

U.S., allies build military forces for invasion of Iraq

BY GREG McCARTAN

Announcing new deployments to the Middle East November 8 that will double U.S. troop, tank, warship, and aircraft strength in the region, U.S. President George Bush said that the forces will give them "an adequate offensive military option" to invade Iraq.

He praised British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's earlier statement in London in the House of Commons that either Iraqi President Saddam Hussein "gets out of Kuwait soon, or we and our allies will remove him by force, and he will go down to defeat with all its consequences."

Some 30 countries, led by governments in Washington, London, and Paris, have already amassed nearly 500,000 troops and extensive firepower in and around Saudi Arabia. The deployments began in early August following the invasion and occupation of Kuwait by the Iraqi regime.

Bush administration officials said between 150,000 and 240,000 troops, three additional aircraft carrier groups, the battleship *Missouri* with its 16-inch guns and land-attack cruise missiles, 1,200 modern M-1 tanks, and an unspecified number of war planes will be dispatched to join the massive military forces already in the region.

The deployment adds some of the largest, most heavily armored, and best-trained Army, Marine, and Navy units to the U.S.-led forces in the region. (See chart page 4.)

Bush also authorized the mobilization of the first Army combat reserve units, and announced more reservists will be called up. Three large combat tank units from the Army National Guard in Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana are part of the deployment, called "Operation Desert Shield."

"The additional military capability that's now being added clearly will give us the ability to conduct offensive military operations, should that be required in the months ahead," said Defense Secretary Richard Cheney. In order to sustain the number of troops in the region, Cheney said no rotation of forces out of Saudi Arabia is in the works.

On November 12 the Pentagon announced that up to 4,000 additional Navy reserves would be called up, and similar steps would be taken for other branches of the armed forces.



U.S. troop movement in Saudi Arabia. Up to 240,000 more troops will be sent to area.

Iraq has about 430,000 troops in or near Kuwait. Hussein has deployed some 500 top-of-the-line T-72 tanks along with 1,000 T-62 and some 4,000 older tanks. Iraq's troop reserves are estimated to number 480,000. The U.S. defense department has stated that Iraqi forces are heavily dug in, fortifying positions across Kuwait.

Almost one-quarter of the U.S. military, and a full one-half of its combat forces, are now stationed in, or on the way to, the Arab-Persian Gulf region. There will be more

soldiers, sailors, and airmen dedicated to the mobilization than have been stationed in Europe since the end of World War II. Seventy-five percent of the U.S. Marine Corps' combat forces will be assigned to the region as well as two-thirds of the Army's most powerful heavy tank units.

Maj. Gen. Robert Johnston described the initial deployment as "an operation of unbelievable magnitude" that "makes Vietnam look like kids' play in terms of volume."

Continued on Page 4

Curtis committee scores win for right to privacy

BY PRISCILLA SCHENK

DES MOINES, Iowa — In an important victory for political rights, District Judge Arthur Gamble rejected renewed efforts by attorney Stuart Pepper to get the court to pry into the affairs of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and lift an order protecting the confidentiality of the committee's records and financial contributors.

"This victory stands as an important defense of the basic right to free political association and the right to privacy," John Studer, coordinator of the defense committee, said after the November 14 hearing. "It defends the rights of all defense committees, political groups, unions, and other supporters of human rights to act free from court intrusion."

A similar request by Pepper in September was rejected by Gamble after a legal and political battle. The judge ruled then that the fundamental constitutional rights of the members and contributors of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee protected its records from arbitrary intrusion.

Pepper filed his latest motion attacking the defense committee November 5, demanding access to the committee's financial files and lists of contributors.

The attorney argued that the defense committee is a fraud. "The Mark Curtis Defense

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New books will aid fight against war drive

BY NORTON SANDLER

Pathfinder is rushing into print two new books: *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations and its Spanish-language edition, *¡EE. UU. fuera del Oriente Medio! Cuba habla en Naciones*

Unidas.

"We are taking special steps to have the books available for the broadest possible distribution at upcoming antiwar actions in late November and early December in the United States, Britain, Canada, and other countries," explained Steve Clark, Pathfinder's editorial director.

The Spanish-language book rolled off the press on November 15. The English edition will be printed November 21 and shipped the same day. They will sell for the special antiwar campaign price of \$9.95.

Clark explained that both books are an expanded version of an English-language pamphlet of the same title released in mid-October. "The new edition is necessary so soon because the initial run of 4,700 sold out in three weeks," he said.

The books contain nine U.S.-initiated res-

olutions on the Iraq-Kuwait crisis adopted by the United Nations Security Council, as well as speeches related to these resolutions by Cuban President Fidel Castro and Ricardo Alarcón, Cuba's ambassador to the UN. "The Cuban leaders expose how the U.S. government has attempted to hide its accelerating war drive against the Iraqi people under the UN flag," Clark said. The new edition includes Alarcón's October 29 speech in the Security Council, as well as an updated introduction by Mary-Alice Waters.

"The books provide indispensable arguments and information for everyone seeking to stop the coming war," Clark said. "Using the books can help convince workers, farmers, students, and GIs that they have a big stake in joining the protests against the slaughter being prepared by the U.S. government and its allies."

Antiwar groups in Britain, Canada, and U.S. call for protest actions

BY JAMES HARRIS

Responding to the massive U.S.-led war drive in the Arab-Persian Gulf, antiwar activists have called important protests in several countries for late November and early December.

The Committee to Stop War in the Gulf has called a national demonstration for London November 24. The central demand of the action is "No war in the Gulf." The protest will assemble at noon at Embankment, Charing Cross, and march at 1 p.m. to the Hyde Park Marble Arch for a 3 p.m. rally.

Those scheduled to speak at the rally include Bruce Kent, former chair of the Cam-

paign for Nuclear Disarmament; Tony Benn, member of Parliament; Ken Gill, general secretary of Manufacturing Science and Finance union; and Reem Abdelhadi, National Executive Committee of National Union of Students. For more information on this activity call the Gulf Crisis Line 071-923 2110.

A nationwide day of protest has been called in Canada by the Canadian Peace Alliance for November 24. The call demands the immediate withdrawal of U.S. and Canadian troops from the Middle East. Protests are planned in Vancouver, Victoria, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, and St. Johns.

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HELP GET OUT THE FACTS!

In English and Spanish, the new books, *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* and *¡EE. UU. fuera del Oriente Medio!* are invaluable tools in the fight against the accelerating U.S.-organized drive toward war. Antiwar fighters need the facts and arguments they contain to arm themselves and help convince others to join the campaign of protests against the coming slaughter. Help distribute these books. Use the special discounts for bulk orders.

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Artists in Nicaragua denounce destruction of murals painted after 1979 revolution

BY CINDY JAQUITH

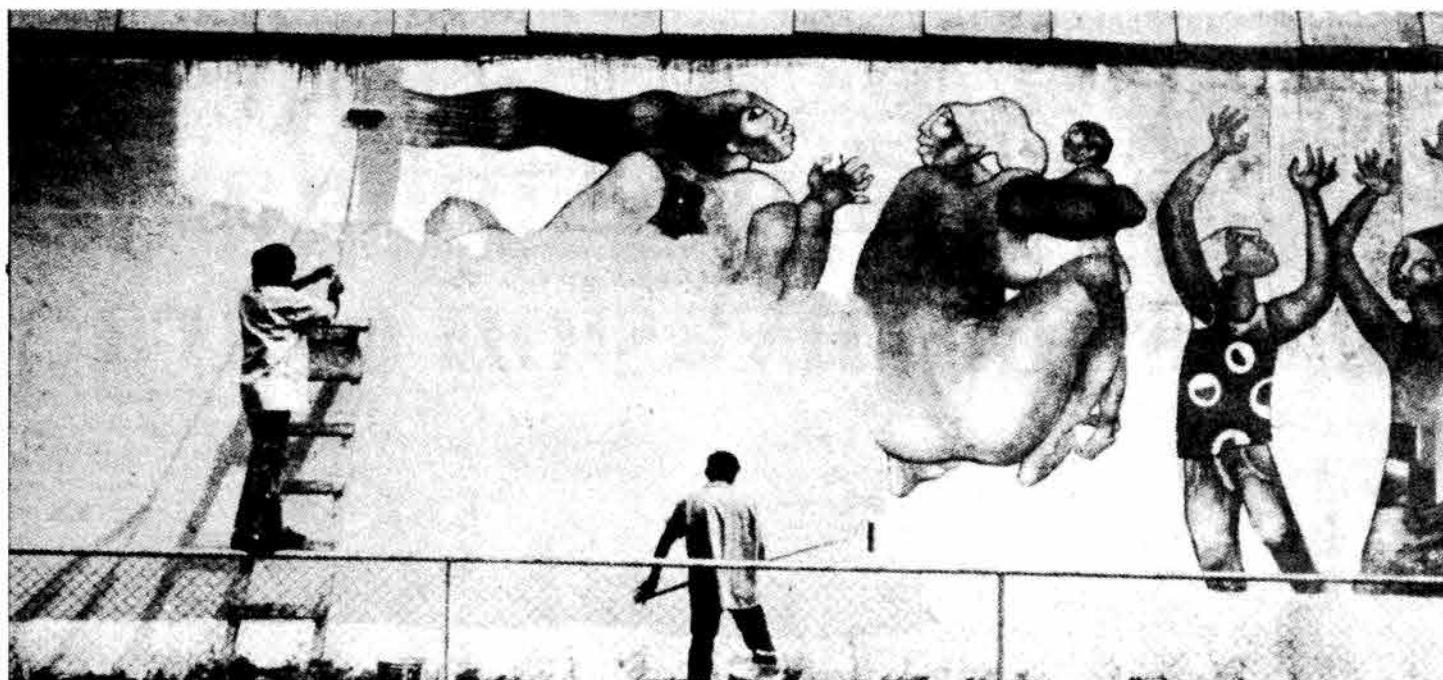
MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Artists here are protesting a decision by the Managua city administration to paint over some of the best-known murals created during the Nicaraguan revolution.

On October 25 most of the panels in the mural titled "The Supreme Dream of Bolívar" were covered with beige paint by municipal employees. The mural is located on Bolívar Avenue a few yards from President Violeta Chamorro's office. The work had been viewed by tens of thousands of international visitors to Nicaragua since it was painted by Chilean artists a decade ago.

In a protest statement, the Nicaraguan Union of Painters and Artists (UNAP) pointed out that the mural "is a national heritage of both the Chilean and the Nicaraguan people. Its theme is the struggle of Latin America for freedom, featuring figures of José Martí, Simón Bolívar, and Rubén Darío, among others."

UNAP charged that the obliteration of the mural was part of "a campaign to destroy every vestige of the 10 years of the revolutionary process" in Nicaragua.

The artists placed responsibility for the censorship on Managua Mayor Arnoldo Alemán, who has carried out a series of provocative attacks on art works and other symbols of the revolution in this city since he took office in May. These assaults are in violation of an agreement made by incoming National Opposition Union (UNO) government officials to preserve cultural works of the revolution, monuments to heroes who fell



Mural in Managua's Velásquez Park created during Nicaraguan revolution. It was painted over by municipal employees in October. Barricada/M. Duarte

in the war to overthrow the Somoza dictatorship, and other sites.

When protesters began gathering on Bolívar Avenue where municipal employees were painting over the mural, President Chamorro's press office issued a statement dissociating her administration from the mural's destruction and pledging to aid in its restoration.

