

## Authorities cut number of Curtis backers allowed at hearing

BY JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — Mark Curtis turned in 70 names of union leaders, civil and women's rights figures, and supporters of human rights who requested to be able to attend his parole hearing. Curtis is a union and political activist serving 25 years in Iowa state prison on frame-up charges because of his activity in defense of 17 Mexican and Salvadoran coworkers.

The parole hearing will be held November 20 at the John Bennett Unit of the Iowa State Penitentiary in Fort Madison, Iowa, where Curtis is being held.

Under Iowa law, a central consideration that the board weighs in deliberating whether to parole a prisoner is the extent of community support for his release. Supporters of Curtis' freedom here in Des Moines, across Iowa, and as far away as Seattle, Philadelphia, and Tchula, Mississippi, had made arrangements to attend the hearing, which is public.

Attendance at the hearing is regulated by individual prison authorities, based on security considerations. Each individual who requested to attend Curtis' parole hearing was to receive a questionnaire from the state penitentiary authorities, questioning them about any previous arrest record or convictions.

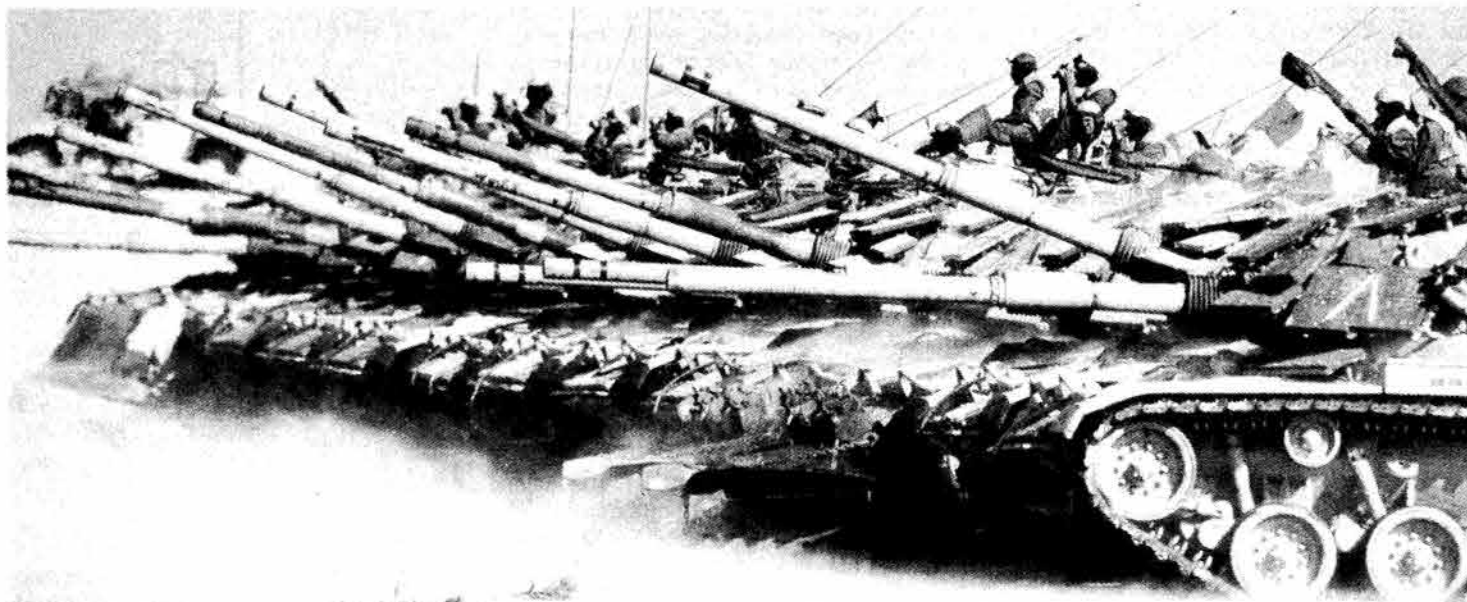
The overwhelming majority of those asking to attend Curtis' hearing turned their names in two weeks prior to the deadline established by prison officials, but none received the questionnaire by November 2. Curtis requested a meeting with his counselor to ask about the delay.

He was told that officials in the office of Prison Warden Crispus Nix had decided not to process any of the requests of his supporters to attend the hearing. They wanted to wait and make a new "policy" decision, the counselor said.

Curtis said he did not understand the refusal to process the names of those who asked to attend his hearing. He had been told that around 30 people would be able to attend.

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## U.S. gov't wins backing for Mideast invasion



U.S. M-60 tanks in Saudi Arabia. Defense Department announced it would begin calling up combat units from the reserves.

BY GREG McCARTAN

Taking another step toward war in the Middle East, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker began an eight-nation trip November 3 to hold meetings with officials of governments that have committed military forces to the Arab-Persian Gulf region.

"This crisis is entering a new phase," Baker told reporters in Saudi Arabia. "I don't think that we can, nor should we, rule out resort to force, if that should be necessary," he said.

Baker explained that his stopover in Saudi Arabia — and later visits to Egypt, Turkey, the Soviet Union, France, and Britain — was aimed at coordinating a military offensive into Iraqi-occupied Kuwait and against Iraq itself. Baker also held meetings with other Gulf state officials and will meet with the foreign minister of China while in Cairo, Egypt.

Britain, China, France, the United States,

and the Soviet Union are the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. All five have endorsed a series of Security Council resolutions since the August 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait backing each step in the U.S.-led war drive.

"We need to know the degree to which countries are willing to support this joint effort as it moves forward," Baker said at a

### See coverage pages 4-5

press conference in Bahrain, a small oil-rich country located on the Gulf.

Bahrain's ruler, Sheik Isa bin Sulman, and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd both agreed to support a new UN resolution being drafted by the U.S. government authorizing the use of force against Iraq.

Baker's aides said his talks with Gulf state officials emphasized that U.S. air superiority alone cannot defeat the Iraqi army and that heavy ground forces would need to be committed. A high number of casualties is expected from a ground war, Baker said.

While the Saudi king had previously said U.S., British, French, and other troops were in the country only as a defense against Iraqi aggression, after meeting with Baker he said that once an offensive action began, American forces would be free to plan and execute the attack without consulting Saudi military leaders.

Commenting on the Baker visit, the Saudi daily newspaper *Asharq Al Awsat* said "the question now is not when will the war start, but when will it be decisively settled."

Responding to an earlier remark by the

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## 'Militant' supporters campaign against war drive, strive to make sales goals

BY RONI McCANN

Supporters of the *Militant* are on a major effort to win thousands of new readers to the socialist press and make the international goals in the circulation campaign by November 17.

Special steps are being taken in cities in the United States and around the world to make this possible. In New York *Militant* supporter Tom Fiske has been elected citywide sales coordinator and will help the fight to deepen the campaign against the war by leading others in selling as many subscriptions to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *Lutte ouvrière*, and copies of *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale* as possible.

"We know we can take much better advantage of the many of the opportunities we have here in the New York area by making the subscription campaign the central priority and involving every supporter in this effort," Fiske said.

Fiske described the political openings they have in the New York area in the next week — five events and teach-ins on college campuses in opposition to the U.S. war drive in the Mideast, two citywide antiwar activities, a rally of city workers facing budget cuts and layoffs, continuing *Daily News* and Eastern strike support actions, and an upcoming tour of South African youth.

"We got a good start by winning 16 new readers at a rally addressed by Rev. Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who is running for president of Haiti on November 4," said Fiske.

*Militant* supporters who are members of the International Association of Machinists in the New York-New Jersey area, including Eastern strikers, are also gearing up to make their subscription drive goal of winning 60 new readers.

"We've had a lot of discussions with Ma-

chinists and Eastern strikers about the U.S. war drive in the Middle East," said Eastern striker Ernie Mailhot, a member of IAM Local 1018. "While a big majority are opposed to the war moves, we realized we weren't getting out the *Militant* enough as

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### New book in Spanish and English for antiwar fighters

Just three weeks off the press, the first edition of Pathfinder's pamphlet *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* has virtually sold out. As part of an international campaign, opponents of the accelerating imperialist-led war drive in the Mideast have gotten the pamphlet into the hands of antiwar demonstrators, workers in factories, students, and farmers, and at plant gates. Some 4,200 copies have been shipped out by Pathfinder to meet this growing demand.

Pathfinder is now preparing an expanded edition, in book form, to be published in both English and Spanish. *¡EE.UU. fuera del Oriente Medio! Cuba habla en Naciones Unidas* will be available November 15, and the new English-language book later in the month. Both will include new material from the debate on the latest UN Security Council resolution giving more cover to Washington's drive toward war, as well as an updated introduction and chronology. Both books are being given the special antiwar campaign price of \$9.95.

## Court denies Irish activist bail and attempts to limit rights

BY MARC LICHTMAN

NEW YORK — On November 5 Irish republican Joe Doherty lost his latest bid for bail. Doherty has been imprisoned in the Metropolitan Correctional Center here since June 1983. Doherty came to this country after escaping from prison in British-occupied Northern Ireland. He was a volunteer in the Irish Republican Army (IRA), fighting to end British rule and to reunite Ireland.

The U.S. government hopes to deport him to Northern Ireland where he faces life imprisonment for his role in a shoot-out between the IRA and a counterinsurgency unit of the British Army. A British officer was killed in the confrontation.

In making the decision, Federal Judge Miriam Cedarbaum said she found "substantial risk of flight," and also claimed that

Doherty still has "strong ties to a foreign paramilitary organization."

The judge's decision also attacked the rights of undocumented workers to due process. "A deportation proceeding is not a criminal proceeding," she said, "and the full trappings of legal protections that are accorded to criminal defendants are not necessarily constitutionally required. The difference between pretrial and predeportation detention is even greater when the alien concedes, as Doherty does, that he is not a citizen and has entered the country illegally."

Doherty, in fact, wants to remain in this country. On June 29, a Federal Appeals Court granted him the right to a hearing for political asylum. A date has not yet been set. U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburg had

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# Prison officials limit attendance at Curtis' prison parole hearing

Continued from front page  
and he submitted a larger list in case some individuals became ill or were otherwise unable to attend.

Prison policy is clear and unambiguous. Every issue of the monthly *Inmate Newsletter*, published by the prison authorities, states, "a list of all individuals you anticipate in attendance at your Parole Hearing, along with their complete addresses, regardless if they are already on your approved visiting list, **MUST BE IN THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE NO LATER THAN THREE (3) WEEKS PRIOR TO YOUR SCHEDULED INTERVIEW.**"

Curtis' counselor told him the warden's office had decided that a different procedure would be followed in his case and only seven observers would be allowed at the parole hearing. In addition, he told Curtis, since the three-week deadline for processing requests had passed, it would be difficult for the prison

registrar to approve anyone.

Curtis requested that prison authorities reconsider these policy changes.

At issue, he said, is his responsibility to show the parole board the breadth of community support for his release. The new policy toward him, Curtis explained, arbitrarily restricted his ability to show the board his full support.

A few hours later, Curtis' counselor informed him that the warden's office had adopted a new policy that would allow nine people to observe the hearing. However, since the three-week deadline to process applications was now past, Curtis would have to select nine observers from individuals already on his pre-approved visitor's list.

Again, Curtis asked that the prison officials reconsider this decision because it still denied him the ability to demonstrate the breadth of his support and limited attendance to immediate family members and close friends.

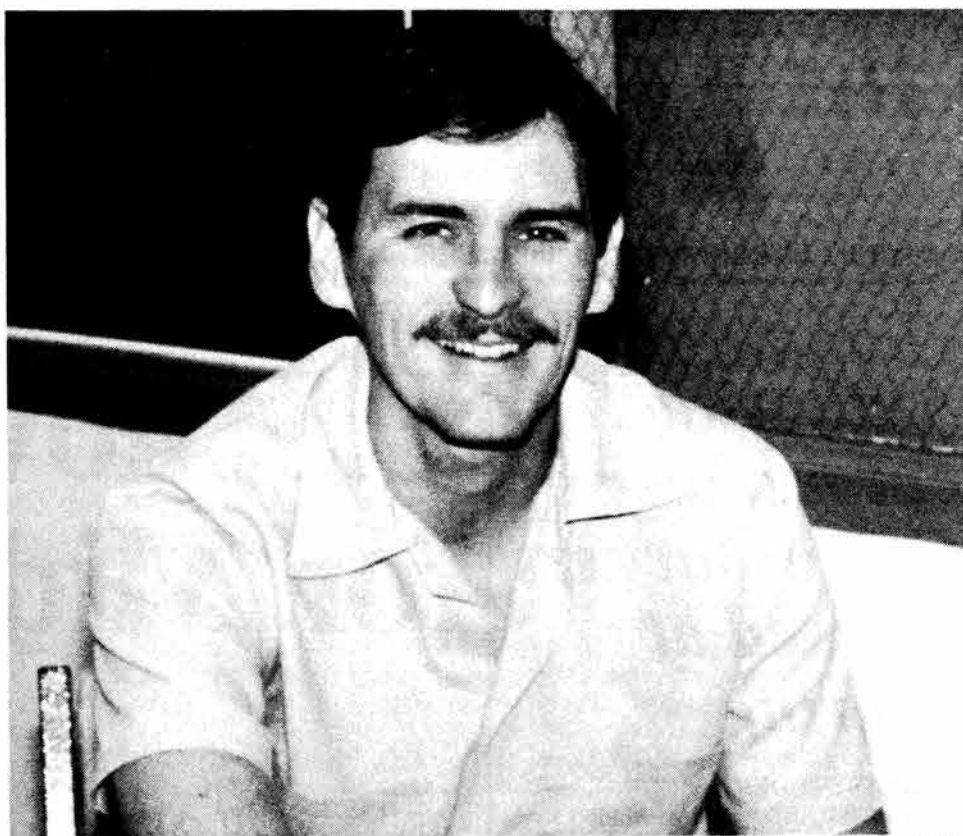
On November 5, Curtis was informed by his counselor that the warden's office had adopted a third special policy for his parole hearing.

While still restricted to nine individuals, he could now select nine from the list of 70 he had submitted weeks earlier. Curtis' counselor told him that because of the late date, he had 40 minutes to pick the nine.

Curtis submitted the names of his parents, and his wife and leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee Kate Kaku. He also selected a few of the prominent unionists, Black rights and farm activists, and supporters of human rights on the list.

He also submitted six additional names, asking his counselor that prison authorities process them as well, in case one of the nine becomes ill or is unable to get enough time off work to attend. The counselor told Curtis that he could not give any assurances that the names would be processed, but he took the extra six names.

"I think that it is a modest victory that I can select the nine people I want to attend my parole hearing, to show, even in this small way, the support for my freedom," Curtis told his defense committee in Des Moines by phone. "And I'm sending a letter to the parole board, telling them that I am looking forward to the hearing and about these recent developments. I am also sending a copy of the list of the 70 people who wanted to attend the hearing. This way, even with the arbitrary decision to restrict the number of people who could attend, the board will know how broad the support on my behalf truly is."



Militant/Margaret Jayko

Mark Curtis, a unionist and political activist, is serving a 25-year jail term. He was framed up by Des Moines, Iowa, cops in 1988 on rape and burglary charges. More than 70 prominent figures have asked to attend his parole hearing as a sign of support for his release.

## Irish activist denied bail, as court attacks immigrant rights

Continued from front page

argued that granting Doherty political asylum would adversely affect relations between the U.S. and Britain, but the Appeals Court ruled that such political relations should not be a factor in deciding immigration cases.

Doherty told Judge Cedarbaum that while he is no longer a member of the IRA, he still adheres to the goals of ending British occupation of the north of Ireland and reuniting his country.

Doherty's attorneys Mary Pike and Steve Somerstein plan to appeal the bail denial. "It is clearly an ill omen for everyone," Somerstein told the press. "The court said that a person can be held indefinitely without charges or conviction. That does not bode well for our constitution."

New York's Mayor David Dinkins said the bail denial was "an affront to our democracy." Besides Dinkins, 109 congresspeople, 10 senators, John Cardinal O'Connor, and the national AFL-CIO representing 14 million union members have supported Doherty's right to bail and political asylum.

For the past seven years, there have been ongoing demonstrations and petition campaigns in support of Doherty's rights. In June, the New York City Council placed a "Joseph Doherty Corner" street sign next to the prison where he is incarcerated.

## Messages from around world ask board to parole Curtis

BY CHRIS REMPLE

DES MOINES — Letters from New Zealand, Cuba, Nicaragua, Sweden, and from all regions of the United States supporting parole for Mark Curtis have come pouring into the office of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee here.

Mark Curtis will be considered for parole at a hearing November 20 in Fort Madison, Iowa, before the State Board of Parole. The defense committee is gathering the letters to the parole board to demonstrate the broad public support for Curtis' parole.

Many local union officials have written to the parole board, including from the United Mine Workers; the Iron Workers; the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; District 65 of the United Auto Workers; and the International Association of Machinists. In addition, unionists from New Zealand, Nicaragua, and other countries are voicing their support for freedom for Mark Curtis.

Dámaso Vargas Loaisiga, a deputy in the National Assembly of Nicaragua and regional coordinator of the National Workers Front, sent a letter supporting parole.

Joy Barth of the Franciscan order, who is hospitality coordinator of the Assisi Community Center in Rochester, Minnesota, wrote to the parole board.

The Movement Against Racism and for Friendship among the Peoples in France has also sent a message. "Informed of the conditions whereby Mark Curtis was sentenced, our movement wants to express its firm belief that he should no longer be imprisoned," the antiracist organization said.

Curtis' case has received broad support from working farmers who have firsthand knowledge of government and police frame-ups. Larry Ginter, the secretary of American Agriculture Movement of Iowa, Inc., wrote, "It is my opinion that to incarcerate him further will serve no purpose, he's served enough time, so let's all let true justice run its course. I am writing this letter to ask that you overwhelmingly decide to give Mark Curtis his freedom."

"Even if you are convinced of Mr. Curtis' guilt, which I am not, you must recognize that there is nothing in Mark's past history or behavior since his arrest and incarceration which would suggest that he poses any threat to the people of Iowa," wrote John Filter, the vice-general chairman of the United Transportation Union in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The letters from unionists, civil rights fighters, religious figures, and activists for social justice, will be delivered to the Board of Parole after a news conference planned for November 15 in Des Moines.

