

I also notice you conveniently only print the quotes of Malcolm X that are compatible with the *Militant's* goals and ideas. Why don't you print his July 5, 1964, speech, "What kind of allies?" Malcolm X's definition of an ally probably explains why the author of your article on the New York trial would criticize an outspoken Black man who many of us respect.

A prisoner
Crescent City, California

Why the 'Militant'

A few days after reading the October 12 *Militant*, I happened across an interesting play that confirmed James P. Cannon's point that the paper acquired its name from a term used to describe the committed and vocal American unionists of the 1920s and '30s. Cannon was quoted by Doug Jenness in the "Learning About Socialism" column from his insightful essay "How the *Militant* got its name."

The play I refer to was written in 1935 by Clifford Odets, an eminent

American playwright, and entitled *Waiting for Lefty*. Odets uses the term "militant" to describe a faction within a cab drivers union assembled for a strike vote.

I found the most effective use of the word in the following passage:

"Sten: I'm saying the meek shall not inherit the Earth!

"Phil: No?

"Sten: The MILITANT! Come out in the light, comrade."

I highly recommend *Waiting for Lefty* for anyone seeking to ground themselves in the historical nature of socialism within the American labor movement. It is truly invaluable for gaining an accurate picture of the economic exploitation inherent to capitalism. For those who wish to extend their understanding of socialism within a dramatic context, I also recommend the works of George Bernard Shaw, in particular *Major Barbara* (1905).

A prisoner
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

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

S. African youth leaders will begin U.S. tour on anti-apartheid fight

BY HEATHER RANDLE
AND GREG McCARTAN

NEW YORK — Two leaders of the South African Youth Congress (Sayco) will begin a 12-city tour of the United States October 25. Speaking engagements for Brian Thami Hlongwa and Mpho Lekgoro are planned at college campuses, high schools, churches, trade union events, and public meetings.

At these meetings the anti-apartheid leaders will present a first-hand account of the struggle against the apartheid system and the continued fight for a nonracial, democratic South Africa.

"The tour is an important opportunity to bring about a better understanding of the situation in South Africa and to keep the pressure on apartheid," said Brenda Davenport, a Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) youth organizer.

"We want to help send a message to people in this country and have an effect. Mandela's tour was just the icing. Now we have to do the work," she said in an interview from Atlanta, the second stop of the tour. Davenport said a range of organizations are involved in building the tour in that city, especially young activists and youth organizations.

Sayco fought to unban ANC

Sayco has 2 million members and is the largest anti-apartheid youth organization in South Africa. As a member organization of the United Democratic Front and the Mass Democratic Movement, Sayco fought during the recently-lifted state of emergency for the unbanning of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the release of its leaders, including Nelson Mandela. Sayco members are active in community and religious organizations, trade unions, and groups in rural areas.

In Atlanta the South African youths' visit is supported by high school students, activists on four college campuses, the SCLC, the National Collegiate Black Caucus, the Young Communist League, the Young Socialist Alliance, unionists, church organizations, and



Participants in South African Youth Congress national convention last spring

anti-apartheid activists.

Sponsored nationally by the African National Congress Youth Section (USA), the "Free South Africa Youth to Youth Tour" will include stops in Birmingham, Alabama; Detroit; Chicago; Houston and Austin, Texas; Los Angeles and San Francisco; Boston; New Haven, Connecticut; Washington, D.C.; and New York.

In an interview from Johannesburg, South Africa, Sayco publicity secretary Parks Mankahlana encouraged young people in the United States to turn out to hear the two youth leaders and support the tour events.

Despite claims by the South African government that deep-going changes have already been made in the country, he said, anti-apartheid activists continue to be arrested, legal demonstrations are being broken up by the police, political prisoners remain in jail, and strict curfews are being enforced by the regime.

While Sayco leaders are touring the United

States, the ANC Youth League will be relaunched at a rally on October 29 in South Africa, Mankahlana said. Youth League branches will be set up prior to a convention planned for April, 1991. Sayco members are in the forefront of reestablishing the youth organization across the country.

Organizing youth across country

These events will mark another step forward in the organization of the anti-apartheid struggle since political groups were unbanned by the government last February. The ANC in particular has sought to set up branches across the country, and the ANC Women's League was recently launched as well.

The massive concessions by the apartheid regime in late 1989 and early 1990 that unbanned the ANC and provided for the release of its central leaders were a result of the victories scored in the revolutionary struggle against the entrenched apartheid system during the late 1970s and the 1980s.

The regime also lifted aspects of its repressive legislation and some restrictions on freedom of speech and association. It agreed to a long-standing demand of the ANC that it begin talks to establish a political climate in the country in which negotiations could take place leading to the adoption of a new constitution and the election of a government on the basis of one person, one vote.

The ANC has utilized this hard-won political elbow-room to widen the political education, mobilization, and organization of broad layers of the population, in both rural and urban areas.

Today, the government resists meeting the demands of the democratic movement at each step and is attempting to blunt the revolutionary movement for a nonracial, democratic country. Each new victory by the forces fighting to root out apartheid and establish a new government must be secured by deepening struggle. Defending gains already won and continuing to shift the relationship of forces against the government, ANC leaders have insisted, will be a hard-fought battle.