Alemán's office, meanwhile, denied having ordered the removal of the mural. A spokesman for the mayor said that the city department responsible for maintaining monuments and public art, known as EMOM, had simply gotten confused. The department had been instructed by the mayor's office to paint over campaign slogans from the February 25 elections. Somehow the mural was

covered over instead.

"The mayor's office claimed it was all a misunderstanding," noted Nicaraguan artist Arnoldo Guillén, a leader of UNAP. "But the very next day after saying that, EMOM employees were out destroying more murals!"

On October 26, EMOM employees painted over several murals in the Luis Alfonso Velásquez Park, including a mural on the wall of the EMOM office itself.

UNAP is urging that protests of the censorship be sent to Arnoldo Alemán, Alcaldía, Managua, Nicaragua.

Auto union caucus 'New Directions' meets

BY JEFF POWERS

CHICAGO — The second annual New Directions conference, attended by more than 200 people, was held here November 2-4. New Directions is an opposition caucus within the United Automobile Workers Union (UAW).

Jerry Tucker, head of New Directions, gave a report reaffirming the organization's commitment to a five-point bargaining program adopted at last year's founding conference.

Similar to the protectionist positions held by the UAW leadership, the New Directions program contains a clause calling for auto companies to use U.S.-manufactured products that the program claims would protect the jobs of U.S. workers.

A platform plank also demands extended notice for workers faced with plant closures and proposes companies pay penalties to communities where plants are to be closed.

Tucker also took up the October national agreement between the UAW and General Motors in his report. New Directions formally

took a "vote no" position on the contract. But the president of UAW Local 594, Donnie Douglas, a well-known leader of New Directions, publicly called for ratification.

Tucker said that unlike the UAW Administrative Caucus, "New Directions is democratic." He further stated that Douglas' actions should not only be tolerated, but should be welcomed.

The main presentation at the conference banquet was by Victor Reuther, a founding member of the United Auto Workers Union. Reuther called for support for the struggles of auto workers from underdeveloped countries such as Mexico. He explained that the economies of these countries are being destroyed by the enormous debts owed to U.S. banks.

Reuther warned that a serious economic recession was in the offing and he urged opposition to U.S. military intervention in the Middle East. The former union leader said he thought that President George Bush would soon create an incident to start a shooting war with Iraq.

Reuther received the best response when he called for the creation of a new party in the United States along the lines of the New Democratic Party in Canada.

The plenary session of the conference focused on building the New Directions caucus. A brief debate broke out over how the caucus could best try to organize a vote against the recently proposed national agreement between the UAW and Chrysler.

This year's conference drew considerably fewer people than the New Directions founding conference that brought 500 people to St. Louis last year. Many of the caucus' founding participants were UAW local presidents and other past or present high-level union officials. The majority of these officials have since drifted away from New Directions.

Those who remain come largely from various left organizations that have historically oriented to the UAW, as well as many rank-and-file autoworkers who are genuinely concerned about the union's direction.

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Cuban economist winds up Nordic tour

BY ANITA ÖSTLING

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Cuban economist and author Carlos Tablada wound up his tour of the Nordic countries here speaking to a public meeting of 200.

The author of the award-winning *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* spoke at ten universities and nine public meetings during his 21-day tour. Some 1,300 people turned out to hear Tablada speak on the ideas of Guevara and their relevance for today. The next stop on his tour is Britain.

Guevara, a leader of the Cuban revolution, was assassinated in Bolivia in 1967 while organizing a struggle against the dictatorship there.

Sponsored by Pathfinder—Tablada's English-language publisher—and the Swedish-Cuban Friendship Association, the tour stop was supported by political parties and youth organizations, the Labor Movements Education Association in the County of Stockholm, and Latino, Turkish, and Kurdish organizations.

In his presentation Tablada explained the impending economic crisis of capitalism, the collapse of the economies and governments in Eastern Europe, and the implications of these developments for Cuba and the Third World.

Tablada emphasized that the Cuban people are convinced that they must fight for inde-

pendence and socialism. The political campaign in Cuba initiated in 1985 called the "rectification of errors" is aimed at correcting the bureaucratization of the revolution that had developed, he said. Because Cuba copied party, state, and economic structures from the Soviet Union, Tablada said, these negative features of the revolution arose, but are now being combated.

Another feature of the meeting was a discussion on the massive imperialist-led war drive in the Middle East. One participant asked about Cuba's role at the United Nations in speaking out against the coming war.

Representatives of the Cuban government have consistently opposed the use of the United Nations Security Council as cover for the military buildup against Iraq since August. While opposing Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the Cuban delegation and government have exposed the U.S. war aims and sought a political solution to the growing crisis.

After Tablada explained Cuba's position, a representative of a peace committee urged everyone at the meeting to join in an upcoming protest against the U.S.-led war drive.

A range of prominent figures sent messages to the meeting welcoming Tablada to Stockholm.

Per Sundgren, on behalf of the city council, wrote, "You as a Cuban and Latin



Militant/Margrethe Siem

Cuban economist Carlos Tablada at a meeting in Malmö, Sweden.

American have a very important mission in Sweden today. The discussion in our country today is a discussion about Europe. I am convinced that your knowledge and experiences can open our eyes and widen our perspectives."

From the University of Stockholm Inge

Johansson, the college's principal, wrote to "warmly welcome Dr. Tablada to this public meeting," so people could "listen to voices representing ideas different from those currently dominant."

"We assure you that, at the threshold of our people taking over power in South Africa, we promise to study and analyze the ideas espoused by Che Guevara and see how to put them into practice for the betterment of our society," wrote the office of the African National Congress.

Participants in the meeting donated more than \$500 toward the expense of Tablada's tour and purchased 13 copies of his book, plus a number of other Pathfinder titles.

Dominican economic crisis deepens

BY SELVA NEBBIA

NEW YORK — "All economic activity in the Dominican Republic is practically at a standstill. The majority of its population faces desperate living conditions," Rafael Báez Pérez told participants at a conference here sponsored by the New York chapter of the Bloque Socialista of the Dominican Republic.

Báez, the national coordinator of the Bloque Socialista, is currently on a tour of several U.S. and Canadian cities.

The November 4 conference, entitled "The Dominican Republic: Is there a way out?" attracted some 200 people.

"Among the indicators that point to the extent of the crisis facing the Dominican Republic," said Báez, "is the exorbitant foreign debt of more than \$4.2 billion." Over the last two years, the government has paid foreign creditors the "hair-raising figure of \$1.5 billion, or the equivalent of 80 percent of the value of our export earnings," said Báez.

A country of 7 million people, the Dominican Republic has an official unemployment rate of 35 percent and a 70 percent inflation rate. It faces shortages of food and medical supplies as well as serious shortages of water and electricity.

On November 1, the Dominican Medical Association announced a 48-hour strike in the country's health centers to demand the government provide medical supplies to hospitals. Thousands of doctors are owed back wages by the government.

The crisis facing the country has become particularly acute over the past two months as the price of fuel has risen by more than

250 percent, said Báez.

"The Dominican Republic is the darkest country in the continent," said Báez, since electricity is on barely 20 percent of the time. "Refrigerators have been rendered useless," he said during an interview after the conference. "Even the rich who bought their own generators can't use them because there is no gas available to run them." Both urban and rural transportation have also been seriously affected by the lack of fuel.

"As a direct result of the lack of energy," said Báez, "the industrial parks are functioning at 40 percent of their productive capacity. The tourist industry and the free-trade zones have also been seriously affected by the economic crisis facing the country and have been laying off workers and closing down their business operations."

Both the tourist industry and the free-trade zones in the past were presented as the model of prosperity, said Báez, "but rather than showing a way forward for the country, they have become a source of great uncertainty and a threat to political stability."

The Dominican government has promoted the opening of dozens of garment, electronics, and shoe factories in what are called the free-trade zones. There are about 10 such industrial parks, in which the investment is 90 percent from outside the country — not just from the United States, but Europe and Asia as well. Production is for export trade.

The crisis in agriculture is deepening as well, said the Bloque Socialista leader. "Agricultural production for the internal market has been displaced by agricultural production for purposes of export," he said. "The banks and the government stimulate the production of agricultural exports through tax breaks and loans to the big companies."

At the same time, he continued, the Central Bank has delayed the approval of credits for the importation of foodstuffs. "The lack of fuel has prevented the transport of agricultural products and has paralyzed the incubators, mills, food processors, and other farm machinery. There is a lack of seed, and agricultural prices are going up," said Báez. "All these things contribute to the depletion of the country's food reserves."

Báez predicted that things will get much worse. Because of the deepening crisis, for example, the winter crops of rice and beans will not be harvested, he said. Rice and beans are the two main staples of the Dominican diet.

Over the past few months there have been a number of strikes against the growing hardships faced by Dominican working people that have been met by increasing government repression. An August 13-14 general strike to protest austerity measures imposed by the government of Joaquín Balaguer resulted in the deaths of 15 people. Sixty were wounded and more than 1,000 arrested.

U.S. HANDS OFF THE MIDEAST! Building worldwide opposition to the war drive

Rallies, marches, conferences, teach-ins, and other events are being held around the world to protest the accelerating drive toward war against Iraq by Washington, London, Paris, and their allies.

We encourage readers and other antiwar activists to contribute to this column by sending in reports on upcoming meetings; newly formed coalitions; protests by GIs, reservists, and veterans; actions by students, working people and others; and other items that will help build visible opposition to the war preparations.

CLEVELAND — Opponents of the mounting U.S. war threat in the Middle East will protest here November 21 to demand Washington immediately withdraw troops from the Arab-Persian Gulf.

Called by 40 activists of the Committee Against U.S. War in the Persian Gulf, the action will build on a spirited, widely reported antiwar march of 250 held October 20. Students from Kent State University, Oberlin College, and local high schools are participating in building the November 21 protest.

The aim of the action is to counter the expected holiday pro-war propaganda from the government. Many at the meeting said they will show their solidarity with the troops deployed in the Mideast by demanding they be brought home immediately.

The protest will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. in downtown Cleveland at the U.S. corporate headquarters of British Petroleum, across the street from the old Federal Building.

Activists intend to use the event to build a December 9 indoor rally featuring Vietnam-era veterans, active-duty GIs, and reservists opposed to the coming war.

Army reservist Stephanie Atkinson, 23, of Murphysboro, Illinois, is being held at Fort Knox for refusing to go to Saudi Arabia.

Atkinson had spoken out against the

massive military buildup prior to her arrest. The army brass has not allowed her to speak to the press since.

"I'm conscientiously opposed to war," she told *USA Today*. "I don't think the U.S. is participating in this for honest reasons. We're fighting for oil and our economy," the antiwar GI said.

A postal clerk in the Army's 300th Adjutant General Postal Company, Atkinson joined the reserves at 17. When her unit was mobilized to go to the Mideast October 30, she did not show up.

Citizen Soldier is supporting Atkinson and is protesting her arrest, along with other organizations. A vigil and rally were held November 3 at Fort Knox to press Atkinson's case.

Tod Ensign, Atkinson's attorney and director of Citizen Soldier, said that it was a fluke she was still in the reserves. Her six years would have expired in September if the U.S. had not mobilized hundreds of thousands of soldiers as part of its war preparations.