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# South African leader Mandela gets big welcome in Australia

BY BOB ANDREWS

SYDNEY, Australia — A crowd of 30,000 people — waving flags, cheering, and unfurling banners proclaiming support for the freedom struggle in South Africa — greeted African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela at an October 24 rally here.

Participants came from everywhere to hear Mandela speak. High school students skipped classes and arrived by bus and train. University students, city workers, unionists, and immigrants from Asia to Latin America made their way to the event.

## Mandela thanked people of Australia for giving solidarity to the struggle

Members of peace groups, Black rights organizations, and trade unions were on hand with their banners.

Mandela, a guest of the Australian Federal Labor Government, acknowledged the government's stand against apartheid in maintaining its sports and economic sanctions against the South African regime. He thanked the Australian people and said even through the thick prison walls "the steadfastness of your solidarity filtered through."

### Three-city tour

While in Sydney, Mandela met with Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke and Foreign Minister Gareth Evans and urged continuation of economic sanctions against the apartheid government. He rejected a call by a leader of the Australian Liberal Party for a Commonwealth-spon-

sored Eminent Persons Group to visit South Africa and determine whether sanctions should continue.

"It is for the ANC and the rest of the liberation movement to take that decision," Mandela said, "and we will not take that decision to review sanctions until fundamental and irreversible changes take place in the country."

The freedom fighter also met with a delegation of 20 Aboriginal leaders and said he identified with the sentiments they expressed. "Any people who are trying to improve their living conditions have our sympathy because that is what we are doing in our own country," Mandela said.

The ANC leader also addressed an ecumenical service and attended a meeting of ANC activists and supporters where he praised the young fighters who have emerged in South Africa.

In Melbourne, a concert was held in Mandela's honor. There he described the legacy of apartheid: the lack of housing, unemployment, low wages, and the poor health and education systems. "The effects of these conditions will remain with us long after apartheid is dead and gone," the ANC leader said.

He also addressed a business lunch hosted by the chief executive of Shell Australia and a town hall meeting of 2,500 organized by trade unions. Mandela acknowledged the role of Australian dock workers and other unionists, who refused to unload South African cargo in the 1960s, as having given "strength and hope to the people of South Africa."

In an interview in Canberra, the capital of Australia, Mandela presented a strong defense of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). "We identify with them because

like us they are fighting for the right to self-determination," he said, explaining that the ANC did not regard the PLO as a terrorist organization.

"If one has to refer to any of the parties as a terrorist state," the ANC leader said, "one might refer to the Israeli government, because they are the people who are slaughtering defenseless, innocent Arabs in the occupied territories. We do not regard that as acceptable. We agree with the United Nations that international disputes should be settled by peaceful means."

Kate Blakeney and Ron Poulson also contributed to this article.



Militant/Greg McCartan  
Mandela addressing youth meeting in South Africa in April.

## Pledges to expansion fund increase to \$713,400

"The \$1 million International Expansion Fund launched at the August convention of the Socialist Workers Party has inspired a tremendous response," said SWP financial secretary Dave Prince.

At the convention \$580,400 was pledged, he said in a November 6 interview. The pledge total has since grown to \$713,400. And \$205,400, just over 20 percent of the goal, has been collected.



Militant  
Dave Prince, SWP financial secretary. Prince said projects to strengthen socialist movement can begin.

"The initial success means the fund has the cash on hand to begin a number of projects to strengthen the socialist movement to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 1990s," Prince explained. "One of the first investments will be a down payment in

the next few weeks on a Heidelberg two-color press that will make possible a qualitative improvement in the publishing operation of the movement."

"The *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *Lutte ouvrière* and *Pathfinder* books will especially benefit. These books and periodicals are invaluable tools for building the communist movement around the world."

The financial secretary explained that funds are now also available to complete the construction project at the party leadership school facilities to prepare for the next session of the school. "The leadership school allows workers who are involved in the day-to-day work of leading a revolutionary organization to take several months out to study the works of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels — the founders of scientific socialism," Prince said.

In December a team of volunteers will begin work on a major reorganization and remodeling of the *Pathfinder* Building in New York. The building houses the offices of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *Pathfinder*, and the national offices of the Socialist Workers Party. Planning for the reorganization has already begun, Prince said.

The Expansion Fund appeals to supporters who are in a position to contribute \$1,000 or more. Contributions are not used to cover shortfalls in daily operating expenses, but finance major capital improvements that will have long-term benefits. "So far, 50 people have made contributions to the fund," Prince said. One supporter accompanied an \$18,300 contribution with the following note: "Enclosed is a contribution to the Expansion Fund. This contribution is made in memory of my mother. She willed an insurance policy to me and she would have wanted it to be used in this way."

"The ability to raise pledges for the fund and collect the full \$1 million by the end of 1991 depends on a continuing response from an expanding number of contributors," Prince explained. "The tremendous response gives us every confidence of success."

For more information about the fund please write: The Expansion Fund, 406 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

## GI speaks out against war moves in the Middle East

This week the *Militant* begins a column devoted to reports on actions against the accelerated drive toward war in the Mideast by the U.S. government and its allies. Conferences, picket lines, rallies, teach-ins, and other activities are already being held around the world.

We encourage readers to contribute to this column by sending reports on upcoming meetings; newly formed co-

ward war in the Middle East. As the march proceeded to the University of Montana, several people ran out of their homes to join in. High school students caught up with the demonstration as it stopped in front of their school.

As the protest passed through the university student union, the walls echoed with applause, cheers, and resounding chants of "Bring 'em back, from Iraq!" and "No Blood for Bush!"

The day before, some 350 university students held an open-mike speakout where students, professors, and veterans condemned the drive toward war. Sponsors of the march and speakout included the Black Student Union, Central American Action Committee, Women's Resource Center, and the Badger Chapter environment group.

The *Montana Kaimin* student newspaper ran an editorial stating, "Before President Bush sends to an early grave tens of thousands of young Americans, including, possibly, several of our fellow students, we must demand to know why the U.S. should play world policeman this case."

## CAMPAIGN AGAINST U.S. WAR DRIVE

alitions; protests by GIs, students, and other working people; and other items that will help build visible opposition to the growing war moves.

NEW YORK — Patrick Colclough, a participant in the U.S. Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program at St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York, has been speaking out against the U.S. war drive in the Middle East. Along with seven other members of the armed forces who are resisting deployment to the Arab-Persian Gulf region, he participated in the October 20 "Bring the Troops Home Now!" demonstration in New York City.

Colclough has been charged by the army with "willful evasion" of his contract with the ROTC because of his activities. He faces a military trial and could be put on active duty for three years as a private. If he refuses mobilization he can be charged with being AWOL and sentenced to five years in the brig.

Colclough said he has been having "moral qualms" about the ROTC program for over a year and the drive to war in the Middle East "exemplifies why I'm opposed to war."

In preparation for the military trial he faces, Colclough was forced to go through two interviews at West Point, New York — one with a psychologist to determine his mental health and another with a chaplain to see if he was sincere about being a conscientious objector.

"This chaplain, who's supposed to be a Christian, was really aggressive," Colclough said. "Behind the name plate on his desk, he had a display of bullets. He asked me questions like, 'If you were a Jew in Poland during World War II, would you have fought?' The interview was a pretty upsetting experience."

Colclough has spoken at antiwar demonstrations in Newburgh and Woodstock, New York, and is working with an antiwar group at Bard College.

MISSOULA, Montana — On October 31 some 600 students marched here against the U.S. government's drive to-

The Los Angeles Coalition Against U.S. Intervention in the Middle East has called for weekly Friday evening candlelight vigils "until the threat of war is over." The vigils will be held at the Westwood Federal Building on Wilshire Blvd. from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information on coalition activities, call (213) 653-3728.

A conference called Occupation and Intervention: Perspectives on the Middle East Crisis will be held here November 17-18, at the Massachusetts College of Art. For information write to The Middle East Justice Network, P.O. Box 558, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02238.

Marea Himelgrin from New York and Greg Rosenberg from Salt Lake City, Utah, contributed to this week's column.



Student protest in Missoula, Montana.



# Four at UN Security Council offer steps to stop Mideast war

BY SELVA NEBBIA

The governments of four member countries of the United Nations Security Council made a proposal November 5 for a peaceful resolution to the conflict in the Arab-Persian Gulf.

The proposal made in the form of a draft resolution put forth by the representatives of Yemen, Cuba, Malaysia, and Colombia comes in the context of growing concern around the world about the increasing prospects for war in the Mideast.

Beginning with the demand for the "immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all Iraqi forces from Kuwait," and the "restoration of Kuwait's sovereignty," the resolution calls on the Security Council to dispatch a UN Peacekeeping Force to the Mideast.

The UN force would be "made up of contingents from Arab countries, members of the United Nations" and would "maintain law and order in Kuwait as Iraqi forces withdraw and during the re-establishment of the government of Kuwait."

The proposal also calls for the lifting of "all sanctions enacted through United Nations Security Council resolutions against Iraq," including trade and financial transactions, and unfreezing Iraq's assets in other countries. Sanctions would be lifted "upon formal certification to the Security Council" that Iraq has complied with UN resolutions 660, 662, and 664. These resolutions call for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait,

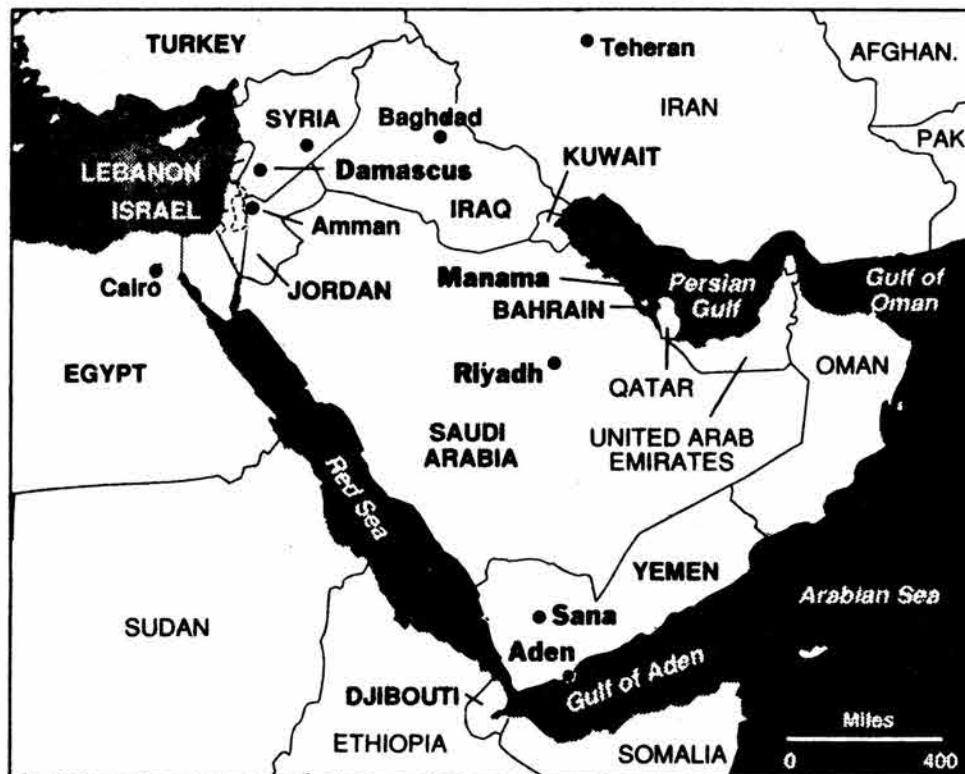
declare Iraq's annexation of Kuwait null and void, and demand Baghdad permit the departure of nationals of third countries from Kuwait and Iraq.

The draft resolution calls on the Security Council to provide "the assurance... that there would not be any foreign intervention, military or otherwise, against Kuwait and Iraq," and "for the simultaneous withdrawal of all foreign armed forces from the region" upon "compliance by Iraq with the relevant Security Council resolutions."

Finally, the four call on the Council to "undertake all efforts to ensure prompt compliance with other outstanding Security Council resolutions, including those relating to the conflict in the Middle East, in particular, the Palestinian question."

The draft resolution is being circulated by the four among other governments and international organizations to win broader sponsorship prior to formally presenting it to the Security Council.

The peace proposal is being made as Washington's war policies are gaining



greater international backing. On November 6, China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen indicated his government would not block the United Nations Security Council from authorizing the use of force against Iraq.

That same day in Geneva, Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told King Hus-

sein of Jordan that she did not rule out force to end Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

The November 7 *New York Times* reported that British officials and military experts believe sufficient U.S. and British forces would be in place for a successful military operation against Iraq by late November.

## Antiwar meeting held in Manchester

BY ANDY BUCHANAN

MANCHESTER, Britain — More than 500 people filled the lecture theater of the University of Manchester's Institute of Science and Technology October 24 to take part

in a meeting protesting the threat of war in the Middle East.

The meeting was called under the slogan "No war in the Gulf" and was organized by the Manchester Area National Union of Students. This body is made up of student representatives from a large number of local colleges. The meeting was also sponsored by other organizations, including the District Committee of Region 6 of the Transport and General Workers' Union and the local group Manchester Against the Gulf War.

The meeting was addressed by a broad range of speakers, among them a representative of the Palestinian people, a local leader of the Green Party, and Tom Hart, the local education officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union. There was also a speaker from the Campaign Against Repression of Democratic Rights in Iraq (CARDRI), and a member of the Kurdish nationality living in Manchester.

While all the speakers opposed a military invasion of Iraq, opinions on the trade blockade and the role of the United Nations were divided. Hart stated that the West was "reaping the whirlwind" that it had sowed through its support for the Saddam Hussein government in the past. He pointed out that sanctions had not been imposed when the Iraqi military had launched gas attacks against the Kurdish people. He concluded by saying that a peaceful solution could only be based on troops leaving Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

The keynote speaker, Labor Party Member of Parliament Tony Benn, stressed, "Nobody can believe that the same people who invaded Panama and Grenada, or who sank the [Argentine cruiser] *General Belgrano* [in 1982]

are now speaking for peace and social justice." Benn said the national boundaries in the Middle East had been "drawn by British civil servants."

"Today," he said, the "Americans are seeking to take our place, and they want a base to secure the oil they need. With the end of the Cold War, there is a return to imperialism."

Recalling that U.S. aggression in Korea had been conducted under the flag of the United Nations, Benn explained that "we are not working towards a United Nations attack on Iraq."

A week later some 60 people attended another public protest held in a Pakistani community center in the Longsight district of Manchester. The meeting was chaired by Sajjad Hussein, a member of the community center and the Pakistan People's Party. It was also addressed by Frank Allaun, a leader of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament; the chief imam of the Manchester Central Mosque; City Councillor Iqbal Sram; and a representative of the Bangladeshi community.

While Frank Allaun expressed his support for the blockade, other speakers targeted the U.S. and British presence in the region as the root of the problem. Local Labor Party MP Gerald Kaufman, a strong supporter of U.S. policy in the region, was the target of particular criticism.

Speakers at both meetings called on people to attend the demonstration against the war threats in the Gulf that is taking place in London on November 24. The march is called by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

## Antiwar pamphlet gets big response



Militant/Lisa Ahlberg

As sentiment against the war Washington and its allies are preparing in the Mideast grows, so does demand for the new Pathfinder pamphlet *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* by Fidel Castro and Ricardo Alarcón. Pathfinder has already shipped out more than 4,000 copies.

"This is just what I was looking for," said a young woman attending the Malcolm X: Radical Tradition and a Legacy of Struggle conference in New York November 1-4 as she bought the pamphlet. She and several other students from Illinois State University attended the event, hoping the discussions there will help them build an antiwar movement on campus. A total of 22 *Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* were sold at the event.

As soon as they got word that the new pamphlet was out, two Canadian *Militant* subscribers visited the Pathfinder Bookstore in Vancouver, British Columbia, to buy copies for themselves and a few to sell on the job.

Mary Zins, a member of the United Mine Workers from Illinois, reports that many workers in her mine are against the war. "But they lack facts on the war drive and overall background information on the Arab-Persian Gulf," she said. "The Pathfinder pamphlet helps arm them not only with the facts but with the arguments to counter Washington's war propaganda," Zins said.

The pamphlet includes statements made by Alarcón, Cuba's ambassador to the UN, and by Cuban President Fidel Castro during the course of the Mideast crisis. The full text of each resolution passed by the UN Security Council through September 25 on the Mideast conflict is also included.

Joel Britton, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California in the recent elections, and supporters have ordered 230 pamphlets so far as part of the international campaign to get it out as widely as possible. In the photo above, Britton (right) sells *Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* at an antiwar demonstration in Los Angeles.

### SPECIAL OFFER

**Subscribe to the *Militant* & get \$2 off new Pathfinder pamphlet**

Try the socialist newsweekly for 12 weeks for just \$10 and you'll get *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* for only \$4.

82 pp., regularly \$6. Offer good thru November 17.

Available from any of the Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12 or from the *Militant*, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.







University students in Japan demonstrating against government proposal to send military personnel to Mideast. If Tokyo succeeds, the troops would be the first sent from the country since 1945.

# Japan gov't tries to send troops to Gulf

BY GREG McCARTAN

Legislation initiated by Japan's Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu calling for Japanese military personnel to join U.S.-led forces in the Middle East has run into deep opposition throughout the country.

The Japanese military is restricted to a defensive force by a constitution imposed during the U.S. occupation following World War II. The legislation recently submitted to Parliament would have allowed Japanese troops to be sent to another country for the first time since 1945.

Pressed by Washington to come up with at least a token force, Kaifu originally told U.S. President George Bush he hoped more than 1,000 Japanese, including military personnel in a noncombat capacity, would depart for the Mideast by the time of the en-

thronement of Japan's Emperor Akihito November 12. Tokyo has already agreed to a \$4-billion-aid package for the military buildup in the Middle East.

Kaifu attempted to cover over the character of the military deployment by titling the bill the United Nations Peace Cooperation Law. "We have to share the risk while Americans are risking their own lives," a leading member of Kaifu's Liberal Democratic Party told the press in late October.

Top officials of Japan's Socialist Party opposed the measure and protests have been organized condemning the moves. On October 20 some 23,000 demonstrated outside a U.S. military base, the largest action during a day of coordinated countrywide protests.

"Japan inflicted so much disaster on so many countries in the last war we could never apologize enough," Socialist Party candidate Michiko Goto told a November 1 rally. "After that experience we should never again aim a gun at foreign peoples — even the people of Iraq."