In a statement released October 11, the International Day in Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, the ANC explained the extent of the struggle ahead. Some "358 political trials are presently underway" in South Africa and 50 people have been detained since the initial meeting between Mandela and South African President F.W. de Klerk last spring, the statement said. "The regime has not carried out any irreversible reforms."

"For the ANC to effectively contribute to the process of democratic transformation we need the full participation of all exiles, political prisoners, detainees, and those facing charges," the liberation organization's statement said, referring to those the regime refuses to release from prison or allow to return to the country.

Mac Maharaj, a national executive member of the ANC, and Rapu Molekane, general secretary of Sayco, "are but two of the scores of people who have been detained since the ANC talks began with the government." The statement called on the government to release political prisoners, end political trials, and allow the return of exiles to the country.

Meeting with Inkatha

Striving to win the broadest possible unity in the struggle against the government and to break down divisions in the population imposed by the regime, the ANC National Executive Committee announced October 20 that it is pressing ahead with discussions with the Inkatha Freedom Party.

Headed by Gathsa Buthelezi, Inkatha opposes many aspects of ANC policy. Buthelezi has collaborated with the regime over the years as head of one of the 10 impoverished rural "homelands" set up by Pretoria as vast labor reserves for Blacks. Buthelezi heads the KwaZulu homeland, located in Natal Province. Some 4,000 people have died over the past four years in the region as Buthelezi supporters attempted to halt the growth of organizations supporting the ANC.

"A meeting of the National Executive Committee of the ANC and the Central Committee of the Inkatha Freedom Party will be held in the near future," a statement issued following the ANC leadership meeting said. The meeting, which will include Buthelezi and Mandela, will aim to "strengthen efforts aimed at ending the violence."

On October 18, de Klerk announced the lifting of the state of emergency in Natal. Last June the government ended the emergency decree in the country's other three provinces.

The ANC welcomed the final lifting of the emergency measures and called on the government to withdraw its troops from the province.

Open letter to GIs on Mideast conflict

The following open letter to GIs is by Cleve Andrew Pulley, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress from Michigan's 13th District. He works at the General Motors Orion assembly plant and is a member of United Auto Workers Local 5960. Pulley was the SWP's candidate for president of the United States in 1980.

I'm writing this open letter to appeal to you to weigh carefully the course President George Bush, with the blessing of Congress, is on in the Middle East. More than 200,000 of you, along with tens of thousands from other countries, have been mobilized in Saudi Arabia and on ships in nearby waters. This buildup, the Pentagon's largest since the Vietnam War, is part of Washington's preparations, under cover of a series of United Nations resolutions, to unleash a horrible war in the region.

This slaughter can only end in the deaths of tens of thousands of Iraqi citizens, as well as of many men and women from the United States, mostly young workers and farm youth in uniform. Even before a shot has been fired, soldiers are coming home in body bags, victims of military accidents.

Washington is already enforcing a criminal blockade of food and medicine — a measure aimed at starving Iraqi working people into submission. The economic destruction of a war — both in Iraq and the whole region — will also be staggering. In addition, the victims will include tens of millions living

in the debt-burdened countries of Africa, Asia, and Latin America who will bear the brunt of oil price hikes and other economic consequences of the war.

Like thousands of other GIs during the Vietnam War, I became opposed to the U.S. aggression in Southeast Asia at the time. I exercised my rights to speak out against the war while off duty and explained why I thought working people had no interest in fighting the Vietnamese. Myself and seven others, known as the Fort Jackson Eight, fought the brass' attempt to deny us our democratic rights and intimidate us into silence.

Today, you have every moral and constitutional right to oppose this new Vietnam War. You do not renounce your First Amendment rights when you enter the armed forces.

Those of you who are now in the Middle East, and those to soon follow, will be fighting to protect the political and economic interests of the billionaire ruling families in the United States. You are cannon fodder to safeguard the same corporate owners and bankers who are driving down workers' living standards and working conditions and forcing farmers off their land in the United States.

There is not a single gain that working people in the United States can achieve through war in the Middle East. Nor is there a single conquest, won through previous struggles, that can be protected. This will not be a war for democratic rights.

Bush claims that U.S. troops are needed there to defend national sovereignty and independence for Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and other countries in the region. But this is not the case.

The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August was seized by Washington as an opening to strengthen its own military and political role in the Middle East. One need not go back any further than December, when Washington invaded Panama, to see that U.S. claims of respect for national self-determination are hypocritical.

During the Vietnam War the U.S. government was unable to defeat the Vietnamese people. This, combined with the antiwar protests among GIs and the antiwar movement among the civilian population in the United States and elsewhere, forced the U.S. government to finally withdraw.

The stakes for working people around the world in the current conflict are high. Any U.S. military assault on Iraq would be met with condemnation throughout the Arab world, other parts of the Middle East, and elsewhere. On October 20 thousands of people demonstrated in cities in the United States and around the world demanding the end of U.S. war moves in the Middle East.

Such actions by students, workers, unionists, and GIs are essential in pressing demands on the government to bring the troops home now, end the embargo of food and medicine, and end the war threats against Iraq. I encourage you to join in similar protests.