Prior to Veterans Day, members of the New Jersey Coalition Against War in the Middle East distributed a leaflet with a statement by Ron Kovic, Vietnam veteran and author of *Born on the Fourth of July* — a book about his experiences during the Vietnam War and recently made into a film. Kovic's statement said:

"Like millions of Americans I'm deeply concerned about what our country is doing in the Middle East. We have hundreds of thousands of young men and women in the Persian Gulf. Not to defend democracy, but to protect the big oil companies.

"You and I don't want another Vietnam.

"How many more body bags and graveyards and monuments — how many more Americans coming home in wheelchairs like me — will it take before we learn?

"Didn't we promise ourselves that we would never let this happen again? Stand Up! Speak Out!"

Jon Hillson from Cleveland contributed to this week's column.

BRITAIN

Citywide Meetings

Hear: Carlos Tablada

Cuban economist and author

Cardiff

Tues., Nov. 20, 7 p.m.

Club Ifor Bach. Womanby St.

Sheffield

Fri., Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m.

SADACCA, 48 The Wicker.

London

Fri., Nov. 30, 7 p.m.

Conway Hall, Red Lion Square (Holborn Tube Station), London.

For information on other meetings scheduled see calendar on page 12 or contact the Pathfinder Bookcentre located nearest you listed in the directory, also on page 12.

U.S., allies add forces for invasion of Iraq

Continued from front page

Marine commandant and member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Alfred Gray told his staff that "time is on our side," because "the more we build our logistics base there, the more we do in-country training with our forces there, the more combat effective we are going to be."

Speaking to a group of former Marines in New York in early November, Gray said "there are four kinds of Marines: those in Saudi Arabia, those going to Saudi Arabia, those who want to go to Saudi Arabia, and those who don't want to go to Saudi Arabia but are going anyway."

"We may indeed have to concern ourselves with an offensive option" against Iraq, General Johnston told the troops in Saudi Arabia following the announcement of the new deployments.

Johnston added that the "prospect of offensive combat is going to be the greatest challenge that Marines have seen in many decades. We are going to need everything we have if we go to war against the Iraqis."

Marine Corps generals told their troops they would be "the pointed end" of an invasion of Iraq, and they should prepare "to go in harm's way."

Democratic Congressman G.V. Montgomery of Mississippi said the activation of the National Guard units was part of a deal struck in late October. He said the administration had promised to call up the units if Congress would extend the length of time they could remain on active duty from six months to a year. Congress complied.

Montgomery told the administration "now is the time to test" the "total force" policy in which reservists are mobilized along with active-duty units.

"Congress has given \$100 billion to these units in equipment, incentives, and training. In the total force, you train together and you march off together," he said.

Calling up the National Guard units "will strengthen the president's position in these local communities where these units are called up," Montgomery continued. "People will have more interest. You want them to do the job and come home as quickly as possible."

As the war preparations accelerate, Washington and its allies are stepping up their attempts to win public opinion for their moves. An important part of this effort has been the backing of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council for each escalation of the conflict: Britain,

China, France, the United States, and the Soviet Union. These countries all can exercise exclusive veto power.

"I think one of the major successes [of the war preparations] has been the ability to have world opinion totally on our side because of the UN action," Bush said in the November 8 news conference.

Adding another piece to backing of the Security Council, Secretary of State James Baker won open backing from governments in China and the Soviet Union for military action against Iraq during recent talks with the two countries' foreign ministers.

"On the question of whether or not the use of force can be ruled out," Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said after meeting with Baker, "well, this could probably not be ruled out. A situation may arise which will call for such a solution," he said.

Urging Baker to let the Security Council adopt a resolution allowing an invasion of Iraq, Shevardnadze said, "I think the Security Council has demonstrated enough success," adding the body has shown it can make "wise and mature decisions."

Responding to questions that the Soviet government might not continue its support of the imperialist-led forces in the Middle East, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev told Baker that "no one should count on cracks appearing in this coordinated stance."

Two days earlier, Baker won a similar commitment from Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen who said China would not block a UN resolution on the use of force.

Japan sends forces

Additional backing was also won from the Japanese government on November 9. After running into stiff opposition inside parliament on a measure allowing Japanese military forces to be deployed to the Mideast in a "noncombat" capacity, a deal was struck allowing the dispatch of several hundred medical personnel, technicians, and others to the region.

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's original proposal was met with demonstrations of up to 23,000 demanding the government abide by Japan's constitution, which prohibits use of troops outside of Japan.

In the past Japan has taken part in United Nations forces in Namibia, Afghanistan, and Nicaragua, but this marks the first time a legal framework for forces as part of a military operation has been agreed to in the country.

"We are pleased because even though the original proposal died, our work was not

futile," said a foreign ministry official after winning the agreement of opposition party leaders.

To sustain a bloody conflict that will result in tens of thousands of dead and wounded — a conflict that is now widely viewed by working people in Britain, Canada, France, the United States, and elsewhere as a war for Big Oil — top government officials in those countries are moving to win public opinion to their side.

'Re-educate' the population

The *Washington Post*, reporting on a meeting between Bush and his top aides November 8, said the discussion centered around the need to begin the "re-education" of the population "on what is at stake in the gulf."

By a November 12 press conference in Bermuda after a meeting with Canada's external affairs secretary about the Gulf conflict, Baker was appealing directly to working people for support.

"The economic lifeline of the industrial world runs from the gulf and we cannot permit a dictator such as this to sit astride that economic lifeline," Baker said of the oil reserves in the region.

"To bring it down to the level of the average American citizen, let me say that means jobs. If you want to sum it up in one word, it's jobs," he said.

Charging that a worldwide economic recession would be the result of "the control by one nation — one dictator if you will — of the West's economic lifeline," Baker said the Iraqis could be blamed for the resulting "loss of jobs for American citizens."

Leading members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have been pressing the administration to let Congress discuss and vote on an invasion as the only way to win

backing from a majority of the U.S. population. Prior to Baker's new statements on the reasons for the U.S. war preparations several Congressmen explained why such a course is needed.

"The last thing we need is to have a war over there, a bloody war, and have American boys being sent and brought back in body bags and yet not have the American people behind them," Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn said on the "Face the Nation" television program.

"We've gone that route one time," Nunn said, referring to the Vietnam War. "We don't want to do it again."

Congressman Lee Hamilton said on "Meet the Press" that Bush has not spelled out "the economic interests that are involved, or to put it in a single word — oil and the importance of that to our economy and the dangers to it if Saddam Hussein gets control or can greatly influence the supply of oil."

Congress has registered its support for the economic embargo of Iraq, the military buildup in the region, and the dispatching of hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops.

Noting that the new deployments left many in the U.S. "very, very uneasy about the prospect for war in the Gulf," Hamilton and others said that Bush has consulted the Security Council and governments around the world, but not Congress. Many are now urging Bush to call a special session of Congress.

Les Aspin, Nunn's counterpart in the House, said on an ABC news program that since Bush had consulted widely, "How can you not, then, ask for a formal vote of the Congress . . . to go to war?"

Asked if an invasion should be unleashed on the Iraqi people, Aspin said, "I think that we definitely will, if there's no progress, and I think that's the right policy to adopt."

29 countries back U.S. forces in the Arab-Persian Gulf

Saying a massive new escalation is needed to provide "an adequate offensive military option," U.S. President George Bush ordered 200,000 more U.S. forces to the Gulf November 8. This deployment will include three additional army divisions with more than 75,000 troops and 1,200 tanks, two major Marine units, three Army National Guard armored brigades, and three aircraft carrier groups and a battleship.

U.S. forces, now at 230,000, already include four and a half U.S. Army divisions and other units with more than 120,000 troops and 1,000 tanks; one U.S. Marine expeditionary force and three expeditionary brigades with more than 45,000 troops; three U.S. aircraft carriers with 100 attack and fighter planes, the battleship *Wisconsin* equipped with cruise missiles, some 50 other warships, and an estimated eight nuclear submarines; 500 air force and marine bombers, and Stealth fighter jets.

More than 430,000 U.S. troops will have been deployed to the Gulf by early 1991.

Some 29 countries have also sent ground, naval, and air forces to the Middle East.

Countries involved in U.S.-led intervention in Mideast include:

Argentina: 100 troops, 2 ships	Morocco: 2,000 troops, possibly going to 7,000
Bahrain: small force in Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) rapid deployment force, plus regular armed forces	Oman: small force in GCC rapid deployment force, plus regular armed forces
Bangladesh: 2,000 troops so far out of 3,000 pledged	Pakistan: 5,000 troops
Britain: 15,000 troops, 12 ships, 58 planes	Qatar: small force in GCC rapid deployment force, plus regular armed forces
Canada: 1,700 troops, 3 ships, 18 planes	Saudi Arabia: 60,000 troops, 8 ships, 180 planes (small force also in GCC rapid deployment force)
Czechoslovakia: 200 troops (chemical defense unit)	Senegal: 500 troops
Egypt: 20,000 troops out of 27,000 pledged	Syria: 19,000 troops plus 50,000 on Iraqi border
France: 13,000 troops, 14 ships, 75 planes	Turkey: 95,000 on Iraqi border
Kuwait: 7,000 in GCC rapid deployment force	United Arab Emirates: small force in GCC rapid deployment force, plus regular armed forces

Those with just naval and/or air forces:

Australia: 3 ships	Norway: 1 ship
Belgium: 3 ships	Poland: 1 hospital ship
Denmark: 1 ship	Portugal: 1 ship
Greece: 1 ship	Soviet Union: 2 ships
Italy: 4 ships, 8 planes	Spain: 3 ships
Netherlands: 3 ships, 18 planes	

Forces pledged:

Japan: civilian contingent including retired military officers	Niger: Announced decision September 7 to dispatch troops to Gulf
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U.S. antiwar meeting called

BY KATE KAKU

The National Campaign for Peace in the Middle East is encouraging organizations and coalitions to attend a December 1 national planning meeting in New York for antiwar actions. The meeting is at Riverside Church, 120th Street and Riverside Drive, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Antiwar supplement to *Lutte ouvrière* available

A statement urging working people, students, farmers, GIs, reservists, veterans, and others to put building opposition to imperialism's drive to a Mideast war at the center of their political activity has just been jointly issued by the Communist League of Canada and the Communist Organizing Committee in France.

Published as a four-page supplement to the October-December issue of the quarterly French-language magazine *Lutte ouvrière*, the declaration is available for 50 cents at Pathfinder bookstores around the world. Antiwar fighters can order between 10 and 100 at 25 cents per copy and more than 100 for 15 cents each for distribution at rallies, teach-ins, and other events against the accelerating war moves.

In addition, the current issue of *Lutte ouvrière* contains a speech by Ricardo Alarcón, Cuba's ambassador to the United Nations, which is a powerful explanation of Cuba's opposition to the U.S.-led war drive.

Campaign coordinator Leslie Cagan said in a mailing that "events in the Persian Gulf-Middle East continue to take new turns and the possibility of war increases every day. . . .

"The actions that national organizations and local groups take in this critical period can make a tremendous difference," the statement continued. "The National Campaign is calling for a range of activities and projects under the theme of 'Home by the Holidays.'"

A political statement in the mailing explains, "Operation Desert Shield was launched without any discussion in the United States Congress or national debate. The Constitution and the War Powers Act have been ignored, and the presidential usurpation of power adds another dimension to an already frightening reality."

"In light of our government's actions in Grenada, Panama, Nicaragua and Southern Africa, the justification for the administration's actions in the Persian Gulf is self-serving. It is hypocritical for our government to sound the alarm about Iraq's military power when U.S. arms sales and transfers have contributed for decades to making the Middle East a powder keg."