Following a heated parliamentary debate, Kaifu aides said they considered the current proposal dead. Even members of Kaifu's party opposed the moves.

A widespread discussion has broken out across the country on the use of troops abroad. "If Japan is criticized, that's that," a woman told a reporter for the *New York Times*. "It might sound selfish to you, but I'm very afraid of becoming involved in another war."

Asked why so few Japanese wanted to volunteer for duty in the Mideast another woman told the reporter, "They don't want to die."

## Mideast crisis affects Jordan, Yemen

Jordan and Yemen, two countries bordering Saudi Arabia, have been thrown into an economic and social crisis as a result of the embargo against Iraq and the military buildup in the region since August 2.

While the governments in both countries opposed the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, neither has sent troops to join the massive buildup of forces aimed at Iraq.

Jordan has lost important export markets due to the embargo, which also includes food and medicine. Fruits and vegetables intended for export to Iraq are rotting at the border.

A major shipping port at Aqaba has been shut down by the naval armada now surrounding the Arabian Peninsula. Not only have ships with cargoes bound for Iraq been denied access to the port, but the Saudi government has delayed ships en route to the port to pick up cargoes of Jordanian phosphates — the country's major export.

### Punishing Jordan

In a move to punish Jordan for not endorsing the U.S. intervention in the area, the Saudi government has cut off oil shipments to the country as well.

Of the more than \$2 billion pledged by governments in Europe and Japan to countries adversely affected by the growing conflict, only \$4 million has been received in Jordan.

"We are really the second victims of the Gulf crisis," Ziad Fariz, Jordan's Minister of Industry and Trade told reporters. Accused of violating the embargo against Iraq, Jordan's government has allowed U.S. and British forces to set up check points on the Iraqi-Jordanian border.

"They opened the trucks and found furniture" belonging to Jordanians fleeing Kuwait, Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan said. When the British then wanted to inspect the cargo further, "we told them that the day of high commissioners and viceroys are over," he said referring to decades of former British colonial rule in the region. "The degree of humiliation is clear."

Jordanian working people have suffered the biggest consequences of the growing crisis. Some 133,150 workers, out of Jordan's total population of 3.5 million, have had to leave jobs in Kuwait. This will result in the loss of an estimated \$320 million sent back

to families in Jordan.

Jordanian officials expect that the country will lose up to 50 percent of its gross national product this year. With estimated cash reserves of \$170 million, Jordan is facing a \$500 million payment on its \$8.4 million foreign debt by the end of the year.

At the end of October, Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh harshly criticized the Saudi government for inviting U.S. forces to the region. He also condemned the expulsion of some 500,000 Yemeni workers from Saudi Arabia.

Funds sent home by Yemeni workers in

other countries account for some \$2 billion a year — the country's largest source of income. The population of Yemen is more than 12 million.

Nearly 30,000 Yemenis have returned from Saudi Arabia each day since the government there suspended residency and other privileges in September.

Yemen's government estimates the costs so far to its economy is \$1.6 billion. Yearly financial aid from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait has ended, and tourism — a \$17 million-a-year industry — has dried up. The country's foreign debt stands at \$7 billion.

## Syria gov't steps up military role in conflict

BY GREG McCARTAN

As advanced detachments of Syria's 15,000-member Ninth Armored Division arrived in Saudi Arabia on November 4, Syrian President Hafez-al-Assad stepped up his public campaign aimed at preparing the country's population for involvement in a massive war against Iraq.

Some three thousand Ninth Armored Division troops unloaded T-62 tanks from Saudi transport ships. They joined the 4,000 Syrian troops already stationed in Saudi Arabia. Assad has pledged 270 tanks in addition to ground troops to join the 500,000 naval, air force, and army personnel the U.S. government and its allies are amassing in and around the Arabian Peninsula.

### 'Military solution necessary'

*Tishrin*, the newspaper of Assad's ruling Baathist Party, stated the day prior to the troops' dispatch that "a military solution has become necessary, and Iraq alone bears the responsibility of the destructive consequences as it has made this grave choice itself."

Saudi Prince Khalid told the arriving troops that "we are here to fight if it's necessary," adding that the presence of the Syrian armored division "makes me very happy." The Syrian forces will be fighting under the Saudi flag.

Syrian troops are being stationed on the front lines of the border with Iraq, replacing

5,500 French forces, including members of the Foreign Legion, now deployed in the area. The French troops will reportedly be stationed behind troops from Syria and other Arab countries.

Protestations by the Syrian government earlier in the week against wider U.S. financial and military backing for the Israeli regime opened speculation among Saudi government officials over whether Assad would continue his support for the imperialist military intervention in the region.

Following the October 8 massacre of 20 Palestinians by Israeli police and troops, the U.S. Congress approved a budget that included an annual \$3 billion in aid to Israel. The bill also provided for some \$700 million in advanced weaponry to be sent to Israel.

Responding to the aid increase, the Syrian government newspaper *Al Thawra* said, "the moment the Gulf crisis blew up, the U.S. administration took this crisis as a pretext for supplying Israel with the most advanced and destructive weapons and billions of dollars for settling Jewish immigrants."

But with the arrival of the new troops and the strident war talk in the Syrian press, Assad quickly clarified where he stood.

One of the benefits the capitalist rulers of Syria have already reaped from their backing of the U.S.-led preparations for war against Iraq is greater political and military domination of a large section of

neighboring Lebanon.

In early October Syrian troops, tanks, and warplanes ousted Lebanese Gen. Michel Aoun from Lebanon's presidential palace in Beirut.

Aoun, who had been named head of an interim military government in 1988, refused to recognize the new president of the country elected by the parliament last year. Backed by 15,000 mostly Christian troops, the general attempted to scuttle a plan which established a more equal distribution of government posts to Lebanon's Muslim majority. Christian domination of the governmental structure had been enshrined in the Lebanese Constitution since the French granted Lebanon independence in the 1940s.

### Syria bombs Lebanon

In the assault against Aoun, Syrian warplanes bombed the presidential palace — the first air attack ever launched by Syria inside Lebanon. The U.S. and Israeli governments had warned Assad in the past against any such air bombardment. Syria used heavy artillery, thousands of troops, and the air attack to defeat Aoun's forces. Some 750 military personnel and civilians are reported to have died in the fighting.

A senior adviser of Lebanon's President Elias Hrawi told the press October 15 that the president had conferred with Washington and indirectly with Tel Aviv for approval of the Syrian intervention.

"Until the last minute we waited for American assurances on how Israel would react," the adviser said, "and the answer was: Israel will not interfere as long as Syria does not approach south Lebanon or threaten [Israel's] security interests."

Israel occupies the southern part of Lebanon and backs militias in the area.

In testimony on the situation in Lebanon at a U.S. Congressional committee October 18, Secretary of State James Baker said, "We are appreciative of the role that Syria is playing in support of the international coalition in the Gulf."

Pressed on whether he had given a green light to the Syrian intervention in Lebanon, Baker said, "Syria was there at the request of the legitimate government of Lebanon, a government that we recognize and a government that we support."

## General Motors begins move to close plants

BY JAMES HARRIS

General Motors announced October 31 that it is closing up to nine of its plants, terminating tens of thousands of workers. Four of the nine have already been idled for three years. The announcement confirmed that these plants would be permanently shut. In the case of the other five plants, the auto company began preparations to close them.

On October 30 GM had announced it would shut down 16 of its other plants at various times over the next two months to cut back on auto production.

The company reported a record quarterly loss of \$1.98 billion because of the cost of shutting down the plants. This is almost four

times the previous record loss that GM took in the third quarter of 1980. The losses also reflect the growing decline in the market for automobiles being confronted by all manufacturers.

GM's bosses say its work force is too large in the face of a deteriorating market and increasing competition from other auto manufacturers. GM previously announced that its goal is to shrink the hourly work force by at least 60,000 workers, decrease the number of plants, and intensify the work load of those remaining on the job.

GM's announcement of plant closings comes a little over a month after the United Auto Workers and GM signed a contract that purported to provide auto workers with job

security. The UAW has since signed similar contracts with Ford and Chrysler. The agreements do not provide job security if the auto companies' share of the market slips. The major provisions of the contracts are a series of benefits to workers if they are laid off. The benefits rapidly deplete when massive layoffs take place during times of recession.

Ignoring the rather grim prospects facing the auto industry, UAW Vice-president Steve Yokich said after signing the contract with GM, "I think General Motors has made a commitment to grow the business."

The recent moves by the auto company point in the opposite direction, as GM cuts back on production and its work force.





Militant sale at the New York October 20 demonstration against the war drive

# 'Militant' supporters use every sales day

Continued from front page

well as copies of the *U.S. Hands Off the Middle East! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* pamphlet," he said.

"Clearly we need to step this up," Mailhot said. "There is tremendous support for the views put forward in the *Militant* and we need to not only have discussions about the war drive but make sure everyone has a subscription and a pamphlet."

Mailhot said the IAM members had sold 11 out of their goal as of November 7 and were really "just getting started." In the strike office the day before, he sold a subscription to the *Militant*, one to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and a copy of *U.S. Hands Off the Middle East! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*. One of the strikers who subscribed was a member of the National Guard.

*Militant* supporters in several cities are close to making their goals in the campaign and are driving to go well over the top. "We are planning to go over our goal to make sure we help out on the international one," said Craig Honts from Austin, Minnesota. Supporters there won eight new readers at Mankato State University on November 3. "We told students that lower oil prices are not what the U.S. rulers have in mind with a war in the Mideast," he explained. "People were very receptive to our antiwar message."

Supporters in Sydney, Australia, have already burst over the top in their goal and were at 208 per cent before raising it! African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela visited the country and tens of thousands of people turned out to hear him speak at various events.

*Militant* supporters from Australia and New Zealand won 137 new readers during the events. They also sold 30 copies of the Marxist journal *New Internationalist*, 115 copies of Mandela's *The Struggle is My Life*, and 94 copies of the pamphlet *Nelson Mandela Speeches 1990: Intensify the Struggle Against Apartheid*. Eight of the new readers live in other countries including Japan, Fiji, and Papua, New Guinea.

Supporters in Sweden and Canada have announced they are close to making every goal. In Vancouver, British Columbia, they have sold 14 of the pamphlet *U.S. Hands Off the Middle East! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* so far this week and five copies of *New Internationalist*. On November 10 a week-long antiwar sales team will hit the road from there to the

coalfields of western Canada.

*Militant* supporters in many cities are taking advantage of every day to sell subscriptions and strive to make their goals. In Miami supporters won 35 new readers in the past week. On a two-day team to Tampa 13 people signed up to get the *Militant*, one subscriber renewed, and 10 others bought copies of the pamphlet *U.S. Hands Off the Middle East! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*. Supporters also traveled to Homestead, Florida, where thousands of migrant farm workers live in camps. One worker gave them a "down payment" for his *Perspectiva Mundial* subscription and seven asked them to call back so they can get the money. Supporters in Miami have also visited 16 subscribers who have renewed.

## Final sales scoreboard

The *Militant* will be printed a day early, on November 21, the week after the sales drive ends because of the Thanksgiving holiday. In order to count all the subscriptions for the final tally, the ending scoreboard will appear in the issue printed on November 29. Supporters will want to make certain all their subscriptions are in by that date.

A big boost to the last days of the drive will be the antiwar, week-long sales teams being launched to help close the gap in the campaign.

Supporters from Detroit; Charleston, West Virginia; and Omaha, Nebraska hit the road November 6 for several college campuses in Louisiana. Another team of supporters from Newark, Philadelphia, and Detroit are traveling to southern New Jersey and Delaware. And salespeople from Washington, D.C.; Greensboro, North Carolina; and Miami are on the road in Florida and are headed for Gainesville and Tallahassee. Their first stops were Boca Raton and Belle Glade. In Belle Glade, where thousands of Jamaican workers cut sugarcane, supporters won seven new subscribers and six people asked them to call back.

A two-week team through the coalfields of southern Indiana and Illinois won 24 new subscribers — the majority coal miners. "The big question was the U.S. war drive," said supporter Bob Rowan from Newark. "Some backed the government's actions but most were opposed to the military buildup and wanted to talk and buy the paper." Some 196 miners bought copies of the *Militant* at portals during the two weeks and 10 students subscribed on campuses in the region.

## 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
<b>UNITED STATES</b>											
Price, Utah	80	79	99%	55	67	13	9	10	3	2	0
Austin, Minn.	90	77	86%	60	59	18	10	10	8	2	0
Miami	200	135	68%	110	99	30	11	40	14	20	11
Seattle	190	119	63%	115	79	48	25	25	12	2	3
Baltimore	125	78	62%	90	46	12	6	20	23	3	3
San Francisco	175	103	59%	110	66	35	24	25	12	5	1
Philadelphia	185	108	58%	115	65	38	29	30	13	2	1
Des Moines, Iowa	180	95	53%	135	65	25	23	18	6	2	1
Omaha, Neb.	120	63	53%	85	48	18	10	15	5	2	0
Oakland, Calif.	190	99	52%	125	65	35	19	25	14	5	1
Los Angeles	400	200	50%	200	119	115	58	80	22	5	1
Birmingham, Ala.	170	84	49%	138	75	10	4	20	5	2	0
Salt Lake City	185	90	49%	130	67	23	10	30	11	2	2
Phoenix	95	45	47%	55	34	28	9	10	1	2	1
St. Louis	205	95	46%	162	83	10	1	30	11	3	0
Greensboro, NC	115	52	45%	85	35	13	8	15	9	2	0
Twin Cities, Minn.	225	99	44%	175	82	17	9	30	7	3	1
Charleston, WV	135	59	44%	95	51	13	1	25	5	2	2
Detroit	180	74	41%	140	64	10	1	25	6	5	3
Cleveland	160	62	39%	115	41	18	8	25	13	2	0
Newark, NJ	340	129	38%	180	71	60	20	70	33	30	5
Morgantown, WV	155	56	36%	115	53	8	0	30	3	2	0
Boston	235	83	35%	140	64	45	15	35	0	15	4
Kansas City	125	44	35%	88	37	10	4	25	3	2	0
Pittsburgh	130	45	35%	105	41	5	1	18	3	2	0
Brooklyn	345	118	34%	190	52	70	28	60	28	25	10
Atlanta	198	64	32%	135	38	20	9	40	15	3	2
Chicago	280	73	26%	185	51	45	16	45	2	5	4
New York	520	122	23%	275	55	120	39	95	26	30	2
Washington, DC	150	35	23%	100	26	20	7	23	0	7	2
Houston	145	27	19%	98	16	25	3	20	8	2	0
Cincinnati	17	10	59%	12	7	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.	20	14	70%	14	11	4	3	2	0	-	0
Portland, Ore.	11	5	45%	10	4	1	1	-	0	-	0
Other U.S.	-	0	-	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0
<b>U.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>6,093</b>	<b>2,644</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>3,958</b>	<b>1,839</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>											
London	174	85	49%	113	52	15	4	42	29	4	0
Sheffield	100	46	46%	70	33	9	0	20	12	1	1
Cardiff	58	24	41%	40	15	2	2	15	7	1	0
Manchester	62	21	34%	45	16	1	2	15	2	1	1
Other Britain	-	42	-	-	8	-	2	-	32	-	0
<b>BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>CANADA</b>											
Vancouver*	120	84	70%	80	51	15	11	20	20	5	2
Montréal	210	131	62%	75	71	35	18	35	10	65	32
Toronto	155	92	59%	100	61	25	18	25	12	5	1
<b>CANADA TOTAL</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>FAEROE IS.</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>FRANCE</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>ICELAND</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>											
Christchurch	60	71	118%	51	61	2	1	6	9	1	0
Auckland	110	81	74%	91	67	10	3	8	11	1	0
Wellington	70	42	60%	61	41	2	1	6	0	1	0
Other N. Z.	10	4	40%	9	4	1	0	-	0	-	0
<b>N. Z. TOTAL</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>PUERTO RICO</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>SWEDEN</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
Int'l teams	50	0	0%	10	0	34	0	5	0	1	0
Other Int'l	-	1	-	-	0	-	1	-	0	-	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,656</b>	<b>3,580</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>4,893</b>	<b>2,454</b>	<b>1,172</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>1,284</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>DRIVE GOALS</b>	<b>7,800</b>			<b>5,000</b>		<b>1,225</b>		<b>1,250</b>		<b>325</b>	
<b>TO BE ON SCHEDULE</b>		<b>5,848</b>	<b>75%</b>		<b>3,750</b>		<b>918</b>		<b>937</b>		<b>243</b>
* Raised goal during drive											

## Fiji miners form union

BY ROGER JACKSON

SUVA, Fiji — Fiji's only gold mine is located at Vatakoula, in a mountainous region of northern Viti Levu, Fiji's largest island. The mine, owned by two Australian companies, Emperor Gold Mining and the Western Mining Corporation, exports some 100,000 ounces of gold per year, worth \$40 million, making gold one of the country's largest exports after sugar, according to officials of the Fiji Trade Union Congress. But few benefits trickle down to the 1,300 mostly indigenous Fijian miners.

The miners, who work as deep as 3,000 feet below the surface, are entitled to a minimum hourly wage of 93 cents. "However, I have seen pay slips of miners where they have a zero net wage after two weeks' work because of illegal deductions by the company," FTUC research officer Kavekini Navuso said in an interview. "It's like the South African mines here."

For the past year, the miners, with the help of the FTUC, have been organizing a union to fight low wages, poor housing, dangerous working conditions, and racial discrimination imposed by the Australian mine owners. Navuso is the secretary of the new union. "Indians are not allowed to work in the mines. Europeans and half-castes get the better jobs. Fijians get the old, leaky houses," Navuso said.

Some workers have died from toxic fumes deep in the mine. Others have been injured in rockfalls. "But in order to appear accident free," Navuso said, "the company won't allow injured miners to return to their home villages, so they aren't recorded as absent."

Or company doctors send them back to work before they have fully recovered."

In August the union won government recognition, but the companies refused to negotiate an agreement. Mine workers cannot look to the government for help, the union leader stressed, because "it's married to the employers. But they found they couldn't legislate unions out of existence." The government was established through a military coup in 1987.

The union leadership called a meeting for October 20 to mandate industrial action to force the company into talks. The mine-owners' response was to fire the union president.