"It is hypocritical for our government to ignore some United Nations resolutions (such as the U.N. condemnation of the U.S. attack against Panama), and then support those resolutions which agree with U.S. policy."

This statement and actions to protest the accelerated drive toward war with Iraq will be discussed at the meeting.

For further information call the National Campaign for Peace in the Middle East at (212) 727-3069.

Sales at upcoming antiwar events can help make goals

BY RONI McCANN

As supporters of the *Militant* enter the final week of the international sales campaign they are taking advantage of each day to sell as many subscriptions as possible and to get out the truth about the accelerating imperialist war drive in the Arab-Persian Gulf region.

Making the fight to reach the subscription campaign goals in every city around the world the top priority for supporters over the next week is the best way to campaign against the impending war.

Antiwar activities — from picket lines and teach-ins to student conferences and demonstrations — are slated for the next several weeks. These events are good opportunities to win new readers to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *Lutte ouvrière*, *New Internationalist*, and *Nouvelle Internationale*.

By helping to build and participate in these actions, by having discussions with working people on the job and at plant gates, and by reaching out to those involved in strikes, protests, and other activities, supporters can meet hundreds of people who are opposed to the war drive and who will want to read the *Militant* every week to get the truth about it.

Organizing along the lines of this antiwar campaign axis, an effort to sign up new subscribers in the last days of the drive is needed to push the sales effort over the top. Supporters will want to make certain every subscription is mailed in for the scoreboard deadline November 27.

Militant supporters in Britain and Canada are planning to mobilize for upcoming antiwar marches to sell subscriptions and copies of the new Pathfinder pamphlet *U.S. Hands Off the Middle East! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*. With these efforts supporters are confident they can make their goals. The November 24 demonstration called for London will be a national action against the war drive. In Canada a nationwide day of protest is slated for the same day.

A weekend meeting November 8-10 in Kansas City sponsored by the American Agriculture Movement attracted 100 farmers and others. Many were against the war moves in the Mideast and explained that the war drive had already adversely affected them through rising gas prices. During the gathering 14 farmers subscribed to the *Militant* and four participants bought copies of *New Internationalist*.

Oil price rise hits toilers in the Third World hard

Despite near-record supplies worldwide, oil prices began to spiral upward in the days following Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent U.S.-led military buildup. From \$20.40 per barrel at the end of July, the price of oil has nearly doubled in the months since. The price rise is having a devastating impact on the economies of, and working people in, Third World countries.

For every \$1-per-barrel increase, an additional \$21 billion is extracted from working people, going into the coffers of the monopolies that control the oil industry.

In addition to a steep increase in the price of gasoline and heating fuel for working people in Britain, Canada, France, the United States, and other advanced industrialized countries, the jacked-up cost of a barrel of oil is deepening the economic and social crisis in countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the South Pacific. These countries, already burdened by massive foreign debts, are reeling under the impact, using substantially more foreign currency reserves to import oil.

In Central America, where almost all oil is imported, the price rise alone gobbles up nearly one-fifth of public spending. Governments have enacted sharp increases in the cost of gasoline, provoking an inflationary surge.

Governments in Costa Rica and Honduras

"We are on a campaign footing and we can make the goal," said a *Militant* supporter from Phoenix in a report on the sales drive. They decided to target the last week of the drive for special sales efforts.

Supporters from Baltimore called November 14 to report they were only 14 subscriptions away from making their overall goal. Thanks to a front-page article in a local paper about the socialist election campaign there, three people got in touch with *Militant* supporters over the past week. One young person who plans to subscribe had spent time in the army and was stationed in Korea. He is against the war drive in the Mideast.

In Miami supporters are over the top on their *Militant* goal and have been trying to step up the sales of *Nouvelle Internationale*, a French-language Marxist magazine. *Nouvelle Internationale* salespersons were recently kicked out of the Miami airport taxi-waiting area. This area had been a popular spot to show the magazine to cab drivers.

Supporters then decided to walk up and down streets in the Haitian community visiting stores and restaurants, introducing people to both the magazine and the French-language quarterly *Lutte ouvrière*. "The response was unbelievable!" said Katherine Crowder. In a couple of hours two people subscribed to *Lutte ouvrière*, 10 bought copies of *Nouvelle Internationale*, and 15 gave their names and telephone numbers and asked supporters to come back when they had money to buy the books.

"In one barber shop a man waiting for a haircut really wanted two copies of *Nouvelle Internationale* and got the barber to lend him the money," she said, "and in a dry cleaners a couple working there initially said they were tired and not interested — until one saw a picture of Cuban President Fidel Castro and exclaimed, 'I need that!'"

In Cleveland supporters are striving to make the sales goals and campaigning against the war drive. At the LTV steel plant there, a worker who was a veteran of the Korean War bought a copy of the *Militant*. He explained that he had spent 19 months in a veterans hospital and is against the drive toward another war. Supporters in New York are making gains in the fight to make the circulation drive goals. This week 33 new readers were won so far and sales teams have gone to campuses and elsewhere every day.

have announced plans to lay off thousands of workers and warned of further cutbacks, such as gas rationing.

In Guatemala, a country that produces some crude, the government has told fire fighters to respond only to "urgent emergencies" to conserve fuel.

Officials in the Salvadoran government say the inflation rate will jump 5 percent, and in Honduras the estimate is 10 percent — adding up to a 35 percent rate there.

Honduran officials have said they might close some schools and cut back on essential services. A doubling of the price of fertilizer by the government has resulted in a jump in the price of food.

Southern African countries have also been hit hard. In Mozambique oil prices have jumped 65 percent. Road and rail transport costs rose between 6 and 12 percent, while the cost of agricultural products has risen by 2 percent.

Even before the August price jumps the falling value of the Zimbabwe dollar nearly doubled the cost of its fuel imports. Additional increases of from 13 to 65 percent have been imposed on various oil products.

When the oil price hikes went into effect, Zambia switched to imports of oil from South Africa. The move still meant a 9 percent rise in oil prices. Newly independent Namibia has raised its prices by a similar margin.



Militant/Dean Peoples

Sales at an Austin, Minnesota, high school. *Militant* supporters are using every remaining day of the sales drive to make their goals.

Subscription Drive SCOREBOARD

DRIVE GOALS		Total		Militant		Perspectiva Mundial		New Int'l		Lutte ouvrière	
Areas	Goal	Total Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES											
Austin, Minn.	90	97	108%	60	74	18	14	10	8	2	1
Miami	200	163	82%	110	112	30	16	40	24	20	11
Seattle	190	148	78%	115	99	48	31	25	15	2	3
Baltimore	125	96	77%	90	61	12	8	20	24	3	3
Price, Utah	80	60	75%	55	46	13	11	10	3	2	0
Salt Lake City	185	137	74%	130	105	23	17	30	13	2	2
Philadelphia	185	124	67%	115	81	38	29	30	13	2	1
Des Moines, Iowa	180	116	64%	135	83	25	23	18	9	2	1
San Francisco	175	112	64%	110	73	35	26	25	12	5	1
Oakland, Calif.	190	118	62%	125	80	35	23	25	14	5	1
Birmingham, Ala.	170	104	61%	138	89	10	7	20	8	2	0
Detroit	180	107	59%	140	82	10	3	25	18	5	4
Omaha, Neb.	120	70	58%	85	54	18	10	15	5	2	1
Greensboro, NC	115	65	57%	85	44	13	9	15	12	2	0
Phoenix	95	50	53%	55	37	28	11	10	1	2	1
St. Louis	205	107	52%	162	95	10	1	30	11	3	0
Los Angeles	400	204	51%	200	122	115	59	80	22	5	1
Charleston, WV	135	66	49%	95	58	13	1	25	5	2	2
Twin Cities, Minn.	225	109	48%	175	92	17	9	30	7	3	1
Morgantown, WV	155	73	47%	115	70	8	0	30	3	2	0
Boston	235	106	45%	140	69	45	15	35	18	15	4
Brooklyn	345	148	43%	190	65	70	30	60	40	25	13
Cleveland	160	65	41%	115	45	18	8	25	12	2	0
Newark, NJ	340	138	41%	180	79	60	21	70	33	30	5
Pittsburgh	130	50	38%	105	46	5	1	18	3	2	0
Atlanta	198	72	36%	135	43	20	12	40	15	3	2
Kansas City	125	45	36%	88	38	10	4	25	3	2	0
Chicago	280	90	32%	185	65	45	16	45	5	5	4
New York	520	163	31%	275	67	120	59	95	34	30	3
Washington, DC	150	46	31%	100	35	20	9	23	0	7	2
Houston	145	37	26%	98	21	25	4	20	12	2	0
Annapolis, NY	5	1	20%	3	0	1	0	-	0	1	1
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	15	75%	14	12	4	3	2	0	-	0
Portland, Ore.	11	5	45%	10	4	1	1	-	0	-	0
Other U.S.	-	0	-	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0
U.S. TOTAL	6,098	3,120	51%	3,961	2,156	966	493	974	403	197	68
AUSTRALIA *											
Manchester	62	35	56%	45	29	1	2	15	3	1	1
London	174	93	53%	113	60	15	4	42	29	4	0
Cardiff	58	30	52%	40	19	2	2	15	8	1	1
Sheffield	100	50	50%	70	35	9	2	20	12	1	1
Other Britain	-	45	-	-	8	-	2	-	32	-	3
BRITAIN TOTAL	394	253	64%	268	151	27	12	92	84	7	6
CANADA											
Vancouver*	120	104	87%	80	66	15	14	20	20	5	4
Montreal	210	150	71%	75	74	35	19	35	19	65	38
Toronto	155	103	66%	100	66	25	21	25	14	5	2
CANADA TOTAL	485	357	74%	255	206	75	54	80	53	75	44
FAEROE IS.											
10	3	30%	10	3	-	0	-	-	0	-	0
FRANCE											
40	14	35%	10	2	5	1	5	1	20	10	10
ICELAND											
43	25	58%	35	21	2	1	5	3	1	0	0
NEW ZEALAND											
Christchurch *	85	77	91%	70	66	2	1	12	10	1	0
Wellington	70	58	83%	61	49	2	2	6	7	1	0
Auckland	110	89	81%	91	75	10	3	8	11	1	0
Other N. Z.	10	5	50%	9	4	1	1	-	0	-	0
N. Z. TOTAL	275	229	83%	231	194	15	7	26	28	3	0
PUERTO RICO											
15	12	80%	2	0	12	10	1	2	-	0	0
SWEDEN											
80	75	94%	43	34	25	33	10	8	2	0	0
Int'l teams	50	0	0%	10	0	34	0	5	0	1	0
Other Int'l	-	1	-	-	0	-	1	-	0	-	0
TOTAL	7,688	4,196	55%	4,917	2,854	1,173	617	1,290	597	308	128
DRIVE GOALS	7,800			5,000		1,225		1,250		325	
TO BE ON SCHEDULE		6,825	88%		4,375		1,072		1,094		284
*Raised goal during drive											

New York meeting boosts fund drive effort

BY JAMES HARRIS

The pace of contributions to the Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund has quickened as supporters organize to make the \$150,000 goal by December 1. Supporters of the fund have set regional goals, contacted potential contributors, and are building political meetings that promote the drive.