Until 1978, the mine was organized. The company broke the union by laying off 770 workers, claiming there was no gold left to mine. "We expect them to try the same ploy again," Navuso said. But the miners' attitude is that they would rather see the mine closed down and the companies pull out of Fiji than to continue working the mine without a union contract. "The situation is tense," he stressed.

### Labor news in the Militant

The *Militant* stays on top of the most important developments in the labor movement. It has correspondents who work in the mines, mills, and shops where the events are breaking. You won't miss any of it if you subscribe. See the ad on page 2 of this issue for subscription rates.



# Paris conference on Korea unification draws 150 delegates

BY MARTIN HILL

PARIS — A meeting here, October 21–22, entitled the World Conference for One Korea Reunified by Founding the Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo, was attended by some 150 delegates from 75 countries.

Participants included members of parliament, diplomats, and Korean friendship and solidarity organizations from various countries. The conference was organized by the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea.

Banners around the conference hall read, "U.S. out of South Korea," "Demolish the concrete wall," "Korea is one — solidarity with the Korean people," and "Free travel."

Willy Burgeon, a Belgian member of parliament, delivered a report from an international investigating team on the concrete wall that runs along the southern side of the Demilitarized Zone separating South Korea from North Korea. The team included Guy Dupré, a leader of the French General Confederation of Labor (CGT); Roger Dafflon, a former mayor of Geneva, Switzerland; and Gen. George Pattas of Greece.

Burgeon described how the team had traveled to North Korea in April and viewed the wall from three different points in Jangpung County. The team, however, was unable to get permission from the South to travel there. The South Korean government began the wall in 1977. It is built of reinforced concrete and is 150 miles long, with regular fortified posts. The U.S. military maintains 46,000 troops and 1,000 nuclear-tipped warheads in South Korea.

The team visited Kaesong, a city near the Demilitarized Zone that was particularly hard hit by the invading U.S. forces during the 1950–53 Korean War. Members met with families separated by the U.S.-imposed division of the country.

"The existence of the wall has become absurd," Burgeon said. He underlined the contrast between Korea and Germany, where the Berlin Wall has been demolished and the country has been reunified, and called for free travel between north and south for the people of Korea.

Jesús Montané, president of the Cuban support committee for Korean reunification

and a member of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party, criticized the U.S. government's opposition to reunification. "The United States is determined to maintain strategic superiority in the area," Montané said, citing Operation Team Spirit military exercises organized annually by Washington.

These military maneuvers "have been set in motion each year," the Cuban leader said, "despite universal condemnation. If the United States really wants détente, it should stop these military maneuvers and pull all its troops out of South Korea."

Montané denounced government repression in South Korea. "Simple support for reunification is considered a crime," he said. The Cuban leader described the imprisonment of Rim Su Gyong, the South Korean student jailed for traveling to the North for the 1989 World Festival of Youth and Students in Pyongyang, the North Korean capital. Her crime was to try to bring together young people from north and south, he explained.

"In the Gulf," Montané added, "the United States threatens a tragic war with terrible consequences for humanity, and especially the Third World." He condemned the current blockade against Iraq, especially attempts "to starve the Iraqi people."

Stanley Faulkner, president of the U.S. Association of Democratic Lawyers, described the October 1–15 hunger strike for reunification by young Koreans outside the United Nations in New York. None of New York's five dailies or the other media reported the action, he said. "This is a wall of silence," he said.

Paik Han Ki of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan described the



Militant/Arthur Hughes

Members of Young Koreans United at October 20 antiwar protest in New York. At conference for reunification of Korea held the same weekend in Paris, participants spoke of activities of young Koreans in the United States, Washington's war drive in the Middle East, and a unified Korea. A resolution backing demand for reunification was passed at the meeting.

support that has been won there for reunification. There is a large Korean population in that country. "Since 1981, more than 10,000 solidarity meetings have taken place," he said. "Resolutions have been passed by trade unions, political parties, and antinuclear and peace groups."

The conference unanimously passed a resolution supporting proposals put forward by the North Korean government on reunification. These proposals call for peaceful reunification through the formation of a confederation of North and South.

Such a confederated republic would be based on independence for Korea, recognition of the existence of the different social

systems in the two parts of the country, and national unity.

The resolution included calls for the demolition of the concrete wall, free travel between both parts of Korea, repeal of anti-democratic laws in the South, withdrawal of U.S. troops, and troop reductions by North and South Korea.

Conference participants included Coni Jalandoni of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines; Marshal Francisco da Costa Gomes, former president of Portugal; and representatives in France of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front of El Salvador and the Sandinista National Liberation Front of Nicaragua.

## Farmers protest foreclosures in Britain

BY ROBERT HIGLEY

LONDON — The largest protest here ever organized by farmers was held October 25. Some 2,500 farmers from all parts of Britain and Northern Ireland participated in the action called by the National Farmers Union (NFU).

Farmers are "ablaze with fury," John Ross of the Scotland NFU said at the protest rally. "Farmers earn less in a year than the manipulators of wealth in the City of London earn in a month," he explained.

Gareth Jones, a sheep farmer from North Wales, said depressed lamb prices had made it impossible for him to pay his debts and the bank was near foreclosing on his farm.

Rising bank foreclosures here prompted the NFU to call for the action. Proposals to cut Common Market subsidies to farmers by as much as 30 percent were also a target of the farmers' anger. In recent negotiations among Common Market governments on the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has supported the gutting of farm subsidies.

Wearing a "GATTastrophe" T-shirt, Peter Parrish, a Bedfordshire County farmer, spoke of "other farmers fighting our battles." He

was referring to the struggles by Japanese farmers, who recently marched through Tokyo, and farmers in the United States. He urged British farmers to draw the lessons from these struggles.

Rally speakers explained how during the last decade retail prices in Britain rose 106 percent, the retail food price index increased 71 percent, and prices paid farmers for their produce rose only 46 percent.

Other speakers called for unity between farmers and environmental groups, as well as closer links between farmers and farm workers. Some raised the possibility of restrictions on food imports, particularly from Eastern Europe.

NFU President Simon Gourlay's call for the greater use of quotas to control agricultural surpluses and for greater diversification among farmers was not enthusiastically received.

## South Korean unionists on U.S. tour to speak on labor struggles in Korea

Three union leaders from South Korea will begin a tour of more than eight U.S. cities on November 9. The unionists, Yoo Jum Soon, Hong Sung Rye, and Kang Young Hyo, aim to explain some of the struggles being waged by Korean workers today and to win support for their struggle against Pico Products. Pico is a manufacturer of cable television components.

Pico, which maintains its corporate headquarters near Syracuse, New York, had until recently maintained a factory in Seoul, capital of the Republic of Korea (South Korea). When the 300 workers, mostly women, organized a union at the plant in 1988, Pico soon outsourced production and returned to the United States. The company's owners left without giving notice and owing back pay and benefits to the workers.

In March 1989 the workers occupied the

plant in Korea and have attracted widespread attention and support for their struggle to win back pay and severance pay.

The tour, which ends December 12, will take the unionists to New York City (November 9–12); Syracuse, New York (November 13–14); Philadelphia (November 15–16); Boston (November 16–18); New York City (November 18–24); Washington, D.C. (November 24–28); Chicago and other Midwest cities (November 28–December 3); Seattle (December 4–5); Los Angeles (December 5–9); and San Francisco (December 9–12).

The Committee for a New Korea Policy, based in Albany, New York, is coordinating the tour. For information on whom to contact in your area about the schedule of meetings and press briefings call: David Easter in Albany at (518) 434-4037.

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Centered on a statement by the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party, the November *PM* takes up the need to campaign against the U.S. war drive in the Mideast.

This *PM* includes a speech by Nelson Mandela to the leaders of the Organization of African Unity on the current wave of violence against anti-apartheid fighters in South Africa and the government's role in it.

The issue also has coverage on the fight for the reunification of Korea, and the challenge it represents to imperialism.



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# Salvadoran guerrilla leader says U.S. role is obstacle to peace

BY SETH GALINSKY

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The U.S. government has been an obstacle to negotiating an end to the civil war in El Salvador, charged Nidia Díaz, a member of the political-diplomatic commission of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), in an October 15 interview.

Díaz, a guerrilla commander, spent six months in a Salvadoran jail in 1985, after being wounded in combat with the Salvadoran army. Following her capture, she was denied adequate medical care; scars cover her right arm and she is still unable to walk long distances.

Referring to continued U.S. economic and military aid to the Salvadoran regime, Díaz stated, "The Salvadoran government is never going to really negotiate as long as the U.S. backs up their hard-line positions. They should let Salvadorans work this out among ourselves."

On October 19, the U.S. Senate voted to cut military aid to El Salvador from \$85 million to \$42.5 million in 1991, unless the FMLN launches an offensive or walks out of peace talks. A proposal backed by President George Bush would restore the aid if a cease-fire is not reached within 60 days.

The FMLN is a coalition of five armed groups. They have waged a struggle against successive U.S.-backed regimes. Tens of thousands of workers and peasants have died as a result of government repression of fights waged for land, unions, and democratic rights. Numerous peace proposals have been advanced by the FMLN since the start of the

decade-long civil war. Each plan has been rejected by the government. Last year, after Alfredo Cristiani — candidate of the Nationalist Republican Alliance party (Arena) — was elected president, negotiations resumed.

The Cristiani government hoped to wear the FMLN down at the negotiating table, Díaz noted. "They thought it was just a question of time, that if they stalled long enough we would sign our own surrender. They saw our willingness to make concessions as a sign of weakness."

## November 1989 offensive

While the government and rebel leaders negotiated over the summer and fall of 1989, repression against union and peasant organizations increased. On Oct. 31, 1989, the offices of the National Federation of Salvadoran Workers' Unions (Fenastros) were bombed, killing 10 union leaders. "That was the straw that broke the camel's back," Díaz said. "That's when we decided to launch the offensive."

On November 11, FMLN guerrilla fighters entered the capital city of San Salvador, seizing control of some working-class neighborhoods. They also entered San Miguel and other urban areas. They were later forced to retreat to their bases in the countryside by intense air attacks that leveled whole neighborhoods and by the superior firepower of government troops.

The FMLN did not expect the Salvadoran army to bomb extensive areas of the densely populated city, said Díaz. "We thought the political cost would be too high," she ex-



Nidia Díaz, member of the political-diplomatic commission of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front of El Salvador.

plained. "But they were not benevolent, they acted like fascists."

"The residents of the areas we occupied fled, carrying white flags. We did not stop them because that would have turned us into accomplices of their annihilation."

"Our efforts undoubtedly were costly for the population and for us. We had many casualties and used up a lot of resources and ammunition," the guerrilla leader added. "But we ended the offensive with high morale and have recovered from our losses."

"The November offensive proved that the FMLN is not weak and that there must be negotiations," Díaz said.

The latest round of negotiations began last spring. The United Nations has mediated the most recent sessions.

## 'Gov't must stop repression'

The Salvadoran government wants a cease-fire before discussing political proposals that can end the conflict, Díaz said. But the FMLN believes there must be progress toward a political settlement before a truce is called.

"Before there can be a cease-fire the government must clear up six outstanding cases of repression," the FMLN leader said.

Responsibility has yet to be officially determined in the death of Archbishop Oscar Romero, killed by a death squad while saying mass in 1980; the murder of six Jesuits killed by the army during the November 1989 offensive; the assassination of Héctor Oqueli, a leader of the Popular Social Christian Movement, in Guatemala early this year; the bombing of Fenastros; and two peasant massacres.

"In May 1980, 300 people were massacred by the army at the Sumpul River. And 1,000 were killed at Mozote in 1981," Díaz explained.

She described the repressive apparatus facing workers and peasants. "There are 120,000 members of paramilitary forces, not to mention the 60,000 members of the army. There are the civil defense forces, the town patrols, the army reserves, the death squads."

"We are calling for the complete demilitarization of Salvadoran society," Díaz noted, including the dissolution of the most notorious security forces. But the government has not seriously negotiated these points, she charged. "We'll see how things go in the next session in November."

Díaz did not rule out the possibility of another military offensive by the FMLN to back up its negotiating proposals.

## FMLN's government program

As part of its fight to end the war, the FMLN released its program for the "National Democratic Revolution" in El Salvador on September 24.

The program calls for "an end to militarism, a new economic-social order, national democratization, and the recovery of sovereignty and an independent foreign policy."

Economic policy should be determined through *concertación* — a social pact — "between the state, working people, and large-, small-, and medium-sized businessmen," the document states.

When the FMLN was founded it based itself on the 1980 "Platform of the Revolutionary Democratic Government." The platform called for expropriating "the fundamen-

tal means of production and distribution that are now hoarded by the oligarchy and the U.S. monopolies" and "the land held in the power of the big landlords."

"The government will rest on a broad political and social base," the 1980 document continued, "formed above all by the working class, the peasantry, and the advanced middle layers."

"The worker and peasant alliance has proven to be the most solid basis for guaranteeing the firmness and consistency of the entire liberation movement," it said.

Díaz commented on some aspects of the 1990 program and how the FMLN's political perspectives have evolved since the drafting of the 1980 document.

The FMLN is no longer for extensive nationalizations, except of basic services, she said. "Life has shown that when the state subsidizes businesses or tries to resolve everything for the masses — treating them like children instead of adults — there is no motivation and a lot of mistakes are made."

The guerrilla movement in El Salvador from its inception "questioned the socialism that existed in Eastern Europe," Díaz stated, which she said was marked by low productivity, shoddy products, and unnecessary scarcities.

"Under socialism the problem of unemployment is solved. But sometimes it goes as far as creating unnecessary employment. Some places have three workers where only one is needed," she said. "A production system where the state subsidizes almost everything does not provide any incentive for people to work."

"Under capitalism productivity is not based just on advanced technology, but coercion. People know that there is an army of unemployed waiting to take their jobs," she said.

## 'We need private enterprises'

The 1990 program sees an important role for capitalists in El Salvador. "We are a Third World country and we need private enterprises," Díaz said, "not just state-owned and cooperative ones."

"Big businesses," she added, "will have to pay very restrictive taxes that will benefit the people."

The FMLN envisions a "deep-going" agrarian reform that would distribute land to the peasants. "There can be large landowners, but they will also have to pay heavy taxes on their profits," Díaz said.

## 'Other actors for social change'

"For us, the essence of socialism — the well-being of society and maximum freedom — will continue to be the historical reference point and our primary motivation," the guerrilla leader said.

However, the new government the FMLN favors "will not be one of only workers and peasants," Díaz stated. "There are other actors for social change. No sector of society can impose its interests over the rest of society. That would be a dictatorship of the proletariat."

"Instead we need a group of forces who will seek a formula that expresses the interests of everyone. But of course the interests of the big majority will be most decisive."

"This is the revolutionary program for this stage of the struggle," Díaz said. "This is what we will bequeath to the next generations."

# Nicaragua gov't raids group aiding Salvadoran refugees

BY SETH GALINSKY

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — On October 23 the Nicaraguan government conducted raids of sites allegedly being used here by guerrillas fighting the U.S.-backed regime of El Salvador.

Earlier that day the Salvadoran deputy ministers of foreign affairs and defense arrived here in Managua. They claimed that members of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) of El Salvador were operating clandestine radio transmitters from bases in Nicaragua.

Top officers of the Sandinista People's Army and the police led dozens of troops to the alleged sites. The Salvadoran ambassador to Nicaragua, along with the recently arrived deputy ministers, accompanied the Nicaraguans. United Nations officials were also present.

One of the sites turned out to be a facility belonging to the Ministry of Construction. Another is a house that has been occupied for the last 11 years by the U.S. embassy.

The third site belongs to the Christian

Base, Service, and Ecumenical Communities (CEBES), one of several groups that aid Salvadoran refugees.

Thousands of Salvadoran refugees have come to Nicaragua to avoid repression at the hands of the U.S.-backed government, the army, and the death squads.

Nicaraguan army and police patrols, along with members of the Salvadoran security forces, surrounded the CEBES headquarters, located on the outskirts of Managua, and searched all the buildings.

"They demanded to be allowed in even though they had no court order," a CEBES spokesperson said.

"They searched the grounds twice," she stated. "First the Nicaraguan army and police conducted the search. Then they stood by while Salvadorans in civilian clothing did a more thorough search."

"They confiscated a couple of news bulletins published by Radio Venceremos [the radio station of the FMLN] and a leaflet from our sister organization in El Salvador commemorating the ninth anniversary of the assassination of hundreds of peasants by the Salvadoran army at El Mozote."

The search party found no radio transmitters or evidence that CEBES is carrying out any illegal acts. No arrests were reported, nor have charges been brought. However Ernesto Leal, Nicaragua's deputy foreign minister, announced that the immigration status of some of the Salvadorans is now being investigated.

The National Unity of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS) issued a statement from San Salvador condemning the actions. "We want to express our total rejection of the servile and repressive attitude of Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro in lending herself to the militarist plans of the Salvadoran armed forces and government," the UNTS said.

The raid on the CEBES comes a month after the Nicaraguan National Assembly passed a law that prohibits providing military assistance from Nicaraguan territory to "irregular forces" or providing "aid in any other form." The law was designed to intimidate refugees and other supporters of the fight for freedom in El Salvador, which enjoys wide sympathy in Nicaragua.

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# Malcolm X meeting shows need for party fund

BY JAMES HARRIS

NEW YORK — "I need that. We shouldn't be over there anyway. My uncle used to tell us how it was in Vietnam," said one young participant in the Malcolm X Radical Tradition and Legacy of Struggle conference held here November 1-4. He pointed to the new pamphlet by

and staffed the Pathfinder literature table, said. "They bought pamphlets and books on Cuba and the struggle in South Africa."

"There was a lot of discussion on women's liberation," Hart said. "We sold quite a few copies of the pamphlet, *Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle* by Tho-

Building Fund will help make this outreach possible by providing the necessary resources. The funds we collect will help to finance the socialist publications, the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*. They will aid the work of Pathfinder Press, which publishes books and pamphlets in the interests of the working class.

The fund is still behind schedule with three more weeks to go. Pledges to the fund now amount to \$152,138. Although this is \$2,138 over the fund drive goal of \$150,000, we only have \$74,160 in hand. We should have collected \$103,846. The contributions are now starting to come in more quickly as we near December 1, the end of the drive.