We are still, however, behind schedule, and completing the fund

Kate Kaku, a national leader of the revolutionary youth organization the Young Socialist Alliance and a national committee member of the Socialist Workers Party, chaired the meeting and gave a brief fund talk after Barnes spoke.

"Many of you know me for being a very active participant in the campaign to get justice for Mark Curtis, my husband," said Kaku. "I have toured this country

to ending capitalism and waging the fight for socialism."

At the meeting \$1,667 was collected and over \$1,200 in new pledges were made.

The New York fund drive meeting was the first of a series of similar events that socialists will be organizing throughout the country from November 17 to December 1. At each of these meetings leaders of the Socialist Workers Party will give talks explaining U.S. imperialism's drive toward war, what working people and farmers have at stake, and why we must mobilize ourselves to fight against it. The speakers will also discuss the inevitability of economic depression and crisis in the '90s and how this intertwines with the drive toward war on the part of the capitalist rulers.

These events will be focal points for the fund drive in its remaining weeks. Supporters of the fund should make special efforts to bring coworkers, young people, and antiwar activists to them. The gatherings will be the best place to learn about the communist movement and why building it is vital to the interests of workers and farmers. At each meeting there will be time allotted for questions and discussion.

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



— in full and on time — will take a big effort. The goals adopted by regions of the country amount to \$164,016 and we have \$87,682 on hand. With two weeks left in the drive we should have \$115,385 on hand.

The fund drive took a big step forward in the New York area at the Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund meeting held November 10. Nearly 200 people attended the meeting, which featured Jack Barnes, national secretary of the SWP. Barnes spoke on Washington's accelerating war drive in the Mideast and its meaning for the working people the world over.

and the world gathering support for this fight, and I have raised money for the defense committee. Tonight, however, I want to raise money for another purpose. I am asking you to make contributions to the Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund, and support the building of the party to which both Mark and I belong.

"After listening to the talk all of you know why the fund is needed," continued Kaku. "Capitalism has nothing left to offer us but the devastation of war, economic breakdown, and crisis. Giving to the fund is the only reasonable thing to do with our money. It is a contribution

Where We Stand

Area	Goal	Paid	% of Total
Houston	4,535	3,260	72
Kansas City	2,560	1,825	71
San Francisco	4,105	2,800	68
Brooklyn	7,070	4,594	65
New York	10,466	6,747	64
Chicago	8,010	4,975	62
Phoenix	1,250	754	60
Atlanta	6,445	3,730	58
Twin Cities, Minn.	5,300	3,040	57
Pittsburgh	6,600	3,710	56
Boston	3,895	2,161	55
Cleveland	5,350	2,925	55
Detroit	7,000	3,750	54
Newark, N.J.	7,170	3,815	53
Omaha, Neb.	2,450	1,303	53
Salt Lake City, Utah	4,000	2,110	53
Morgantown, W.V.	3,554	1,864	52
Price, Utah	1,750	900	51
St. Louis	8,000	3,985	50
Philadelphia	4,455	2,205	49
Oakland, Calif.	9,555	4,720	49
Greensboro, N.C.	1,600	765	48
Austin, Minn.	1,750	830	47
Los Angeles	16,000	7,256	45
Washington, D.C.	2,470	1,105	45
Charleston, W.V.	3,795	1,695	45
Miami	1,660	725	44
Des Moines, Iowa	1,370	585	43
Seattle	5,930	2,275	38
Birmingham, Ala.	5,175	1,890	37
Baltimore	3,800	760	20
Other U.S.	5,085	3,262	64
International	1,861	1,361	73
TOTALS	164,016	87,682	53
SHOULD BE	150,000	115,385	77

Curtis committee scores win for right to privacy

Continued from front page

Committee, by any reasonable construction, is, or acts as it is, the private trust for the benefit of Mark Curtis personally, and his family, personally," Pepper's motions said.

"The committee is not a corporation nor any bona fide legal entity recognized by the IRS [the U.S. Internal Revenue Service], and therefore, cannot claim any protective status under the constitution," he said.

Pepper asked the judge to place the funds of the defense committee in escrow pending arguments for a court order to seize the funds.

Curtis' attorney George Eichhorn and defense committee attorney Mark Bennett explained at the hearing that the evidence presented in the case proved conclusively that the defense committee was an ad hoc group established by thousands of concerned people who are fighting for the vindication of Mark Curtis and to defend their own political rights. Bennett is also the general counsel of the Iowa Civil Liberties Union.

Judge Gamble said he had carefully studied all the evidence on the defense committee

and overruled Pepper's motions. He said he had allowed the investigation into the defense committee "to go on long enough" and that the evidence "falls far short of showing that the Mark Curtis Defense Committee's assets are assets for Mark Curtis available for recovery in damages."

Judge to issue final ruling in suit

Gamble told Pepper he could appeal if he disagreed with the ruling and concluded that he was now prepared to consider a final ruling in the lawsuit against Curtis and his family.

This legal battle developed out of a lawsuit by Pepper's clients, Keith and Denise Morris, who are seeking massive financial damages against Mark Curtis.

Curtis is a unionist and political activist

currently serving 25 years in an Iowa state prison on 1988 frame-up charges of rape and burglary. The Morris are the parents of the young woman police here charged Curtis with attacking.

Curtis and Kate Kaku, his wife, are both packinghouse workers. They have no financial assets. Curtis earns 24 cents an hour in prison. Kaku was laid off when the Oscar Mayer meat-packing plant where she worked was closed. She has since served as a volunteer, speaking and campaigning for the defense committee.

Pepper, the Morris, and those who back them have attempted to use their lawsuit to place a crushing financial burden on Curtis and Kaku and pressure them to back off their international defense campaign.

The lawsuit has also been used to attack the Mark Curtis Defense Committee in an attempt to interfere with its rights, seize its funds, silence its supporters, and hamper its ability to wage the defense effort.

The victory was won after an international campaign in which dozens of prominent unionists and human rights groups across Iowa and around the world publicly added their voices to the fight to defend the rights of the defense committee.

Donations to help defray legal costs should be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Tax-exempt contributions can be made out to the Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc., and should be earmarked for the legal defense of the Curtis committee.

Worldwide support for Curtis parole builds

BY CHRIS REMPLE

DES MOINES, Iowa — Support statements from around the world continue to come into the offices of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee in preparation for Curtis' November 20 hearing with the Iowa State Board of Parole.

On that day three members of the board will interview Curtis, who is serving a 25-year sentence on frame-up charges of rape and burglary. Two members of the board have agreed to meet a delegation of supporters from around the world on November 14. The delegation will present the statements to the board members to show the widespread public support for Curtis' freedom.

Mayor Coleman Young of Detroit, Congressman George Crockett, and Victor Reuther, a longtime top official of the United Auto Workers union, have all recently sent statements backing parole for Curtis.

From Québec, Pierre Paquette, the secretary general of the union federation Confédération des Syndicats Nationaux wrote, "On behalf of my organization, which represents 250,000 Canadian workers, I would like to express our support of Mark Curtis' request for parole."

Other labor officials writing in support include Paul Winttingham, vice president of the West Coast Branch of the New Zealand Meat Workers and Related Trades Union;

Tom Gentry, president of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union (OCAW) Local 4-227; Dave Dowling, president of United Steelworkers of America Local 67; Paula Little, vice president of OCAW Local 4-367; Judy Shattuck, president of American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Local 3211; Kim Ramsey, president of International Union of Electrical Workers Local 1002; and Thomas Clarke, director of special projects and organizing for United Food and Commercial Workers Local 770.

CLUW leaders send messages

Pat Stell, president of the Puget Sound Chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), stated in her letter that "members of our chapter voted unanimously to support Mark's parole bid. In the interest of justice, we respectfully petition the Board to parole Mark Curtis."

Chicago CLUW President Johnnie Jackson and Executive Vice President Katie Jordan also sent letters.

A labor leader from Woodinville, Washington, Roger Yockey, sent a statement. "I met Mark Curtis several years ago prior to his conviction and I was impressed by his commitment to community service, political activism, and concern for other people," Yockey wrote. "It does nothing to benefit

anyone — society or Mark Curtis — to keep this young man in prison another day."

Colin Chiles, a prominent human rights activist from Wellington, New Zealand sent a letter, as did Nick Castle, the film director who produced the documentary, "The Frame-up of Mark Curtis," and William Kunstler, a prominent civil rights attorney.

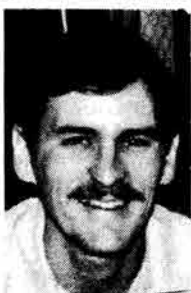
South African activist Fred Dube wrote, "As a former prisoner myself in South Africa for advocating both the end of apartheid and the instituting of a democratic and nonracial society over there, I know what it is to be a political prisoner, which is what I consider Mark Curtis to be. Iowa would be better served with his parole, so as to enable him to work towards an improvement of society as a whole."

Peruvian senator and long-time political activist Hugo Blanco also sent a message urging the parole board to release Curtis. "On behalf of the people who have elected me to the Peruvian Senate as a defender of social justice, I add my voice to those who, from every corner of the world, are speaking out in defense of Mark Curtis."

The defense committee is requesting that support messages to the parole board be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee at P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

from PATHFINDER The Frame-up of Mark Curtis by Margaret Jayko

This pamphlet tells the story of Mark Curtis, a unionist and fighter for immigrant rights, who is serving a 25-year sentence in an Iowa prison on trumped-up rape charges. 71 pp., \$5.00.



Order from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. (Please include \$.75 for postage and handling.)

Nicaraguan unions endorse 'social pact'

Accord means further dismantling of social, economic gains of revolution

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Nicaragua's major trade union federations signed a pact with the government and some capitalist farmers October 26, agreeing to further dismantle the social and economic measures enacted following the triumph of the Nicaraguan revolution in 1979.

The accord came out of a series of "concertación" meetings called by the government beginning September 20. Concertación is the term used here to win workers and peasants to the idea that a social pact between contending social classes can be struck for the benefit of all Nicaraguans.

The meetings brought together officials of the unions belonging to the National Workers Front (FNT), which supports the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), and officials of those union federations that back the National Opposition Union (UNO), which defeated the FSLN in Nicaragua's February presidential elections. The FNT has the largest membership of any of the federations.

Designated by the government to represent employers in the meetings were the Superior Council of Private Enterprise (COSEP), which groups together the majority of large landowners and businessmen, and the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG), a Sandinista organization led primarily by capitalist farmers.

The accord notes that the participating union leaders, employers, and government officials were "adversaries in previous conflicts" but had now "gotten to know each other personally" in the course of "working to solve our common problems."

The FNT, pro-UNO unions, and UNAG signed the pact. COSEP participated in writing the document but refused to sign it at the last minute.

'A propitious climate for investment'

All those taking part in the concertación talks embraced the perspective that to ease Nicaragua's severe economic crisis, steps must be taken to stimulate capitalist enterprise and attract investment and loans from imperialist countries.

The agreement states that to achieve this goal there must be "a concerted accord among Nicaraguans that guarantees a stable environment for a reasonable period of time."

"A minimum social peace," it continues, will make "a propitious climate for investment." Since the UNO forces took office in May, there has been an increase in strikes as well as land seizures by peasants, some of them ex-contras, and takeovers of private farms by farm workers.

The proposal to promote capitalist investment and industrial and agricultural development and the attempt to freeze the struggles of working people in defense of their interests is not new. During the last years of their term in office, FSLN leaders began publicly advocating such a course. They initiated the dismantling of the anticapitalist economic measures the FSLN-led workers' and farmers' government had taken at the beginning of the decade.

The FSLN-UNO coalition government that is now in office has been able to accelerate dismantling the gains of the revolution. The October 26 agreement codified what has



Militant/Seth Galinsky

Nicaragua police guard entrance to government food distribution center during July 1990 strike

been achieved thus far.

The major proposals contained in the pact are the following:

- Agreement that property determined to have been "unjustly" confiscated by the Sandinista government will be returned or its original owners compensated. Workers in factories where this applies will be allowed to make "recommendations" as to how the plant should be privatized and to buy shares in the new enterprise. Prior to the pact being signed, 16 state-owned factories had already been given back to private owners;

- Agreement that the government will "respect" property, such as land, that was distributed by the Sandinista government to individuals or cooperatives prior to the February elections. The original owners, if they were "unjustly expropriated," will be compensated;

- Authorization of export licenses to capitalist farmers and lifting many of the state controls on foreign trade established at the beginning of the revolution;

- Authorization of private banks for the first time in a decade, while maintaining a state-run bank that would offer cheap credit to small farmers and businessmen;

- "Rationalization of public spending," which means further reduction of social services and loss of jobs;

- Increased taxes;

- Maintenance of the government credit policy that prioritizes agricultural products for export, which principally benefits capitalist farmers, while also promising loans to small and medium farmers who produce for domestic consumption;

- "Gradual reduction of the current unemployment rate," estimated at 40 percent;

- A government promise to establish a minimum wage;

- Continuation of the policy of paying a year-end bonus to workers;

- Renegotiation of Nicaragua's foreign debt.

'Raise productivity'

In a section on the obligations of the unions the accord says that workers will "contribute to stability and social peace"; "raise and maintain productivity"; "exhaust the mechanisms of negotiation and dialogue before using our right to strike"; and "reduce absenteeism and improve labor discipline in the workplace."

During negotiations over the document, pro-UNO government ministers initially sought agreement to the immediate layoff of a substantial number of state employees and a pay cut for those who remained on the job, arguing this was necessary to end the huge government deficit and lower inflation.

FNT union officials and the FSLN objected to the proposal. Explaining their reasoning, the FSLN daily *Barricada* said, "The problem doesn't lie in the fact that the government has the goal of reducing the fiscal deficit to slow down inflation; but rather the abrupt manner in which it proposes doing so. The government rejects a gradual approach to the problem, embracing as the only option a shock treatment."

The layoff-pay cut proposal was altered when it became clear that not only Sandinista unions, but those supporting the UNO as well, were reluctant to agree to it. Instead the final document uses code words, calling for "an austerity policy on excess government expenses."

The other controversial proposal during negotiations was the clause respecting the property titles given out by the FSLN government. The capitalists in COSEP, many of whom were partially expropriated during the Nicaraguan revolution, demanded the clause be dropped. When this was not done they walked out of the talks and refused to sign the final document.

President Violeta Chamorro criticized COSEP for its action, stating, "We regret that such an important sector of the country as the businessmen organized in the Superior Council of Private Enterprise decided not to sign this historic document." In the interests of "national reconciliation," she said, all sides had to forget about some of their demands, COSEP included.

Borge: concertación is 'revolutionary'

Some Sandinista unionists initially balked at the idea of participating in the concertación meetings. The FSLN National Directorate, the party's central leadership body, sought to convince workers that making a pact with their employers was the only realistic option, especially given the FSLN's electoral defeat in February. As FSLN leader Tomás Borge put it in an August meeting of party members in Managua:

"In this new historic context, can you be a revolutionary while standing outside the bounds of reality? Can you be a revolutionary while putting forward goals that are obviously impossible? I think that to be revolutionaries, without ever abandoning our dreams, we have to have our feet on the ground more than ever."

"There can't be concertación if there's no respect for the basic conquests of the revolution or if they give property back to the old exploiters, above all the Somoza family and the Somoza followers," he promised.

"There has to be a political understanding with the so-called more moderate sectors in the government, because there are other sectors in this government that are intractable. Concertación implies a pragmatic government that realizes that unless it arrives at an understanding with the Sandinista Front on basic questions, it cannot survive at all."

"Looked at from this perspective, concertación should be raised not as a concession, an act of weakness or subordination, but rather as a revolutionary demand," he concluded.

FSLN unions boycott first meeting

Despite this and other appeals, a substantial layer of trade unionists favored boycotting the first concertación meeting called by the government for September 20. On September 13, the FSLN National Directorate went ahead and called on its supporters to participate anyway. "It is the people's struggle that has forced the gov-

ernment to call for concertación and it will be the people's struggle that leads this concertación to a successful conclusion," the statement said.

Nevertheless, four days later, officials of the National Employees Union, representing tens of thousands of public workers, announced they would not participate. Shortly thereafter, officials of all the other FNT unions decided to boycott the meeting.

The National Directorate responded with a new statement, calling on UNO forces in the government to postpone the meeting for a month. "During this time the government must take steps to re-establish the climate of confidence necessary in order for economic-social concertación to culminate in benefitting the nation," the FSLN said.

The UNO forces refused, and the September 20 meeting went ahead as scheduled. Participating were representatives of five union federations that support UNO and Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, army chief Humberto Ortega, government ministers, and representatives of COSEP.

No FSLN unionists attended, nor did capitalist farmers who support the FSLN. The FSLN-led small and medium businessmen's association also boycotted.

The FNT held a demonstration of several hundred workers outside the concertación site. Although rocks were thrown at the cars of those participating in the meeting, no one was arrested.

'National day of civil disobedience'

On September 22 the FSLN National Directorate issued another statement, urging working people to carry out protest actions to demand the UNO forces organize "a real concertación."

Simultaneously, the FNT called for a "national day of civil disobedience" on October 1, projected to include strikes, demonstrations, and nonpayment of utility bills.

Following these announcements, FSLN leader Daniel Ortega began meeting with Cardinal Obando y Bravo, UNO government ministers, and U.S. Ambassador Harry Schauldemann.

On September 29, Minister of the Presidency Antonio Lacayo announced a series of steps designed to enable FSLN supporters to credibly join the talks: no more layoffs of state employees until decided by concertación; a pledge to live up to previous government promises made to the FNT; a reduction in the rate paid for some electricity and water bills; and agreement to demand more foreign aid from the U.S. government and other imperialist powers.

The October 1 civil disobedience actions were held as symbolic protests. In the capital, Managua, less than 2,000 people turned out for the FNT's demonstration.

On October 4, FNT officials joined the concertación talks, stating that the government had yielded to the pressure of the October 1 actions. "The government finally had to accept that our demands were just and accept the participation of our union federation in concertación," explained FNT leader Lucio Jiménez.

from Pathfinder in Spanish

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Chronology of Washington and preparation for war in the Mid

The following chronology of war preparations in the Mideast by Washington and its allies is a feature of the new expanded edition by Pathfinder of *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*. It is also available in Spanish. Information on how to obtain the books can be found on page 1. The chronology is reprinted by permission of Pathfinder and is copyright © 1990.

Beginning in the next issue of the *Militant*, a weekly chronology will be printed as a reference for antiwar activists.

July 17-18, 1990 — Iraqi president Saddam Hussein accuses Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates of flooding the international oil market and driving prices down, thus costing Iraq \$14 billion in lost oil revenue. He also accuses Kuwait of stealing \$2.4 billion in Iraqi oil from wells in the Rumaila oil field along the disputed border between the two countries.



U.S. Army tanks in Saudi Arabian field. Some 430,000 U.S. troops will be stationed in the Mideast by early 1991.

Earlier Kuwait rejects Iraqi claims to the Kuwaiti islands of Bubiyan and Warbah at the head of the Arab-Persian Gulf; control of these islands would give Iraq easy access to the sea.

July 25 — U.S. ambassador to Iraq April Glaspie meets with Iraqi president Hussein and explains, "We have no opinion on the Arab-Arab conflicts, like your border disagreement with Kuwait. . . . If we are unable to find a solution, then it will be natural that Iraq will not accept death."

August 1 — After one session, Iraq breaks off talks with Kuwait in Jidda, Saudi Arabia, on oil extraction levels and the border dispute.

August 2 — Iraqi troops invade Kuwait and occupy the capital, Kuwait city. Kuwait's emir, Sheik Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, flees to Saudi Arabia and establishes a government in exile. The Provisional Free Government of Kuwait announces over Iraqi radio that it is in full control.

U.S. president George Bush signs executive orders banning U.S. trade with Iraq, except for humanitarian aid such as medical supplies, and freezing \$30 billion in Iraqi and Kuwaiti assets. The U.S. House of Representatives follows suit in a 416-0 vote imposing sanctions on Iraq.

Meeting in the United States, Bush and British prime minister Margaret Thatcher call for economic sanctions against Iraq.

Britain and France freeze Kuwaiti assets. The twelve-member European Community unanimously condemns the Iraqi invasion. The Soviet Union suspends arms sales to Iraq.

U.S. officials order a battle group of seven warships led by the aircraft carrier USS *Independence* to sail for the Arab-Persian Gulf from the Indian Ocean and shift the aircraft carrier USS *Eisenhower* and its twelve-ship battle group to the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

The fifteen-member UN Security Council, in a 14-0-1 vote, passes **Resolution 660** condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and calling on Iraq to withdraw unconditionally. Yemen's representative abstains.

Cuban president Fidel Castro sends a letter to the Movement of Nonaligned Countries urging diplomatic efforts to find a peaceful solution and warning of the danger of U.S. intervention.

U.S. officials advise Israel against playing any public role in the unfolding situation. Israeli defense minister Moshe Arens calls for sanctions against Iraq.

Britain announces it is sending two frigates to the Gulf to join the destroyer HMS *York* and three other warships already there.

August 3 — Representatives of the twenty-one-member

Arab League meet in Cairo, Egypt. Fourteen delegations vote to demand immediate withdrawal of Iraqi troops. U.S. secretary of state James Baker and Soviet foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze issue a joint statement in Moscow calling for a worldwide end to arms shipments to Iraq.

Japan, West Germany, Belgium, Italy, and the Netherlands freeze Iraqi and Kuwaiti assets.

Despite near-record supplies worldwide, oil prices start to spiral upward. From \$20.40 per barrel days before the invasion of Kuwait, they nearly double over the next six weeks. For every \$1-per-barrel increase, \$21 billion is extracted from the pockets of working people worldwide.

August 4 — The European Community imposes economic sanctions on Iraq, including a ban on oil imports. Baghdad television announces the composition of the new Kuwaiti government: nine men identified as Kuwaiti military officers.

August 5 — Bush sends Defense Secretary Richard

Cheney to Saudi Arabia to meet with King Fahd, who agrees, for the first time ever, to allow U.S. troops to be based in Saudi Arabia.

A contingent of 255 U.S. marines lands in Monrovia, Liberia, ostensibly to protect U.S. citizens in the midst of the civil war there.

Japan imposes economic sanctions on Iraq, including a ban on oil imports. China suspends arms sales to Iraq.

August 6 — The aircraft carrier USS *Saratoga* — accompanied by its battle group that includes 2,100 marines, the battleship USS *Wisconsin*, guided-missile cruisers, and attack submarines — leaves Norfolk, Virginia, for the eastern Mediterranean to join the *Eisenhower*. The ships are carrying F-14 fighters, F-18 attack jets, and Tomahawk cruise missiles.