Supporters of the fund in many areas of the country have established their own fund goals, which are printed in the chart accompanying this column. A focal point of the fund-raising efforts will be the political talks given by Socialist Workers Party leaders around the country during November. These talks will be on the war drive in the Mideast being carried out by Washington and its place in world politics. They will explain why it is essential to build the communist movement as humanity is being driven toward a devastating war.

If you wish to support the fund, send contributions to Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund, 406 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.

James Harris is the director of the Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund.

## SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY-BUILDING FUND



Pathfinder Press, *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*.

He was one of more than 1,000 people who participated in the conference. Most in attendance were college-age youth and some were high school students. Nearly \$700 worth of Pathfinder books and pamphlets were bought during the conference and many copies of the *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* pamphlet were sold along with a range of other Pathfinder titles. The biggest sellers were the titles on Malcolm X.

"Along with the legacy of Malcolm X, the young people there were eager to talk about the war drive in the Mideast, the future of socialism, the deteriorating economy, and many other topics," Osborne Hart, who participated in the conference

mas Sankara. And many of them signed up to find out more about the Young Socialist Alliance." The YSA is a revolutionary youth organization with chapters all across the country. Members of the YSA participated at the conference and staffed the Pathfinder table.

The participants in the conference got firsthand experience with the growing interest in socialist ideas developing among young people, especially on college campuses.

As capitalism heads toward war and economic crisis, the openness to political discussion and to reading socialist literature among young people has increased. This has created more opportunities for revolutionary socialists to reach out and win a layer of youth to the communist movement.

The Socialist Workers Party-

## Where We Stand

Area	Pledged*	Paid	% of Total
Kansas City	2,555	1,820	71
San Francisco	4,205	2,800	67
Houston	4,575	2,995	65
Salt Lake City, Utah	3,250	2,110	65
Brooklyn	6,660	4,129	62
Phoenix	1,250	750	60
Austin, Minn.	1,500 ( 1,750)	830	55
Detroit	6,100 ( 7,000)	3,360	55
Los Angeles	11,436 (16,000)	6,246	55
Newark, N.J.	6,365	3,460	54
Atlanta	6,445	3,455	54
New York	9,781	5,041	52
Twin Cities, Minn.	4,220 ( 5,300)	2,135	51
Cleveland	5,255	2,620	50
Oakland, Calif.	9,555	4,595	48
Philadelphia	4,405	2,105	48
Pittsburgh	6,290	2,810	45
Chicago	7,570	3,365	44
Morgantown, W.V.	3,554	1,564	44
Des Moines, Iowa	1,370	585	43
Miami	1,710	725	42
St. Louis	7,400 ( 8,000)	3,105	42
Boston	3,711	1,541	42
Omaha, Neb.	2,275	943	41
Seattle	6,230 (6,300)	2,575	41
Charleston, W.V.	3,770	1,550	41
Price, Utah	1,450 ( 1,750)	500	34
Washington, D.C.	2,470	805	33
Birmingham, Ala.	5,175	1,200	23
Greensboro, N.C.	1,710 ( 1,600)	365	21
Baltimore	3,800	760	20
Other U.S.	4,275	2,495	58
International	1,821	821	45
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>152,138</b>	<b>74,160</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>103,846</b>	<b>69</b>

\* Items in parentheses are area goals that have been set

# British miners union to vote on banning overtime

BY PAUL GALLOWAY AND JIM SPAUL

SHEFFIELD, England — On November 15 and 16 members of the National Union of Mineworkers will vote on a proposal to ban working overtime. Through this action the miners hope to force British Coal to open negotiations over their demand for a £50 (£1=US\$1.94) per week pay raise for all miners. We will be casting a "yes" vote for this overtime ban, and we urge other NUM members to do so.

Despite the fact that the NUM represents 80 percent of miners in Britain, British Coal

## UNION TALK

has refused to negotiate with the union since the 1984-85 national strike.

The company is demanding the union agree that the Union of Democratic Miners (UDM) can represent NUM members in pits where a minority of miners belong to the NUM. A proemployer organization set up by strikebreakers at the end of the 1984-85 strike, the breakaway UDM holds a majority only in the Nottinghamshire area.

Since the national strike, British Coal has bargained with the UDM and imposed below-inflation-level pay rates on the NUM without negotiations. As a result miners have fallen to 15th place among manual workers in terms of wage levels, with wages rising only 5 percent a year.

The basic wage for miners is now only three-fourths of what it was worth in 1973, with underground miners presently starting at £151.80 per week and surface miners at £137.40.

On top of that, more money is being taken from the pockets of miners in the form of the recently imposed poll tax and rising mortgage rates. More and more miners have come to depend on incentive pay and overtime earnings. These are estimated to make up over 46 percent of miners' wages. Even so, more than a third of the miners in the NUM take home less than £200 (US\$370) per week.

Moreover, there are now substantial differences between miners' incentive payments in the mining regions throughout the country.

British Coal has also introduced what it calls "ad hoc contracts" in a number of pits — the company asks a group of miners to do a special job outside the normal working hours for a set price.

The coal bosses have three goals in focusing on incentive payments. First, by dangling the carrot of making more money in front of coal miners, they hope to move toward imposing six- and seven-day production schedules in the mines. The NUM opposes this.

Second, British Coal wants to weaken the NUM nationally by focusing on local bargaining over incentive pay rates, instead of a national fight over the basic wage. The strength of the NUM in recent years has been due to battles fought from 1969 to 1974 over national wage rates.

Third, the coal employers seek to deepen divisions that exist between surface and underground miners in order to pit miners against one another instead of taking on our common enemy — British Coal.

Safety conditions have also worsened and management continues to cut costs by introducing substandard procedures like roofbolting, a cheaper and more dangerous form of roof support for underground mines.

In addition to the decline in wages and the worsening working conditions of miners, the leadership of the NUM has come under increasing attack in the last eight months. A witch-hunt against NUM national officers Arthur Scargill and Peter Heathfield has been launched by the national newspaper the *Daily Mirror* and fueled by officials of the Labour Party and others. The smear campaign centers on charges that the NUM leaders misappropriated funds during the 1984-85 strike.

At an NUM Special Delegates Conference last month the members cast an overwhelming vote of confidence in the NUM leaders. Although the accusations against Scargill and Heathfield have been disproved in the past months, the attacks continue. The police fraud squad announced an investigation into the affairs of the union, and both mine union leaders are scheduled to appear in court late November to face charges leveled by the government's union certification officer.

As the economic recession deepens in Britain and the threat of war in the Middle East escalates, government and employer attacks on working people will increase. British Coal, and other bosses, will try to cut wages and worsen working conditions in an

attempt to sustain their profits.

The fact that British Coal threatened to end the "check off" system of deducting union dues from wages — stating they refuse to "bankroll union activism" — shows that the company knows it faces a strong union. The coal bosses have also decided to send a special issue of their paper *Coal News*, featuring their views on the wages issue, to the homes of miners in an attempt to encourage a "no" vote on the overtime ban.

A vote in favor of the overtime ban on Nov. 15 and 16, which would immediately cut production by 30 percent, would help to force British Coal to negotiate with the NUM as the union defends its right to represent all miners. A "yes" vote would also reaffirm the rank-and-file opposition to the witch-hunt against NUM leaders and the attempts to divide the union. And it would register a setback for the government and employer campaign to reduce workers' wages and blame working people for the economic crisis they face.

Paul Galloway and Jim Spaul are both underground miners and members of the National Union of Mineworkers in Britain.

# Meatpackers strike in Missouri stands firm

BY K.C. ELLIS AND GARY STONELAKE

MARSHALL, Mo. — A strike of 650 members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 576 against Wilson Brands remains solid as it enters its fifth week.

On September 22, the unionists voted 367-to-6 to reject the company's demands for concessions that included cuts in pay and medical benefits, and an inflexible attendance policy that discriminates against workers with severe on-the-job injuries. They had been working under weekly extensions of a contract that expired in April 1989.

No union members have crossed the picket line, but management and office personnel are trying to keep enough production to make sausage patties for McDonald's fast-food restaurants.

When the company sent out hundreds of certified letters asking workers on lay-off to

come back to work, the striking meat-packers responded with mass picketing.

According to Jerry Helmick, UFCW Local 576 business representative, mechanics and powerhouse employees are also on strike. "They don't have any maintenance now," said Helmick. Major breakdowns were occurring even before the strike, he said.

Promising "competitive base rate with excellent benefits," the company placed ads in the *Kansas City Star* for workers with "mechanical, production or powerhouse experience" to come to Marshall — some 90 miles from Kansas City — to scab at Wilson. The starting rate now is \$6.00 an hour. Under the old contract it was \$7.50.

Several strikers explained some of the working conditions they faced on the job before the strike. At the beginning of the shift, up to ten workers could sign up to use the restroom between break periods if needed.

But they could only sign up every other day.

Company-provided medical assistance was minimal. Connie McDaniel started working at Wilson a couple of years ago. "The first six months I thought I was going to die." She was packing 28-pound boxes of neck bones, including preparation of the cartons, at a rate of 70 an hour. At that pace, pain develops quickly, she said. "That's just a part of the job. You'll have to live with the pain," McDaniel said she was told by the company doctor.

"They use you up, then push out," stated another striker with more than nine years in the plant.

While many say the fight will not be easy, spirit on the picket line remains high. And the strikers say they are determined to stay out until they get an acceptable contract.

K.C. Ellis and Gary Stonelake are members of UFCW Local 576 at Armour Foods.



# The strike against Eastern Airlines

## Machinists meet Lorenzo's challenges with rallies and picket line actions

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

(Second of a series)

On March 4, 1989, 8,500 members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) went on strike in an effort to block a drive for concessions by the bosses at Eastern Airlines.

Over the course of their battle, the Machinists won support in the United States and internationally, and they extended their solidarity to others.

Through organizing and mobilizing to press forward the strike, the rank-and-file strikers stamped the character of their fight. Clearly, something new had happened in the labor movement. For the first time in the 1980s, a sustained nationwide strike was under way, and it had not been either blunted or defeated by the bosses.

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Four months into the strike, Eastern announced it intended to put 200 additional flights in the air the first weekend of July 1989 — they later scaled it down to 146. Prior to that, Eastern had less than 100 flights per day.

At the heart of Eastern's plan was to resume enough flights with enough passengers on them to make money. This plan became central to the airline's effort to break the strike and resume operations as a smaller, nonunion airline tied in with Continental.

"To reestablish Eastern as a significant profitable carrier," the *Wall Street Journal* pointed out in a July 3, 1989, article, Lorenzo "needs paying customers. Lots of them. And that's a tall order for an airline that has had more well-publicized trouble lately than any other in recent times."

During July 1989 the total number of Eastern's flights rose to 226. Passenger loads (the number of available seats on each flight that are used) on Eastern began to average about 60 percent. Eastern then projected having 390 additional flights by August.

With the July start-up set, a pattern in the strike settled in: with each move Lorenzo made to get the airline going, the strikers effectively countered by mobilizing their ranks.

Eastern's plans to get more planes in the air posed a direct challenge to the strike. "Now is the time for the labor movement to organize an expanded and ongoing mobilization on behalf of the 17,000 workers on strike against Eastern Airlines. Such a mobilization is needed to respond to the new stage the 19-week-old strike has reached," explained an editorial in the *Militant* July 21, 1989.

"The July 2 start-up by Eastern of 146 more flights represents the biggest challenge the strike has faced since Lorenzo's attempt to restart the Northeast shuttle the weekend after the walkout began," the *Militant* continued.

### Northeast shuttle

To meet Lorenzo's attempts at the beginning of the strike to get the Northeast shuttle back into the air, strikers with the aid of others in the labor movement swelled the airport picket lines and held demonstrations and rallies. With these kinds of actions, the planes were emptied in a few days.

With the July start-up, the striking Machinists again swung into action. Chanting "Union yes, Lorenzo no!" strike supporters in San Francisco held two mobilizations of 300 each at the airport on July 2. A similar number of building-trades unionists, communication workers, postal workers, garment workers, and auto workers marched and rallied for two hours around the Newark International Airport.

In Chicago, fire fighters, transit workers, government employees, oil workers, electrical workers, steelworkers, and others swelled picket lines.

"A lot of people who came to La Guardia in New York July 2, ready to get on one of the flights Eastern was starting up, simply did not realize we were still on strike," said strike leader Ernie Mailhot, after beefed-up picket lines were organized to inform passengers of the continuing fight.

Mailhot explained that the strikers were putting out information in Spanish to ensure that Spanish-speaking working people found out about the strike and honored the picket line.



Militant/Janet Post

More than 1,000 Eastern strikers and supporters protest shuttle start-up at New York Continental ticket office on July 28, 1989. At every turn during the strike, Machinists met airline managements' attempts to get Eastern going by mobilizing their ranks and other unionists.

"This is a fight to defend our unions, our wages and working conditions, our dignity. And many Spanish-speaking people — especially those who are working people themselves — can identify with that. They understand what a step forward it will be for all of us if we win this strike," Mailhot said.

### 'Women's Day on Picket Line'

At an action of 100 unionists in Washington, D.C., the previous week, called "Women's Day on the Picket Line," flight attendants' union leader Sandra Palmer asked the rally, "Why should we stand for concessions? We don't owe anyone an apology for expecting to move forward in our lives and in our jobs. The majority of us on strike are not only women, but also heads of families."

"Do we realize our power? We need to remind ourselves of exactly what we have done," she said. "We have shut down Eastern for 114 days. We have brought Frank Lorenzo to his knees."

In response to Eastern's plans to add additional flights to its schedule in August 1989, strikers held another round of actions. In Miami, more than 1,300 strikers and supporters from other unions held a walk-through at the Miami International Airport on July 30. At the Detroit Metropolitan Airport, 1,000 strikers, unionists, students, and others picketed and rallied.

Several hundred people from over 20 unions picketed at the Los Angeles International Airport on July 29. In Birmingham that same day, 350 unionists turned out for a rally to back both Eastern and Pittston strikers. And on July 28, more than 1,000 strikers and other trade unionists participated in a New York Central Labor Council-supported demonstration near Continental Airlines' mid-Manhattan ticket offices. Strike support actions of hundreds were held in a number of other cities as well.

These activities were an important response to the challenge laid down by Eastern's owners. And the strength of the strike reminded the traveling public that the strike was still on.

### Strikers picket scab-hiring sessions

During this time strikers also picketed Eastern scab-hiring sessions across the country, explaining the strike to those considering crossing the picket line. Strikers and their supporters turned away many who were lured into seeking employment at Eastern through advertisements promising long-term employment at a "new Eastern."

In order to get the extra flights going, Lorenzo desperately needed additional experienced pilots. During the first 10 days of August 1989, at the prodding of John Bavis, head of ALPA's Eastern division, and the

support of national ALPA President Henry Duffy, enough pilots crossed the picket line to ensure that the flights would get off the ground. Some 600 ALPA members were now back at Eastern. Two hundred management and regular pilots had stayed on the job when the strike started, and 175 to 200 pilots had already crossed between March and July.

The ALPA officials' treachery against the strike also led several hundred flight attendants to cross the line as well. These defections did hurt the unity and morale of the strike. But because of the Machinists' growing experience, rank-and-file leadership, and confidence in having done serious damage to Lorenzo, the strikers continued to press their fight.

### Pilots a professional layer

Leading up to and during the strike, rank-and-file Machinists sought unity with the pilots and flight attendants. Because the pilots' association had crossed other IAM picket lines and those of the flight attendants at different times, these workers were not confident the pilots would join the fight.

Pilots are a professional layer in the airline industry who have usually identified their interests more with management than with the ramp workers, airplane cleaners, mechanics, and flight attendants.

But to advance the strike, the Machinists correctly reached out to the pilots and attempted to draw them toward their common fight against Lorenzo, while at the same time recognizing that the true backbone of the

strike came from the Machinists themselves.

The Machinists' unity and determination to fight Lorenzo's reign of terror maximized participation from pilots and flight attendants. IAM members made sure to involve everyone in all aspects of strike work and welcomed them on the picket lines, other strike events, and in the strike headquarters.

### New challenges

As Eastern continued to get planes off the ground, the airline's management began to use subcontracting companies to service the carrier's planes and help get Eastern into the air. Some of these companies were nonunion; others were organized by the IAM and other unions.

Eastern hired companies such as Hudson General, Ogden Allied Services, Servair, and others in cities around the country to do jobs previously performed by the strikers — some of which would now be done by fellow IAM members working for these companies.

In Washington, D.C., out of 50 aircraft fuelers working for Ogden Allied Services at National Airport, three-quarters signed a petition protesting having to perform struck work. This action was in response to a leaflet handed out by strikers in IAM Local 796 that explained, "The fight at Eastern has always been crucial for the entire IAM membership. It's particularly critical now because IAM members in Washington, D.C., as well as Miami, Pittsburgh, Boston, and New York are being forced to service scab aircraft in increasing numbers."

An editorial in the August 25, 1989, *Militant* explained, "The move by Eastern to use subcontracting companies organized by the IAM and other unions to service the carrier's restarted flights is a dagger aimed at the heart of the strike."

"This erosion of union strength and solidarity now poses a danger to the Eastern strike as IAM-organized companies are being used to do struck work," and pointed to the plan of some Eastern strikers to defend their strike by appealing to IAM members to support the strike by working together in the union to bring a halt to this situation.

The striking Machinists pointed to the threat this posed to the strike and the union. However, their efforts met with limited success as they were hindered by the legacy of the years of deals made between union officials and airline and service companies. Workers at these companies receive lower pay, fewer benefits, and are more subject to firings and other arbitrary actions by the companies than those who work at the major airlines. These deals hampered the ability of the strikers to build on the support from a layer of unionists at the subcontracting companies who did not want to service Eastern flights.

Today this problem — along with the need for airline unions to organize a serious fight to unionize other parts of the airline industry — remains.

(to be continued)

## 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 WHYY 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.



# Cuban economist well received during tour of Nordic countries

BY CATHARINA TIRSEN

Carlos Tablada, a Cuban economist and the author of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*, is getting a warm reception on his speaking tour of the six Nordic countries. The tour is sponsored by his publisher, Pathfinder Press, and began in Sweden, where Tablada spoke in six cities.

Tablada often opened his remarks by explaining that in 1984, the Cuban leadership led by President Fidel Castro launched a "rectification process" to correct errors in Cuba that led to copying aspects of the Soviet Union's economy and fostered bureaucracy and corruption.