U.S. and British officials say they are prepared to organize a naval blockade of Iraq to enforce UN economic sanctions. Britain and France send more naval forces to the region.

The Security Council passes **Resolution 661**, 13-0-2, imposing an economic embargo on Iraq, the third country to be subject to such action in the UN's history. Humanitarian food aid and medicine are exempted. Cuba denounces U.S. war moves. Cuba and Yemen abstain. Less stringent embargoes were voted against Southern Rhodesia in 1967 and South Africa in 1963 and 1977.

August 7 — Operation Desert Shield begins with thousands of U.S. paratroopers, an armored brigade, and jet fighters ordered to Saudi Arabia. Lightly equipped rapid deployment forces from the 82d Airborne and other units begin arriving the same day in what quickly becomes the largest U.S. military mobilization since the Vietnam War and the largest airlift since World War II. A brigade from the 24th Mechanized Infantry Division and units from the 101st Airborne equipped with helicopters are also to be sent. Egypt permits transit through the Suez Canal, as the *Eisenhower* battle group is ordered to the Arabian Sea.

Castro sends a letter to Arab heads of state warning of the dangers of U.S. intervention.

Turkish president Turgut Özal says Turkey will enforce sanctions and stop ships from loading Iraqi crude oil, in effect shutting down two Iraqi pipelines in Turkish territory.

August 8 — The makeup of the nine-member Provisional Free Government of Kuwait is disclosed. All are Iraqi army officers.

The government of Iraq announces the annexation of Kuwait.

U.S. officials estimate that the size of U.S. ground forces will be 50,000 within a month.

August 9 — The Security Council passes Resolution 662, 15 to 0, rejecting Iraq's annexation of Kuwait.

Turkey promises greater U.S. access to NATO air bases on its territory its territory.

Some fifty U.S. and allied warships are now in the region. U.S. officials appeal for ground troops to be sent by allies to join U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia.

August 10 — Representatives of twelve members of the twenty-one-member Arab League, meeting in Cairo, vote to send troops to Saudi Arabia to join U.S.-led forces arrayed against Iraq.

Canada and Australia agree to send three warships each to the Gulf.

The Pentagon charts commercial airliners, including from strike-bound Eastern Airlines, to ferry troops and cargo.

The Bush administration announces that U.S., British, and French warships stationed near ports in the Gulf region will stop shipments of oil from Iraq.

U.S. deployment plans for air force units include sending 3 squadrons of F-16 fighters, nearly 100 A-10 antitank planes, 24 F-117A Stealth fighters, 12 AC-130 gunships, 18 F-111 bombers, 24 B-52G bombers, and a large number of C-130 transport planes.

Pentagon officials double the estimate of U.S. ground forces to be deployed to 100,000.

August 11 — Egyptian paratroopers and commandos and Moroccan troops begin landing in Saudi Arabia.

Syria announces it will send 4,000 ground troops to join the U.S.-led forces.

August 12 — U.S. officials report that U.S. naval forces are being given orders to enforce the embargo against Iraq, including against vessels carrying food. U.S. ground forces in Saudi Arabia number 5,000. During peak times one U.S. transport plane lands every ten minutes in Saudi Arabia.

France sends the aircraft carrier *Clemenceau* to the Gulf, with 600 paratroopers and 140 infantrymen aboard.

Tens of thousands in Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Libya, Mauritania, Sudan, and Yemen protest U.S. moves. Antigovernment demonstrations are reported in Syria.

August 13 — Britain declares its naval forces in the Gulf are prepared to enforce the embargo.

Iraq announces that foreign citizens will not be allowed to leave Iraq and Kuwait.

August 15 — Another aircraft carrier, the USS *John F. Kennedy*, and its battle group depart for the Mediterranean.

Iraq offers Iran a permanent settlement, on terms highly favorable to Iran, of the 1980-88 Gulf war launched by the Saddam Hussein regime's invasion of Iranian territory. Agreement is rapidly concluded.

August 16 — UN secretary-general Javier Pérez de Cuéllar says unilateral U.S. action to enforce the embargo will violate the UN Charter.

A U.S. naval blockade of all shipping to and from Iraq begins.

Some 50,000 protest at the U.S. embassy in San'a, Yemen, calling for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. forces.

August 17 — The Pentagon announces the first-ever activation of a 1951 emergency program, known as the Civil Reserve Air Fleet, to aid the military airlift by commandeering aircraft from civilian airline companies.

August 18 — U.S. warships fire warning shots at Iraqi oil tankers.

The Security Council passes **Resolution 664**, 15 to 0, calling on Iraq to permit the departure of foreign citizens from Iraq and Kuwait.

August 21 — Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, and Spain announce they will send warships to the Gulf region. West Germany sends minesweepers to the eastern Mediterranean to fill in for other states' warships deployed to the Gulf.

August 22 — The Bush administration begins calling up military reservists for noncombat active duty in the Gulf region. This is the first time since the January 1968 Tet Offensive during the Vietnam War that reservists have been called to active duty.

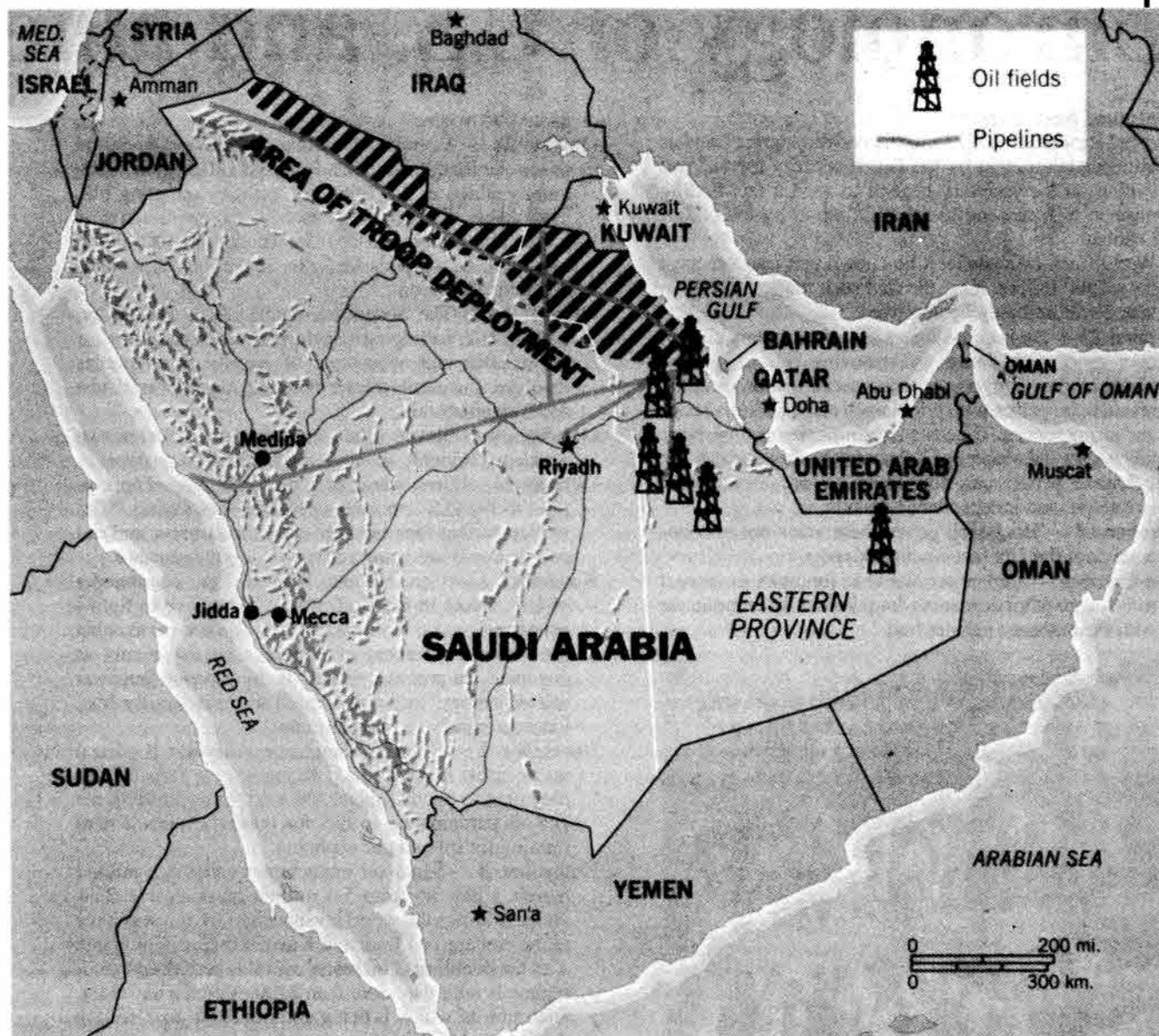
August 24 — Iraqi troops surround foreign embassies in Kuwait city after they refuse Iraq's order to close and move to Baghdad. Water and electricity are shut off.

August 25 — The Security Council passes Resolution 665, 13-0-2, authorizing member states to use "such measures . . . as may be necessary" against Iraq to enforce a trade embargo. Cuba denounces the action — the first in UN history where force is authorized to impose economic sanctions adopted by the United Nations. Cuba and Yemen abstain.

August 26 — About 45,000 U.S. troops are now in Saudi Arabia.

Some 50,000 Syrian troops are sent to suppress large antigovernment protests in towns near the Syrian-Iraqi border.

allies' The East



Shevardnadze tells the press that the USSR will not object to other nations using military force to blockade Iraq.

August 29 — Thirteen U.S. GIs die when their supply plane crashes in West Germany en route to the region.

August 30–September 1 — Foreign ministers of thirteen of the twenty-one Arab League member states meet in Cairo. Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, the Palestine Liberation Organization, Sudan, Tunisia, and Yemen boycott the meeting.

Early September — India asks UN permission to send a boatload of food to Kuwait for tens of thousands of Indian citizens facing a severe food shortage. Tens of thousands more Sri Lankans, Filipinos, Vietnamese, and citizens of other nations face similar suffering.

September 4 — Senegalese president Abdou Diouf announces he will send 500 troops to join the forces being arrayed against Iraq.

Turkish president Özal obtains special parliamentary approval to allow Turkey's NATO bases to receive foreign forces and be used for military operations against Iraq.

September 5 — Britain and France stop arms sales to Jordan.

September 6 — Refugees from Kuwait and Iraq who have passed through Jordan now surpass 600,000 in number, while 100,000 remain stranded there under desperate conditions. Most are Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Thai, or Filipino.

September 7 — UN-authorized U.S.- and British-chartered Iraqi Airways flights begin evacuating U.S. and British citizens from Iraq and Kuwait. Most are women and children. The flights continue for two weeks.

Britain drops its long-standing veto of European Community aid to Syria.

The Soviet Union announces the resumption of diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia.

Niger announces the decision to send troops to Saudi Arabia.

September 9 — Bush and Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev meet in Helsinki, Finland.

September 10 — Iraq and Iran restore diplomatic relations. Reports continue of trade in food, oil, and other commodities between the two countries.

September 12 — Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khomeini denounces the U.S. buildup in the Gulf.

September 13 — U.S. naval forces are now boarding three to four ships a day, mainly in the Red Sea, to check cargoes and destinations. U.S. Coast Guard officers assist the navy.