"If you read the *Communist Manifesto* by Marx and Engels," Tablada said at a meeting in Lund, Sweden, "you find that they praise the capitalist system for its development of the productive forces. But socialism, according to them, was also to be a humane system, and should develop a new relationship between people. This was emphasized by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara. In this they were also following the tradition José Martí, the leader of the Cuban fight for independence at the end of the 19th century."

## Building socialism in Cuba

Tablada described the efforts to develop Cuba by organizing production with solidarity and individuality in mind, in contrast to the individualism developed by capitalist methods. But during the 1970s, efforts to copy the Soviet economic model began. "The advocates of these methods had 10 years to show what these methods could do," Tablada said. "The Cuban economy grew, but workers became corrupted, the managers became corrupted, even leaders became corrupted."

The economist explained how the Cuban

leadership began to correct this error and, over the course of the last six years, many advances have been made in Cuba as a result of the rectification process.

Big changes decreasing the number of departments and personnel in the state apparatus have been made, Tablada said. By December, the Communist Party's apparatus will have been cut by 50 percent, and 26,000 officials in government departments will have been moved to other more productive jobs.

"As a manager of a company," Tablada said, "I had access to a car and 200 gallons of gas. I had a document that said I could use it privately. All this has been done away with. Because of things like this, the people support the revolution and rectification."

During a speaking engagement with 40 students at the University of Oslo in Norway, a participant asked if the rectification process is similar to what has been happening in Eastern Europe. Tablada explained that rectification is a way to get back to Cuba's national roots and the socialist basics. The aim is to put the market at the service of the people, and not the people at the service of the market. He indicated that this is the basic difference between the Cuban and Soviet systems today.

Tablada said Cuba is also affected by the international capitalist economic crisis and is plagued by constant threats from U.S. imperialism. He pointed to recent decisions in Cuba to broaden the rationing of food items and fuel, and the measures to save energy.

Cuba has had long-term trade relations with the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries, Tablada said. "But we do not know what the basis of our trade with the Soviet Union will be next year. No one knows at

this time how much they are going to pay for our sugar, for our products, or what amount of fuel are we going to receive."

Tablada, however, assured audiences that despite necessary cutbacks, Cuba has not cut any international aid. He said that there are still 24,000 foreign students in Cuba, and that Cuba currently gives medical treatment to 10,000 children who were victims of the Chernobyl nuclear plant accident in the Soviet Union. There are plans to treat an additional 20,000 victims.

## Cuba's internationalism

The impact of Cuba's international aid was shown in the opening remarks of Delukufa Sandlwana, the Oslo deputy representative of the African National Congress, at an October 31 meeting of 80 people held at the Norway Construction Workers Union hall in Oslo.

"Friends, we are not ashamed to tell the world how we the people of Southern Africa benefited from Cuba's revolution and its commitment to the spirit of international solidarity," Sandlwana said. "The Cubans have built solidarity with other oppressed peoples around the world. What binds the Cubans and the people of Southern Africa is the Cubans' assistance in defense of Angolan sovereignty and against the racist South African expansionist policies," he added. He was referring to the military support Cuba extended to Angola and led to the defeat of South Africa's military forces at Cuito Cuanavale, Angola, in 1989.

In an effort to learn more about Tablada's country, many participants focused their questions on the current situation in Cuba. During some meetings, lively exchanges and debates took place.

At a meeting of 130 people in Lund,



Militant/Margrethe Siem  
Carlos Tablada during visit to Lund, Sweden, in October.

someone suggested that Cuba "do away with the one-party system." Tablada responded by describing the electoral system in Cuba, including how the people, not the party, nominate candidates.

"In Cuba there are elections every two-and-a-half years," Tablada said. "Unfortunately, your press here does not write about it. We want to improve the electoral system we have. The delegates elected by the people appoint the ministers, but did not really have control over the ministers. This we want to improve by popular councils that will have the power to check corruption. Those elected are accountable to no one except the people who elected them."

"Why do we have one party?" Tablada said. "This is an idea we got from Martí, who drew this conclusion after the 10-year war against Spain that we lost, not on the battlefield, but because we were politically divided."

## Right to leave Cuba

"Why, if Cuba is so good, do young people escape on tire inner tubes to Miami?" one person asked. "There are no limits on people's right to leave Cuba," Tablada responded. "The fact is the U.S. refuses to grant visas to people who want to leave in a normal way. You and I should unite to demand the United States fulfill its agreement with Cuba to give 20,000 visas a year to people from Cuba who want to immigrate to the U.S."

"Over the past four years, when they should have granted 80,000 visas, they just granted 6,000," Tablada said. "The government in Cuba will give a passport to everyone who wants to leave in a normal way."

Tablada was interviewed by a local Oslo radio station and by a cable network television station called One World Channel, which broadcasts throughout Europe. The television station plans to produce three 15-minute programs with him. In addition, sales of Tablada's book continue to be brisk.

Following the Nordic tour, Tablada will return to Britain, where he has been invited to speak at a conference in London on the Third World debt in early December.

Barbro Davidson and Brigitta Isacson also contributed to this article.

# Economic crisis facing Faeroe Islands is big topic at meetings for Tablada

BY SIGURLAUG GUNNLAUGSDÓTTIR

FAEROE ISLANDS — "I don't think it is a coincidence that I have come here," said Cuban economist Carlos Tablada to an audience of 35 people at the University Center. He explained even though the university has fewer than 100 students, "It is the thinking that counts."

A colony of Denmark located in the North Atlantic between Iceland and Norway, the Faeroe Islands are about 200 miles northwest of Scotland. Of its 21 islands, 18 are inhabited. The population is 45,000.

Deep-sea fishing is the main occupation. Farming, especially raising sheep, is also of importance. Coal is mined on the island of Suderø.

More than half of the wages of those on the islands go to taxes and are a major source of income for the local government. The government receives subsidies from Denmark for health and education.

However, the bulk of the money goes to pay the debts of the fishing fleets. Some of the owners have gone bankrupt and their ships have been sold to banks at low prices. But the local government is responsible for paying the loans that were taken out to build the ships in the first place.

The questions directed to Tablada reflect the concerns of working people on the Faeroes about the economy, growing unemployment, and sky-high taxes.

The government recently presented a proposal for a 20 percent wage cut. Not only would workers become poorer as a result, but social services will also suffer from the reduction in tax income to the government.

Participants wanted to know how the health and education system in Cuba is financed. They also wanted to know if Cuba had a tax system.

Tablada explained that prior to the revolution, rich people took money out of Cuba and the Cuban people saw none of the benefits. The revolution made a redistribution possible.

People don't pay taxes, he said. The needed taxes are calculated into the price of

goods, but taxes are not added to most food and clothing items. And prices don't go up, Tablada added.

A debate developed between Tablada and Oli Breckmann, the head of the conservative People's Party. Breckmann pointed to the rationing of food, fuel, and other goods in Cuba and stated it was impossible for a socialist system to survive. He also said that people who want to leave Cuba face the threat of being shot.

"The hundreds of thousands who emigrate to the United States are not fleeing communism, but hoping for a better standard of living," said Tablada. "Unlike in Eastern Europe, we never built a wall around us, because socialism can only be built by free people."

"Yes, we have lines," the Cuban economist said. "Not lines like in Moscow, because in Moscow they have a system like in capitalist countries — you can buy for money. But in Moscow it is worse because there is little to buy."

# U.S. widens trade embargo against Cuba

BY PETER THIERJUNG

The U.S. Congress approved a complete ban on trade with Cuba by U.S. subsidiary companies based in other countries October 18.

The measure would tighten the 30-year U.S. trade embargo against Cuba and was passed as an amendment to a massive trade bill, the Export Administration Act. President George Bush is expected to sign the bill into law soon.

Outspoken congressional opponents of the Cuban revolution, including Florida Sen. Connie Mack and Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Dante Fascell from Miami, spearheaded the campaign.

The lawmakers argued that the measure was needed to prevent trade by U.S. subsidiaries from aiding the Cuban economy, already hard-pressed by cuts in trade by East European countries and the Soviet Union. "The foot is heavier on the throat of

Fidel Castro," Mack said after the bill's passage.

The Cuban government was recently forced to ration 28 food items and restrict the sale of household items, clothing, and electrical appliances. Fuel has been rationed and energy-saving steps have been implemented due to declining oil imports from the Soviet Union.

In the first four months of 1990, some 178 licensed U.S. subsidiaries conducted \$310 million in trade with Cuba, according to the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Treasury Department. Companies involved included Beatrice Foods (through Spain) and General Motors (through Switzerland).

The trade curb would affect shipments of grain and other foodstuffs to Cuba, as well as medicine and essential machinery. In 1989, 70 percent of the exports to Cuba through subsidiaries — \$114 million worth — was wheat and other "consumables."

Some Democratic and Republican legislators, worried by possible objections from third countries that maintain relations with Cuba and would be affected by the trade ban, opposed passage of the amendment.

The Canadian government has already issued an order to bar any attempts by Washington to restrict trade with Cuba by U.S.-owned companies in Canada. The Canadian attorney general, Kim Campbell, said the order "demonstrates our determination to block measures that infringe Canadian sovereignty."

Proponents of normalization of relations with Cuba have spoken out against the more stringent trade curbs. "Food and medicine are even exempt from the Iraqi embargo," Alicia Torres, executive director of the Cuban American Committee, said. The Washington-based group favors improved U.S. relations with Cuba.



## ALABAMA

### Birmingham

**Banned in the USA! The Fight Against Censorship in the Arts.** Speakers: Anne Arrasmith, local artist; Murray Hiam, president, Birmingham Art Association; John Schnorrenberg, art professor, University of Alabama in Birmingham; Sue Skinner, Socialist Workers Party; Melissa Springer, art photographer; John Wetenhall, curator of painting and sculpture, Birmingham Museum of Art. Sat., Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m. 111 21st St. S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

**Washington's Accelerating War Drive.** Speaker: James Harris, National Committee, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m. 111 21st St. S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

## FLORIDA

### Miami

**Justice for Mark Curtis!** Video. Speakers: Jimmie Erskine, president, Laborers Local 938; representative Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Sat. Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

## GEORGIA

### Atlanta

**Report from El Salvador.** Slideshow. Speakers: Roger Friedman, Atlanta Committee on Latin America; representative, Socialist Work-

ers Party. Sat., Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

**Young Socialist Class Series.** "With Cuba, We Have a Dependable Friend" — Nelson Mandela, Wed., Nov. 14, 6 p.m. Young People Fight Against Apartheid, Wed., Nov. 28, 6 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: 50 cents per class. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

## ILLINOIS

### Chicago

**Massacre in Jerusalem. Israel's Role in the Arab World.** Speakers: Dick Reilly, Midwest coordinator, Palestine Solidarity Committee; Reja-E Busailah, professor, University of Indiana, Kokomo; Don Davis, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Nov. 10, 7 p.m. 545 W Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018.

**Washington's Accelerating War Drive.** Speaker: Mary-Alice Waters, editor, *New Internationalist*, Sat., Nov. 17, 7 p.m. 545 W Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018.

## MARYLAND

### Baltimore

**Israeli Killings Draw World Condemnation.** Speakers: Kaukab Siddique, Islamic People's Movement; Ali Zaghaf, Palestinian living in the U.S.; Glen Swanson, Socialist Workers Party and member United Steelworkers of America Local 3185. Sat., Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$4. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (301) 235-0014.

## MINNESOTA

### Austin

**The AIDS Crisis.** Speaker: Representative, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Nov. 18, 7 p.m. 407 1/2 N. Main St. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (507) 433-3461.

### St. Paul

**Fight Cop Frame-ups. Free Mark Curtis!** Sat., Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

**The World Economic Crisis, the Threat of War, Their Impact on the Third World.** Speakers: Wazir Muhammad, member Working People's Alliance of Guyana, and others. Sat., Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

## MISSOURI

### St. Louis

**Massacre in Jerusalem. Israel's Role in the Arab World.** Speaker: Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party and member United Auto Workers Local 325. Sat., Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (314) 361-0250.

**Washington's Accelerating War Drive.** Speaker: Dave Prince, National Committee, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Nov. 18, reception 4 p.m.; program 5 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (314) 361-0250.

## NEW YORK

### Manhattan

**Young Socialist Class Series. U.S. Hands Off the Middle East! U.S. Troops Out Now!** "Malcolm X and His Ideas." Tues., Nov. 13, 7 p.m. "The Role of Cuba in the Fight Against War." Tues., Nov. 20, 7 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. Tel: (212) 727-8422.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Greensboro

**Malcolm X: His Ideas and Their Meaning for World Politics Today.** Speaker: Rashaad Ali, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Maryland. Sat., Nov. 10, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Philadelphia

**U.S. Troops Out of the Middle East.** Speakers: Mike Pearlman, Act for Peace in the Middle East; Jaime Reilly, Students for Peace, Friends High School; Stephen Fromm, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m. 9 E Cheltenham Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (215) 848-5044.

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations: Hands Off Middle East.** Speaker: Luis Ruiz, attaché, Cuban Interest Section in the U.S. Sat., Nov. 10; dinner 6 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. 523 8th St., SE. Donation: dinner \$3, program \$4. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (202) 547-7557.

## WEST VIRGINIA

### Charleston

**The Fight for Women's Rights Today.** Panel discussion. Speakers: Linda Joyce, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists Local 298. Sat., Nov. 10, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (304) 345-3040.

## BRITAIN

### Cardiff

**Fundraiser for European Tour of Carlos Tablada.** Sat., Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m. Clifton Public House, Clifton Street. For more information visit or call Pathfinder Bookcentre, 9 Moira Terrace, Adamsdown. Tel: 0222-484677.

### London

**The Crisis Facing Working Farmers in Britain.** Speakers: Peter Parrish, National Farmers Union and Farmers Third World Network; Rob Jones, Communist League. Fri., Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 071-401-2409.

### Sheffield

**Fundraiser for European Tour of Carlos Tablada.** Sat., Nov. 17, 8 p.m. 391 Shoreham St. For more information visit or call Pathfinder Bookcentre, 2A Waverley House, 10 Joiner St. Tel: 0742-729469.

## CANADA

### Montréal

**Cuba's Role in the World Today.** Speakers: Margaret Manwaring, participant, August solidarity tour to Cuba, member Canadian Auto Workers; representative Canada-Cuba Cultural Interchange. Sat., Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m. 6566, boul. Saint-Laurent. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

**Maintain Sanctions! Keep the Pressure On! The Struggle in South Africa Today.** Speaker: Peter Mahlangu, chief representative, African National Congress in Canada. Sat., Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m. 6566, boul. Saint-Laurent. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

### Toronto

**Defend Democratic Rights in the 1990s.** Speakers: Ruth Morris, prisoners' rights activist; Mary Ellen Marus, member Communist League and International Association of Ma-

# Washington's Accelerating War Drive

- The massive military buildup against Iraq
- Eyewitness report on the fight for reunification of Korea
- Capitalism's slide toward worldwide depression
- What are the stakes for working people?

## Hear Jack Barnes

**National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party**

**New York:** Sat., Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m. P.S. 11, 320 20 St. (between 8th and 9th Aves.). Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

**Washington, D.C.:** Sat., Nov. 17, Days Inn 1201 K St. NW. Tel: (202) 547-7557.

chinists Local 2323; Brigitte Grouix, supporter Mark Curtis Defense Committee. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (416) 861-1399.

**Malcolm X Speaks.** Video and discussion. Sat., Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (416) 861-1399.

## Vancouver

**Communist League Election Campaign Rally Against the War Drive in the Mideast.** Speakers: Nancy Walker, Communist League candidate for mayor; and others. Thurs., Nov. 15, food and refreshments 6 p.m.; program 7 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

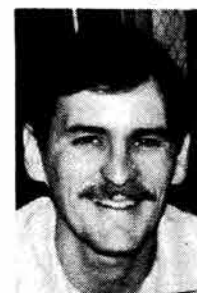
## NEW ZEALAND

### Christchurch

**U.S. Out of the Middle East!** Speaker: Representative, Communist League. Sat., Nov. 17, 7 p.m. 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Sponsor: Socialist Forum. Tel: (3) 656-055.

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**Sound as a dollar** — To assure depositors safe coverage, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. figures that for every \$100 on deposit it should



Harry Ring

have \$1.25 minimum in its insurance fund. With rising bank failures, the fund is down to the 60-cent level. By 1993, it's expected to shrink to 22 cents per \$100 on deposit.

**Fasten your seat belt** — Airlines are introducing economy mea-

sures to cope with fuel prices. American Airlines pilots are told to cruise at top altitude where the air is thinner and fuel consumption lower. For passengers, that means some "light chop." Pilots are urged to stay at the top unless it gets "too choppy."

**A good tail wind and we'll make it** — American is also cutting on the extra fuel carried as a safety measure. Current practice is to add some cushion to the apparently minimal fuel margin required by the government. Now it's getting down to the federal bone.

**A matter of balance** — Flight crews that find themselves ahead of schedule are now being advised to slow down rather than arrive early and burn fuel circling the airport.

But, they're reminded, not too slow. That could trigger overtime pay.

**Not to hurry** — Last year, the Environment Protection Agency got 80,000 complaints of contaminated drinking water. Of these, it "acted" on 800.

**Our free air waves** — The three major New York TV stations rejected a commercial prepared by Jesuits and others calling for a halt to U.S. funding of the bloodletting by the Salvadoran regime, including the murder of the six Jesuit priests. WCBS offered no reason for the ban. WABC said it violated its taboo on "controversial" ads. And WNBC piously explained that the participation of the military in the murder of the six priests had not yet

been proven in court.

**Glasnost, the red menace** — "Three dramatic new reds for lips and nails were inspired by glasnost and the opening of the first Estée Lauder store in Moscow: Perfect Russian Red, Perfect Red Caviar, and Perfect Tasse Red." — *Chate-laine* magazine.

**Redrawing the class line** — A decade ago, French champagne companies responded to sagging sales with ads featuring bubbly and leggy blondes. Apparently it worked so well that now there's a shortage. In a creative response, the companies are jacking up prices. Declared the chairman of Bollinger Champagne, "Democratization can sometimes go too far."

**Shopping tip** — A dry spell in Italy has pushed the price of large white truffles up to nearly \$1,000 a pound. But at Balducci's New York specialty shop you can get them for \$900 a pound. If that's too pricey, they have small truffles for \$600 a pound.

**Color me green** — Some shampoos are "pH balanced," meaning they assertedly contain a balance of acid and alkaline ingredients. But perms and bleaches increase the hair's alkaline content while acid rain and other pollutants boost the acid. So, a specifically balanced pH is needed, says an environmental-minded chemist who patented a litmus test to assure that you get an accurate measure.

## U.S. gov't gains support for a Mideast invasion

Continued from front page

Saudi defense minister hinting at a compromise with Iraq, King Fahd released an official statement October 25 demanding Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Fahd also called for the "withdrawal of all Iraqi troop concentrations on the Saudi borders, accompanied by guarantees that the aggression of the Iraqi ruler will not be repeated against any other Gulf nation."

As Baker headed for the Middle East, the U.S. Defense Department announced it would begin calling up combat units from the reserves. The reserve units will be part of the deployment of 100,000 additional troops announced at the end of October.

More than 34,000 reservists from support units are already part of the 240,000 U.S. army, navy, marine, and air force personnel now stationed on and in the waters around the Arabian Peninsula.

A previous 180-day limit on the length of time reservists can be deployed was raised to 360 days. The extension was slipped in as part of the 1991 military spending bill recently approved by Congress.

A prominent part of the accelerated war drive by Washington and its allies has been the war talk by U.S. President George Bush, French President François Mitterrand, and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The stepped-up propaganda campaign is aimed at winning public support for a war.

While in Saudi Arabia Baker briefly spoke to 4,200 soldiers of the First Cavalry Division. He told the troops that the war preparations are "about the defense of the values that made the United States of America the finest and greatest country in the world."

Washington seized on the August 2 invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi forces to mount the

military intervention and preparations for war. Some 11 countries have sent troops to the Arabian Peninsula as part of the operation and a dozen more have supplied warships or other matériel.

"Right now over 300 innocent Americans, civilians, are held against their will in Iraq," Bush told a Republican Party campaign rally in Massachusetts October 31. "Many of them are reportedly staked out as human shields near military targets, something that even Adolph Hitler didn't do."

Bush said he was prepared to send a supply ship or airdrop supplies to the U.S. embassy in Kuwait — an act designed to provoke an incident that would be used as a justification for a U.S. military assault. Although Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has ordered all embassies in Kuwait closed, a small staff remains at the U.S. embassy. "The American flag flies over the Kuwaiti embassy and our people inside are being starved by a brutal dictator," Bush said.

In Egypt, France's Mitterrand said the "embargo [against Iraq] demands patience," adding that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein "is driving the world into a destructive war, but his destruction will be even worse."

Mitterrand has sent 13,000 troops, 75 warplanes, and an aircraft carrier to the Middle East.

Meeting in Rome on October 28, the heads of state of the 12-member European Community affirmed "their determination not to send representatives of their governments in any capacity to negotiate with Iraq the release of foreign hostages and to discourage others from doing so."

After the meeting, Thatcher said the "unity of the 12 nations on this matter is a very powerful signal to Iraq."

British forces in Saudi Arabia include 15,000 troops, one armored brigade, and 58 warplanes. Britain has also dispatched 120 top-of-the-line Challenger tanks equipped with 120mm guns to the Gulf.

With Iraqi forces digging in and building trenches and other fortifications, U.S. military officials and members of Congress have admitted the conflict would be a widespread, bloody, and, possibly, prolonged war.

Noting the extent of the buildup could in no way be compared with the U.S. invasions of Grenada and Panama, Sen. Sam Nunn, head of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said on the *Today* program that, "This is not going to be that way. We'll prevail if there's a war, but it will be bloody, it will be costly."

Some 440,000 U.S. and allied troops have been amassed in the region. The forces include heavy armored divisions, frontline combat aircraft, and aircraft carrier groups.

Up to 500 heavy M1A1 tanks, now used in Germany, are also being sent by Washington to the area. The tanks are fitted with 120mm guns.

In addition to a Syrian armored division, Egypt has committed its 15,000-man Third Mechanized Division and the 4th Armored Division is expected to arrive next month. Syrian, Egyptian, and other Arab forces are deployed on the front lines in an effort by Washington to portray itself as coming to the aid of allies in a conflict between Arab countries.

Turkey has opened its air bases to more

U.S. warplanes and has gathered some 80,000 troops, backed by tanks, on its border with Iraq. Seeking a reward for siding with the U.S. in the conflict, the Turkish government has asked that its armed forces be modernized with U.S. help.

Baghdad has about 430,000 troops, 3,500 tanks, 2,200 armored personnel carriers, and 2,200 artillery pieces in Kuwait and the southernmost part of Iraq. Estimates of total Iraqi troop strength run as high as 1 million.

"If we have to fight I am going to use everything that is available to me to inflict the maximum number of casualties on the enemy as possible," said Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the U.S. forces in the region during a November 1 interview.

Promising to use "vastly superior fire power and technology" to "bring as much destruction on the Iraqi forces as rapidly as I possibly can," Schwarzkopf said he did not know how long the conflict could last.

Expressing confidence in the rapid deployment of the forces and learning how to cope with desert conditions, the general said, "the status of our equipment is equal to or better than that of any units that I have ever commanded in the field in the United States of America."

Pentagon officials have pointed out the mobilization of forces in the region is the speediest military deployment in history.

During the Vietnam War, the U.S. had 23,000 soldiers in Vietnam in 1964, and by 1966, the figure had risen to 385,000.

## Members of Congress press for chance to declare war

Prior to adjourning in late October, U.S. congressional leaders pressed the Bush administration to allow them to issue a formal declaration of war with the onset of a military assault against Iraqi forces in the Mideast.

If an invasion of Kuwait and Iraq is decided on by Bush "the Congress ought to come back into session and ought to entertain a declaration of war," said Sen. Richard Lugar, a Republican from Indiana, during a hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee October 17.

In late September and early October the Senate and House of Representatives passed similar resolutions supporting the massive military deployment and steps toward war in the Mideast. During the October 17 hearings various senators told U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that despite their bipartisan backing of the war moves they did not want to be bypassed if hostilities broke out.

"It is my very strongly held view that the commitment of American forces by the president in a major assault to drive Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait would require an authorization from the Congress," Sen. Paul Sarbanes told Baker.

Once adjourned, only the president can call Congress back in session. Congressional leaders discussed inserting a section in their

adjournment resolution allowing them to reconvene without being called by Bush.

Baker responded to the senators by reiterating Bush's desire to continue consulting Congress.

"I cannot give you a blank check commitment that we will, in every case, do nothing until we have consulted with all 535 members of Congress," Baker told the hearing.

Given the complete support in Congress for each step in the war preparations since early August, some big-business newspapers got right to the point.

A November 1 *New York Times* editorial entitled "How to Rattle Iraq" emphasized that Bush has a better opportunity to win U.S. public opinion if Congress gets in on the act.

"Presidents pay when they don't come clean with Congress," the *Times* said. The paper's editors encouraged Bush to "seek a joint resolution endorsing [his] strategy" at a reconvened session of Congress.

In a similar vein, Gary Stern, legislative counsel to the American Civil Liberties Union, wrote an op-ed piece for the *Times* entitled, "Put War to a Vote," encouraging Bush "to recognize the wisdom of the Constitution," and obtain "the consent of Congress before committing the nation to a war in the Middle East."

## —10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

### THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Nov. 14, 1980

These elections are not where the course of events affecting our lives is decided.

Will there be a draft? A war? Will wages keep up with prices? Will racist killers be brought to justice? Will women move forward toward equality? Will we have jobs? Will nuclear plants be shut down?

The capitalist rulers make and carry out their decisions on such questions with little if any regard for which Democrat or Republican is elected.

And working people have never been able to impose our will on these matters through voting. Street demonstrations like those of the civil-rights and antiwar movements, powerful strikes like those that built the unions in the 1930s — these are the methods that have brought us social progress. Regardless of which Democrat or Republican is in office.

Ronald Reagan's victory conveyed a simple message. It was a repudiation of the record of Carter and the Democratic Congress, especially the wringer of inflation and unemployment that working people have been put through.

As people groped for a way to express their desire for change, the most important feature of the election was *what wasn't there* — a mass working-class alternative, a labor party.

The two-party lesser-evil fraud is the only framework known to the great majority of people. And in that framework there is no

way to cast a vote for peace, for equal rights, for higher living standards, or for a safe and clean environment.

### THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

Nov. 15, 1965

Price 10c

What is the new antiwar movement and where is it going? It can be described as the movement which has directly challenged the U.S. involvement in Vietnam, which has involved masses of people in a more or less steadily widening protest and which has been characterized by a new unity in action by virtually all organized groups opposed to the war. It can be said to have begun last January when the Students for a Democratic Society issued their call for the April 17 March on Washington.

The call told the truth about the war. It described it as a civil war in which the U.S. had intervened "in behalf of a succession of unpopular South Vietnamese dictatorships, not in behalf of freedom."

Shortly after the release of this call, the sustained U.S. bombings of North Vietnam were begun on February 7. A series of demonstrations over this new escalation occurred. These were organized here and there by SDS, Women Strike for Peace, and others, but generally by ad hoc committees formed for the occasion. These ad hoc committees then became committees to help build the March on Washington.



# Let the people vote on war

The superrich ruling families and their government in Washington are on an accelerated drive to march working people, once again, into an imperialist slaughter. U.S. workers in uniform will be ordered to kill, or be killed by, other working people in the Mideast.

Washington, London, Paris, and their allies have amassed nearly a half-million troops, heavy armor, warplanes, and ships in the region. They face an Iraqi force of 430,000 troops and thousands of tanks and artillery pieces. Washington continues to announce that it is sending still more troops and weapons. As each day passes, war becomes more likely.

All opponents of the war drive should demand that the U.S. government let the people vote on the war. The decision to go to war should not be left in the hands of those that claim to represent us in Congress or the White House.

Washington's war drive has complete bipartisan support. From liberal to conservative, every Democratic and Republican party politician has lined up obediently behind the handful of billionaire families who are callously deciding the fate of hundreds of millions. Not a single voice has been raised in Congress against the war drive.

While additional military forces were arriving each day in the Mideast and the Bush administration was stepping up its efforts to prepare public opinion for a massive war, not one big-business candidate raised the war drive as an issue during the just-concluded election campaign.

Their silence on the war preparations contrasts with the fact that thousands of working people, young people, and others are already speaking out. Protests have been held in some two dozen cities across the United States. In Israel, France, Sweden, Britain, Argentina, Spain, Japan, Syria, Iran, and Canada opponents of the war have also held demonstrations.

Unable to push back the "Vietnam Syndrome," the U.S. rulers are finding deep opposition to another prolonged war. A broad layer of veterans who remember the horrors of war are already speaking out against the current war drive and joining the young men and women in uniform today who are refusing to fight for Big Oil. Yet none of the candidates or members of Congress broke ranks to question Washington's course.

This is why the insistence by many in Congress that they

be allowed to be consulted if President Bush invades Iraq or Kuwait will not slow down for one minute the impending war. The insistence by Congress that it be allowed to issue a formal declaration of war has only one purpose: to perpetuate the illusion that a democratic discussion is taking place on the war moves. They believe they can more firmly win public opinion and help deflect opposition if Bush allows them to put their stamp of approval on the coming slaughter.

A general referendum, on the other hand, could slow down and register opposition to Washington's war plans. It would be an important tool for mobilizing opposition to the war and educating workers, farmers, and young people on the real motives of imperialism in the region.

The rulers are against letting the people vote on this or any war. Despite their rhetoric, they know that the war would not be in the interest of working people. Yet it will be working people almost exclusively, from every corner of the globe, who will fight and die. This is yet another confirmation that the twin parties of the billionaire families in the United States are not parties that can represent the working class.

As world capitalism slides into a deeper economic crisis, the capitalist rulers will push harder to impose their solutions on working people and farmers — more wars and assaults on the standard of living of the world's toilers. They will seek to more thoroughly exploit and oppress peoples of the Third World, and they will more and more viciously attempt to crush any resistance to the growing economic and social catastrophe there.

To begin to organize and effectively fight against what the rulers have in store for working people, a political party based on the unions is needed. By charting such a course of independent political action, we can advance our interests and struggles, ending reliance on the employers' parties. We need a labor party. Such a party would be a tool to mobilize broad layers of working people and chart a course away from the war and economic devastation capitalism is heading toward. Such a party can be forged out of the coming struggles of working people. Today, opponents of Washington's approaching war can lead a campaign to demand that government let the people vote on war.

# End the embargo against Cuba

A bill passed by the U.S. Congress October 18 banning trade with Cuba by U.S. subsidiary companies based in other countries is a further tightening of Washington's economic embargo begun 30 years ago.

In particular, the bill aims to compound Cuba's economic problems. Due to cuts in trade with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, Cuba has been forced to broaden its rationing of food and restrict the sale of household items, clothing, and fuel. In addition, the Cuban government has found it necessary to take energy-saving steps because of declining oil imports from the Soviet Union.

The new law is also designed to draw other countries into the embargo, and make them responsible for policing the ban within their own borders. The Canadian government so far has refused, pointing out that the new measure encroaches on Canada's right to sovereignty.

This latest move can be added to a list of provocations and acts of aggression against Cuba by Washington over the last period.

- **January.** A U.S. warship fires on the Cuban merchant vessel *Hermann*; the battleship USS *Wisconsin* arrives at the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo Bay in Cuba; Washington flies a group of Cuban counterrevolutionaries and Sen. Connie Mack of Florida to the Guantánamo base for a meeting. (Mack was one of the members of Congress who spearheaded the bill banning trade with Cuba).

- **March.** The start-up of illegal broadcasts to Cuba by the U.S.-sponsored TV Martí.

- **May.** The U.S. Navy carries out a series of maneuvers

in the Caribbean, including "Ocean Venture," a practice assault on Cuba.

Since the 1959 revolution that overthrew the U.S.-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista, the U.S. government has continued to illegally occupy Guantánamo Bay against the will of the Cuban people, with a U.S. naval base located there, in southeastern Cuba. This directly violates Cuba's right to sovereignty.

The U.S. government also maintains a ban on travel by U.S. citizens to Cuba and prohibits certain Cubans from visiting the United States by denying them visas.

One source of the ongoing effort to isolate Cuba is Washington's hatred of the internationalist role revolutionary Cuba plays in the world. During the last several months, for example, Cuba has been the sole voice in the United Nations speaking out clearly and consistently against Washington's preparations for war in the Mideast and pointing to the devastating implications of the war drive.

In addition, Cuba draws the U.S. rulers' fire because it refuses to back off from the perspective of building socialism and, as such, sets an example for workers and farmers around the world.

Working people the world over have no interests in Washington's embargo against Cuba. Trade unionists, political activists, and those opposed to U.S. imperialism's war drive should demand an end to U.S. military, economic, and propaganda aggression against Cuba.

End the U.S. economic embargo!

U.S. hands off Cuba!

# Antiwar Campaign on eve of World War II

BY DOUG JENNESS

Imperialism's military buildup in the Middle East steadily increases each day as more and more troops, fighter planes, and warships arrive in the area around the Arab-Persian Gulf. At the same time, government officials and newspaper publishers in country after country keep trying to prepare people for an invasion of Iraq.

The sheer scope of this international operation and the horrible consequences of a war against Iraq have made this the central question for working people throughout the world. It underlines the urgency for unionists, working farmers, students, working-class political activists, and all progressive-minded people to put opposition to the war

## LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

drive first on their agendas and to join together in a campaign against it.

The aim of this campaign is to win as many people as possible to demand that Washington bring its troops home immediately and to bring enough political pressure to bear to help prevent an invasion of Iraq. If the military assault on Iraq occurs, as it seems likely today, everything done now to campaign against the war drive will help prepare for organizing a massive antiwar movement as the war deepens and opposition to it mounts. A rising movement against deepening war preparations and the launching of a shooting war can begin to involve workers and trade union bodies.

The key tasks of the antiwar campaign are to get out the facts about the extent and seriousness of the imperialist military force being assembled, and to tell the unvarnished truth — the war being prepared will only benefit the ruling rich and is not in the interests of working people. United protests, like the recent October 20 actions, are part of this educational process because they help give visible expression to the opposition that already exists.

Activists getting involved in this campaign will find it helpful to learn how communist activists in the labor movement launched a campaign to protest Washington's preparations for war against its imperialist rivals in World War II. A good description can be found in the first two chapters of *Teamster Bureaucracy*, the fourth in a four-volume series by Farrell Dobbs on the struggles of Teamsters in the Midwest in the 1930s and into the '40s. (*Teamster Bureaucracy* is available from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014 for \$17.95)

Dobbs, a leader of the Minneapolis Teamsters and for many years of the Socialist Workers Party, points out that in early 1937, just after President Franklin Roosevelt was reelected to a second term, the government began stepping up military expenditures and its propaganda to protect "American interests."

Communist workers responded by launching a campaign to alert workers to the dangers arising from the White House's new course. "Only in that way," Dobbs wrote, "could the necessary forces be drawn together to launch a broad protest movement."

This became the principal axis of communist activity in the labor movement, and some unions including a section of the Teamsters were initially won to this perspective. Dobbs related how the *Northwest Organizer*, the weekly paper of the Teamster Joint Council in Minneapolis, opened an educational campaign on the war preparations in April 1937. Soon after, the Japanese military invaded China and two U.S. soldiers stationed in the war zone were wounded. Washington seized on this to try to whip up anti-Japanese sentiment in the United States.

Then in October 1937, Roosevelt made a major foreign policy address where he called for a "quarantine" against "aggressor nations," which was clearly aimed at Japan.

The Teamsters paper predicted, "The official mobilization of public opinion, the keystone of war preparations in the modern world, is now formally launched. . . . 'Quarantine' is nothing but a new and peculiarly ingenious method of turning sentiment for peace into support of war."

In December 1937, Japanese planes bombed the USS *Panay*, a gunboat, and three Standard Oil tankers. Roosevelt's attempt to use this incident to whip up anti-Japanese frenzy had tough sledding however. A constitutional amendment, proposed by Rep. Louis Ludlow a few years earlier, that would have permitted eligible citizens to vote on whether Congress could declare war gained new popularity. When it came to a vote in the House in January 1938, it was defeated 209 to 188, a margin of only 21 votes.

Dobbs stated that communist workers, then organized by the Socialist Workers Party, at first didn't support the Ludlow amendment. However, they soon changed their position and the next phase of their fight against the war drive was conducted around the slogan, "Let the people vote on war."

*Teamster Bureaucracy* goes on to describe the repressive measures used by the government to try to squash the antiwar forces in the labor movement and prevent the rise of an organized labor opposition to the imperialist slaughter.



# Socialist's TV interview stirs inmates' discussion

BY MARK CURTIS

FORT MADISON, Iowa — When Nan Bailey, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Iowa, appeared on television recently, it didn't take long for word to spread among the 130 prisoners here at the John Bennett Correctional Facility. Bailey was interviewed by Iowa Public Television and the half-hour program generated a lot of excitement, interest, and support for her campaign.

I didn't know in advance the interview would be shown. But on the night it aired, a number of men came over to my

bed area to let me know that it was on TV. Many guys recognized Bailey from her visits with me.

Along with others, I ran through the dorms urging people to turn to the public TV channel. Someone else went downstairs to the recreation hall and changed stations from the sports channel to Bailey's interview for a crowd of some 30 men.

That night and the next day, I had many discussions about Bailey's campaign. Most liked what she had to say. An older man who strongly opposes the sending of hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops to Saudi Arabia was one example. He doesn't believe President George Bush's explanation for the huge U.S. military buildup.

"It's all too convenient for the government," he told me. "It's being done to take attention away from the savings and loan scandal and the economic problems we're having here." He doesn't favor Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, but he thinks that what the U.S. government is doing is just as bad and also hypocritical.

"The United States goes along with these dictators, but doesn't call them dictators until they do something they don't like," he said. "All this royalty they're backing up over there, they're not any better!"

He also liked what Bailey said in defense of the farmers' fight to make a decent living. "By the year 2000 there won't be any Black farmers left in this country," he said, referring to a TV program about the plight of Black farmers he had seen recently.

Bailey's views on crime and prisons were listened to closely. "I liked what Nan said about crime," said a young transportation worker. "They prosecute crimes of drug dealing and stealing, but not the big-money crimes, the 'white collar' crimes that rich people commit." He also supported Bailey's view that many prisoners are part of the working class and that prisoners have rights that should be supported.

Terry Branstad, the current governor, recently called for bringing back the death penalty, abolished in Iowa in the early 1960s. Don Avenson, the Democratic challenger, responded by supporting executions and called for requiring those convicted to serve out their entire sentences. These proposals have disgusted many workers here, including a former health-care worker in his 50s who was once on death row. He noted Bailey's opposition to the death penalty and said he "... waited for three days [on death row] while the judge decided whether to hang me or not."

One inmate disagreed with Bailey's proabortion views, but was glad she raised how the capitalist crisis was responsible for widespread hunger in the world. "I was really glad to hear her talk about something that I've thought about for a long time," he said, "but it isn't even an issue for discussion. Millions of people in the world are starving to death. It's simply incomprehensible that something on the magnitude of the Holocaust in World War II is occurring in front of our eyes and it's not even an issue. Instead, the government continues to store surplus grain, letting it rot. Farmers are paid not to grow food, while human beings are dying the most painful death there is, after weeks and weeks of suffering."

Most of those who saw the program here expressed how impressed they were by the way the socialist candidate explained her ideas in a straightforward manner. One believed that the interviewer was hostile and tried to trip her up in the interview. "But she wouldn't let them take her off her square," he said.

Another man was struck by the way Bailey held to her principles. After hearing her explain why she supported a woman's right to abortion, the interviewer asked if she would compromise on her position to pacify the opposition. "No, I won't compromise on that," Bailey said. After hearing this, a friend of mine a few beds away looked over at me and nodded affirmatively.

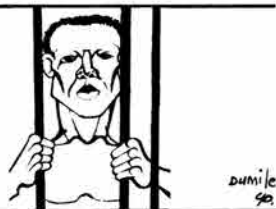
There have been a lot of questions about what socialism is, and one guy said that the Socialist Workers Party stands for the kind of things he's favored all his life. One result of these is that I've had the opportunity to introduce more people to the *Militant* as the weekly newspaper of the Socialist Workers campaign.

Two of us turned in a request to invite Bailey to speak here at the prison. A week ago, the administration rejected the request and said, "You are not the proper party to make the request. If the candidate for governor wishes to contact Warden Nix, that would be the proper forum. There will not be a meeting with the inmates. The candidate might have a brief tour of ISP [Iowa State Prison] as have others." With the positive response to Bailey's TV appearance, a group of us are now discussing what next step to take to win permission for a meeting.

I was especially struck by the fact that several men were genuinely proud of Bailey and truly supported her campaign. Some planned to contact relatives back home and urge them to vote for Bailey. "If I was back on the streets," one said, "I'd go out and campaign for her."

Mark Curtis is an inmate at the John Bennett Correctional facility and was the chairperson of the 1990 Iowa Socialist Workers Campaign.

## BEHIND PRISON WALLS



## LETTERS

### Aimed at workers

Your newspaper was given as a reference for further reading in *Toward Socialism in America* by Harold Freeman, a book published by Schenkman Publishing Co. in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The author refers to your publication as being aimed at workers, not philosophers; essentially a call for action.

The author also recommended a subscription as the best way to get a feeling for what is going on in American socialist and communist circles at the street and workplace level.

M.S.  
Montréal, Québec

### U.S. wars

With reference to the Persian Gulf: If Uncle Sam can't nuke innocent civilians Hiroshima- and Nagasaki-style, the American war machine breaks down, not knowing what to do.

The United States did not win World War II. It was the sacrifice and ability of the Red Army that won that conflict.

Uncle Sam could not win the Korean battle. The proud existence of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is proof of that.

Nor could the American flag do anything in Vietnam except murder

innocent civilians, poison the land with Agent Orange, and retreat in defeat when confronted with the ability of the People's Republic of Vietnam.

The American puppets in the Middle East have reason for sweaty palms. If America had to fight and fight fair, it could not do it.

A reader  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

### Censorship

Five hundred people, some traveling from as far away as Florida, came to Youngstown State University in Ohio on October 25. Mainly high school and college students, they turned out to hear Jello Biafra, the leader of the punk rock group The Dead Kennedys, speak out against censorship in the arts. Biafra, who has been speaking across the country, kept the audience laughing and applauding for more than three hours as he lampooned the government, military, cops, and "other hate groups."

Besides putting the censors in their place, Biafra roundly condemned Washington's war drive in the Mideast as a scam for Big Oil. He urged everyone to "just say no to the army, navy, air force, and marines" and called for an end to sending arms to both Israel and the Arab regimes.

This one-man show speak-out on censorship often took on the character of an antiwar rally as the mostly draft-age audience cheered the exposure of President George Bush and the Democrats as hypocritical and corrupt politicians doing the bidding of the oil companies.

Don't miss Jello Biafra!

Michael Italie  
Cleveland, Ohio

### Majority opposes war

I wrote the following to the United Nations secretary-general, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar:

"I sincerely hope you might yet at this 11th hour be able to halt this insane slide toward war.

"If war comes to the Gulf, it will certainly not be for democracy or because of the action of Saddam Hussein, a man of blood, but for oil and the defense of the American way of life, which is only possible



through the maintenance of Third World poverty.

"If the Anglo-Americans want war and refuse to call a conference of democratically elected representatives from all the countries of the Middle East, then you must alert the General Assembly. I am sure the vast majority of us do not want war.

"It is an obscenity for Mr. George Bush and Mrs. Margaret Thatcher to be attending a UN summit for children, while contemplating waging war in the Middle East."

Harry Ross  
Bondi Beach, New South Wales  
Australia

### Teachers' strike

After 30 days on strike, the Temple Association of University Professors voted 200-199 to return to work on an order by Judge Samuel Lehrer. "We did not want to lower ourselves to the administration's level by going against the back-to-work order," said TAUP President Art Hochner.

Lehrer is the first judge in the state to enjoin a university strike, saying it was "increasing the harm to students and the threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the public."

The teachers' contract ended on July 1. The university refused to grant a 7 percent raise and de-

manded cuts in health benefits.

The strike won support from students who sponsored rallies and circulated petitions in defense of the strike, and the Graduate Student Employees Association. The TAUP is now fighting the injunction against the strike in court.

On September 30, the contract of 300 service workers at Temple also expired. The university is demanding the Brotherhood of University Employees give back two holidays and make copayments on health insurance.

Richard Gaeta  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### Pathfinder Mural

Readers will be interested in knowing that scenes from the Pathfinder Mural in New York are included in a major art exhibition in Wellington, New Zealand. It opened at the Wellington City Art Gallery on October 21.

The exhibition is organized by the gallery in conjunction with the Trade Union History Project and the Trade Union Education Authority. It includes a photo of the overall mural and three photos showing portraits painted on the mural by artists from New Zealand.

New Zealand artists whose work on the mural is acknowledged are

Sally Griffin, Fatu Feu, Para Matcitt, and John Walsh.

Michael Jarvis  
Auckland, New Zealand

### Voice of reason

I really enjoyed reading the text of the speech of the Cuban representative to the United Nations Security Council. At last, a voice of reason!

I've really missed having my own issue of the *Militant*. I want to start getting it again. Enclosed is my check for a one-year subscription.

Hilde Edler  
Washington, D.C.

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

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

## Celebration of Life and Contributions of Claudia Roberson

On October 31 Claudia Roberson, a member of the Socialist Workers Party for more than 20 years, died of leukemia. Messages to a meeting celebrating her life can be sent to the address below.

**Sunday, November 18  
6:00 p.m.**

**Pathfinder Bookstore  
523 8th St., SE  
Washington, D.C. 20003**

For more information call:  
(202) 547-7557.



## S. Africa youth leaders tour U.S.

### Fight is 'between the oppressed people and apartheid regime'

BY JOANNE MURPHY

DETROIT — On November 2, the Detroit City Council welcomed Mpho Lekgoro and Brian Thami Hlongwa, two leaders of the South African Youth Congress (Sayco), with a resolution reaffirming the council's stand against apartheid.

Lekgoro and Hlongwa were here as part of a 12-city "Free South Africa Youth to Youth Tour 1990." The tour is sponsored by the African National Congress (ANC) Youth Section (USA). The two Sayco leaders are representing the largest anti-apartheid organization in South Africa today, with 1.5 million members.

The Detroit council also vowed to contact the South African government to demand the release of Sayco General Secretary Rapu Molekane from prison. On September 27, Molekane was shot and arrested by South African police. The U.S. Sayco tour is being launched, in part, as a defense effort in response to this attack.

Maryann Mahaffey, Detroit City Council president, also attended a reception hosted by the Museum of African American History along with many who helped welcome ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela here in June.

At Cass Technical High School, Lekgoro and Hlongwa spoke to more than 200 students. One hundred attended a citywide meeting at Wayne State University, and 65 enthusiastic young people welcomed Hlongwa to Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti at a meeting organized by the Student



South African Youth Congress leader Mpho Lekgoro speaking in Atlanta on October 29. During tour, Detroit City Council reaffirmed stand against apartheid.

Organization United for Peace.

Hlongwa also addressed a conference on "Southern Africa and the Third World Crisis." Also speaking there were Manning Marable, author and visiting professor at Wayne

State University, and Ruth Tomaselli of the University of Natal in South Africa. Representatives of the Palestine Solidarity Committee and the Justice for Cuba Coalition spoke about Cuba's role against apartheid

and the U.S. war drive in the Mideast.

"Working people are playing a leading role," explained Sayco leader Hlongwa at the conference. "You can't divorce economics from politics. We are fighting for ordinary human and political rights, yes, but also for land and economic justice."

During the tour in Detroit, about \$2,500 was raised for Sayco's project of helping to rebuild the ANC Youth Section.

BY PAT HUNT

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — "Our people are being killed by highly organized groups, immune from the law... people who have moved into our culture to mow us down," explained Brian Thami Hlongwa about the so-called Black-on-Black violence in South Africa. This was the foremost question asked of Hlongwa during his stop here on the 12-city Sayco tour in the United States.

"There is a conflict," Hlongwa said, "but it's not between the African National Congress and the Xulu people as the media would have us believe. Rather it's between the oppressed people and the apartheid regime."

"We must ask why the government would sponsor violence," he continued. "In order for the South African government to survive... to continue to oppress us, this means dividing us."

At Tuskegee University, a predominantly Black college in Alabama, an outdoor rally of 50 students gathered to hear Hlongwa present a first-hand account of the struggle against the apartheid system and the fight for a nonracial, democratic South Africa.

At Miles College — also a majority Black school — Hlongwa was the special guest at an African American Unity Awareness Day program. Afterward, Hlongwa was invited to continue the discussion in the business class of one of the professors. The discussion spilled over into the following class period.

At the University of Alabama at Birmingham, 75 people attended a citywide meeting. Hlongwa explained the status of ANC negotiations with the South African regime, the effect of sanctions, and the need for a new education system. Many questions focused on what the new South Africa would look like.

The Sayco leader also appealed for support for the case of Sayco General Secretary Rapu Molekane. Molekane was in Birmingham in 1989 while on a two-week tour of the United States, and several people had heard him speak. Hlongwa stated, "Molekane is languishing in an apartheid jail today, when his only crime is to stand up against the apartheid system."

Hlongwa also addressed the annual membership banquet of the Alabama New South Coalition of Macon County in Tuskegee. In addition, 100 people heard greetings from him at the Freedom Life Church in Montgomery.

Students at Ramsey High School asked Hlongwa if the things they had seen in the movie *Dry White Season* were really true. They were shocked when he explained the real situation today. *Dry White Season* conveys the conditions faced by Black South Africans during the period of the 1976 Soweto uprising.

On October 30, WENN radio newscaster Roy Wood reported on violence in Soweto, announcing that several people had been killed. He then played excerpts of Hlongwa's speech at Miles College. "The media tells you what they want you to believe. That's why meetings like this are important, where people can hear the truth for themselves from the people of South Africa," said Wood.

Local sponsors of the tour included 21st Century Youth Leadership Training Project, PeaceWatch, National Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression, First World Imports, Bobby Singleton, Malika Yamini Dawah Committee, and Masjidul Quran from the University of Alabama Student Government.

## Thousands rally in New York City in support of the 'Daily News' strikers

BY ANNA SCHELL  
AND MAREA HIMELGRIN

NEW YORK — Thirteen thousand chanting and cheering trade unionists and their supporters filled the street in front of the *Daily News* Building on 42nd Street here Thursday, November 1, in a massive show of support for 2,200 workers at the *Daily News* who were locked out October 24.

Present at the rally were members of the Allied Printing Trades Council, the umbrella organization for the ten unions at the *Daily News*, nine of which set up picket lines October 25 in response to the lockout. The Tribune Company, which owns the *Daily News*, spent eight months and tens of millions of dollars training scabs and preparing for the lockout. Scabs are now running presses, writing articles, and driving delivery trucks. Few copies of the paper are to be found for sale in the city. Union spokespeople say the company is distributing only 20 percent of the tabloid's pre-strike circulation of 1.1 million papers daily and 1.4 million on Sunday.

Union picket lines are up at *News* facilities in Brooklyn; Kearney, New Jersey; Garden City in Long Island; and at the *News* Building in Manhattan.

The spirited November 1 rally grew louder as it was addressed by Stanley Hill, the executive director of District Council 37 of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). Municipal workers in New York have been threatened with layoffs totaling 35,000 by Mayor David Dinkins as they seek to negotiate a new contract with the city.

One AFSCME member said he came to the rally because "these people might help save our jobs."

Barry Feinstein, president of Teamsters Local 237, whose members also face mass layoffs from city jobs, received one of the loudest rounds of applause when he pledged to the crowd, "Not one Teamsters truck will deliver newsprint to the *Daily News*... not

one Teamsters truck will bring ink to the *Daily News*."

Hats with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 3 logo could be seen everywhere, as thousands of members showed their support for the strikers.

Thomas Van Arsdale, representing the New York State AFL-CIO, announced a boycott of the *Daily News*. He called on businesses not to advertise in the paper. Many major advertisers canceled their ads in the *News* because of the paper's current low circulation.

Other speakers at the rally included Jay Mazur, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; Jan Pierce, vice-president of the Communications Workers of America; and Jack Scheinkman, president of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

On Friday November 2, thousands more strike supporters turned out for a rally at which Jesse Jackson was the featured speaker. Jackson was greeted by chants of "Keep the pressure on!"

Striking *Daily News* columnist Juan González told the rally, "The Tribune Company never suspected that we would unite. They never suspected our intelligence."

Bernadette Devlin McAliskey, a leader of the freedom struggle in Northern Ireland, also addressed the crowd. She said the people of her country have suffered oppression and explained that while she is not a U.S. citizen, she would be betraying working people here if she did not attend the *Daily News* strike rally. "An injury to one is an injury to all," she said.

The *Daily News* is the second-largest metropolitan daily newspaper in the United States. The attempt to break its unions is seen by many strike supporters as part of an attempt to weaken all the unions in the city.

A banner hanging by the Brooklyn picket line proclaims: "New York is a union town."

In many workplaces workers have put up fliers in support of the strike. A worker in an electrical assembly plant in Long Island commented, "Five or six years ago, I thought the company was just trying to break our union. But I've seen the Eastern strike and now the *Daily News* strike and now I think it's all the unions that are under attack."

Michael O'Malley, a member of IBEW Local 3, said, "They'll use this as an example. If they break the unions at the *Daily News* all the bosses will try to do the same."

Top union leaders are attempting to raise a \$2 million fund for the strike from weekly \$1 contributions from union members. They are also proposing an "adopt-a-newsstand" program, where the names and addresses of every newsdealer still selling the tabloid are made available to the striking unions. Then unionists will visit the businesses and ask them to cease selling the struck paper. An "adopt-a-striker" program, where union locals can help individual strikers through the financial hardships of the walkout, has also been launched.

On Saturday November 3, some 400 people turned out for a "family day" on the picket line in front of the Garden City *Daily News* plant. Unionists from Long Island brought their families out to show support for the strike.

After a brief rally, hundreds headed for a shopping mall a few blocks away to leaflet in front of Alexander's — a large department store that continues to advertise in the *News*. Strike supporters set up a mass picket line in front of the Alexander's entrance.

According to Lisa Robinson, a *Daily News* spokesperson, the company attempted to distribute 50,000 copies of the November 5 edition free of charge. Many people could be seen at subway entrances that day refusing free copies. Signs are appearing on newsstands that read, "I love New York, I don't sell the *Daily News*."