The Security Council passes **Resolution 666**, 13 to 2, restricting the shipment of food supplies to Iraq, with Cuba and Yemen voting against. A counterresolution by Cuba, affirming that access to food and adequate medical care are basic human rights, is defeated by a vote of 3 to 5 with 7 abstentions.

September 14 — U.S. and Australian warships fire warning shots and forcibly board an Iraqi tanker.

Iraqi troops raid several diplomatic missions and residences in Kuwait city.

Britain announces it is sending the 7th Armoured Regiment with 8,000 troops and 120 Challenger tanks to Saudi Arabia. Canada says a squadron of CF-18 fighters will be deployed. Another frigate and eight Tornado aircraft will be sent by Italy.

The Pentagon approves more than \$20 billion in arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

Mid-September — Tens of thousands of Yemenis working in Saudi Arabia begin leaving after their work permits are revoked in retaliation for Yemen's refusal to join the imperialist-led coalition against Iraq. An estimated two million Yemenis live in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia cuts off oil shipments to Jordan, whose vital port at Aqaba is nearly shut down by the embargo.

September 16 — The Security Council passes Resolution 667, 15 to 0, protesting Iraqi violations of diplomatic immunity of foreign embassies and personnel in Kuwait. West German chancellor Helmut Kohl calls for amending that state's 1949 constitution, which bars German military action outside of the NATO framework, and proposes sending German troops to the Gulf as soon as possible after the new, all-German parliament is elected. France sends 4,000 more men, tanks, helicopters, and fighter planes to the Gulf following the ransacking of its Kuwait city diplomatic mission. French military strength reaches 13,000 troops and 14 warships in the region.

September 17 — European Community governments decide to expel most Iraqi diplomats from their respective countries.

Egyptian troop strength in region is reported at 5,000. The imminent departure for the Gulf of 500 Senegalese troops is announced.

September 21 — Turkey's troop buildup, backed by tanks and warplanes, reaches 95,000 on the Turkish-Iraqi border.

Some 1,000 in Kaduna, northern Nigeria, protest war moves in front of the U.S. consulate.

September 24 — Addressing the UN General Assembly, French president François Mitterrand calls on Iraq to "affirm its intention to withdraw from Kuwait and free the hostages," saying this would open the road to a negotiated solution.

Iranian foreign minister Ali Akbar Velayati, addressing the General Assembly, pledges Iran will not violate the trade embargo against Iraq.

The Security Council passes **Resolution 669**, 15 to 0, acknowledging the growing requests for assistance from member states suffering from the sanctions imposed against Iraq under Resolution 661.

September 25 — U.S. troop strength exceeds 150,000, with more on the way.

Shevardnadze, in an address to the UN General Assembly, warns Iraq that "the United Nations has the power to suppress acts of aggression," and suggests it may be necessary for the Security Council to establish a "rapid response force" composed of units "designated by different countries, including all five permanent members of the Security Council."

The Security Council passes **Resolution 670**, 14 to 1, imposing an air embargo on Iraq. Cuba denounces this as an escalation of war preparations by Washington and its allies and votes against.

September 26 — The number of U.S. military reservists called up for active duty in the Gulf as noncombatants reaches 21,000.

September 27 — Japanese prime minister Toshiki Kaifu proposes sending lightly armed Japanese troops to the Gulf in a "noncombat" role to back up allied forces. If approved, the action would be the first overt use of Japanese troops outside of Japan since World War II. The proposal precipitates a storm of debate and protest. The South Korean government pledges \$150 million for maintenance of U.S. forces in Gulf.

Britain restores diplomatic relations with Iran broken off in March 1989 when Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued a death sentence against writer Salman Rushdie. Oil prices rise to \$39.54 per barrel.

Honduran president Rafael Callejas, at the White House, states his willingness to send a contingent to the Gulf.

September 30 — The Soviet Union establishes diplomatic relations for the first time with South Korea and consular relations with Israel. Thatcher meets with Bush and proposes that the Security Council order Iraq to pay war reparations.

October 1 — Bush addresses the UN General Assembly.

October 2 — The U.S. aircraft carrier *Independence* and its battle group arrive in the Gulf — only the second time a U.S. aircraft carrier has ever done so — accompanied by four minesweepers. U.S. naval vessels in the Gulf, northern Arabian Sea, and Red Sea now total 54.

The French warship *Doudart de Lagrée* fires warning shots at a North Korean freighter, the *Sam Il Po*, near Djibouti in the Bab el Mandeb Strait. The freighter is boarded and then released, in the fifth such use of force since the naval blockade against Iraq began August 16.

October 3 — Gorbachev sends Yevgeny Primakov, a Presidential Council member, to Jordan and Iraq. The Soviet magazine *Literaturnaya Gazeta* quotes Primakov: "I

think we should proceed from the fact that [the Gulf crisis] offers a kind of laboratory, testing our efforts to create a new world order after the Cold War. Very much depends on Soviet-American solidarity, on parallel activity or joint political action, on mutual support."

Mitterrand begins a two-day visit to the Gulf, the first Western head of state to do so.

The total number of U.S. troops in the region now exceeds 170,000.

October 4 — Japanese prime minister Kaifu visits Jordan and pledges \$250 million in loans to offset the effects of the blockade of Iraq on Jordan's economy.

French Foreign Legion troops arrive in Kigali, Rwanda, to help put down a rebel insurgency. The first contingent of Belgian paratroopers joins them the next day.

October 8 — Israeli police open fire on unarmed Palestinian protesters near Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque, killing 21 and wounding more than 100.

October 9 — The Security Council begins debating its response to the Israeli massacre. Fearing its coalition against Iraq will be jeopardized, Washington sponsors a resolution condemning Israel. Yemen sponsors a more strongly worded draft.

October 11 — The U.S. 1st Cavalry Division, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, and units of the 2d Armored Division begin arriving in Saudi Arabia from Germany. The additional forces number 15,000 men with M-1 tanks and Bradley armored fighting vehicles, helping to transform the U.S. forces from lightly equipped rapid deployment forces capable of guarding oil fields and military installations into a substantial offensive force.

More than 130,000 Jordanian refugees who had been working in the Gulf region are now back in Jordan. Jordanian officials estimate they will need \$300 million to provide them social services. Estimates of unemployment there range from 20 to 40 percent.

October 12 — The Security Council passes U.S.-sponsored resolution 678.

Continued on Page 10

—WASHINGTON, D.C.—

Washington's Accelerating War Drive

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Chronology of U.S. and allies' war drive

Continued from Page 9

sored Resolution 672, 15 to 0, condemning the "acts of violence committed by the Israeli security forces" and calling on the secretary-general to send a fact-finding mission to Israel and to submit a report by the end of October.

World Bank officials let it be known that Iran's request for a \$300 million loan, the first such request in eleven years, will probably be approved.

October 13 — Syria consolidates effective military control over most of Lebanon by removing rightist general Michel Aoun from power, using aerial bombings at the presidential palace with prior Israeli and U.S. knowledge and acquiescence. The State Department says, "We hope this ends a sad chapter of Lebanon's history and that the Lebanese people can now move toward... a united, sovereign, and independent Lebanon."

October 14 — The Israeli government vows not to cooperate with the UN fact-finding mission.

Mid-October — Jordan permits U.S. monitors to inspect truck cargo at the Jordanian-Iraqi border for compliance with the embargo against Iraq.



Some of the hundreds of thousands of refugees forced to relocate by the threat of war.

October 16 — Japan's parliament begins debate on a plan to send Japanese troops to the Gulf in a noncombat role. Protests continue.

October 17 — The Asian Development Bank announces that wages sent home by Asian workers in the Middle East could fall by \$750 million in the second half of 1990 because of the Gulf crisis. The 3.5 million Asians working in the region send \$10-12 billion home annually. Economic losses for 1990-91 for Jordan, Egypt, and Turkey are estimated at \$4 billion, \$3 billion, and \$5 billion respectively.

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

October 19 — U.S. officials announce they are shipping 400 to 500 top-of-the-line M-1A1 tanks to Saudi Arabia from NATO storage in Germany, bringing the number of U.S. tanks there to more than 1,000. Delivery will take about seventeen days.

October 20 — Thousands protest U.S. war moves in more than two dozen U.S. cities under the slogans "Bring the troops home now!" and "No war for oil company profits!" Speakers at the 10,000-strong New York and 5,000-strong San Francisco actions include several military reservists who are resisting deployment. Thousands more take to the streets in some ten other countries.

Of the hundreds of millions of dollars pledged to Jordan to offset its economic crisis, only \$4 million has reportedly been received.

October 25 — Cheney, saying no "upper ceiling" had ever been set, announces U.S. plans to send up to 100,000 more troops to the region to join the 210,000 already deployed. In addition, close to 200,000 troops from U.S.-allied countries are now in the Gulf.

The Security Council passes a new resolution calling on the Israeli government to cooperate with the UN team established in Resolution 672, which is investigating the October 8 killings of Palestinians.

Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh announces that more than 500,000 have returned to Yemen since mid-September after being forced to leave by the Saudi government. The expulsion will cost the Yemeni economy \$350 million per month in lost remittances.

Canadian minister of external affairs Joseph Clark addresses the Canadian Parliament, saying his government is ready to join a military offensive against Iraq without waiting for UN approval. He later says, "War is possible. There will be thousands of casualties... and we should not rule out the possibility that young Canadian soldiers will not return to this country for celebration but will stay there for burial." Canadian troop strength reaches 1,700.

Britain agrees to put its 15,000-man force under U.S. command. France reportedly agrees to do the same with

its 13,000 troops.

October 28 — A decision to double the active-duty period of service for combat reservists from 180 days to 360 is quietly added to the 1991 U.S. military spending bill. There is no discussion or debate as Congress adjourns for the year. Included in the federal budget is \$700 million more in U.S. weapons for Israel above the annual allocation of \$5 billion.

October 29 — The Security Council passes **Resolution 674**, 13-0-2, calling on Iraq to pay war reparations for its invasion and occupation of Kuwait to all parties involved. Cuba calls it "one more step toward war." Cuba and Yemen abstain.

October 30 — Eleven U.S. servicemen are killed in two accidents, bringing the U.S. death toll to forty-three.

October 31 — Bush warns he is prepared to air-drop supplies to the U.S. embassy in Kuwait city saying, "The American flag flies over the Kuwaiti embassy and our people inside are being starved by a brutal dictator."

November 1 — Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of U.S. forces in the Gulf, says, "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." He promises to use "vastly superior firepower and technology" to "bring as much destruction on the Iraqi forces as rapidly as I possibly can."

November 2 — Reservist Stephanie Atkinson is placed under arrest in Fort Knox, Kentucky, for refusing deployment to Saudi Arabia. She says, "I don't think the U.S. is participating in this for honest reasons. We're fighting for oil and our economy."

November 3 — Saudi oil extraction reaches 8.2 million barrels a day, up from 5.4 million on August 2. This increase brings the world level back to what it was prior to the embargo on Iraqi and Kuwaiti output. Combined with the doubling of oil prices over this period, the Saudi regime is raking in more than \$200 million a day extra, a fraction of which is being contributed to maintaining the U.S.-led military intervention.

Syrian officials voice support for offensive action against Iraq.

November 4 — The Pentagon, citing the October 28 congressional decision doubling active-duty reserve service to 360 days, decides to call up thousands of combat reservists as part of the up-to-100,000 increase announced on October 25. More than 34,000 reservists have already been deployed in noncombat roles.

The first contingent of the 15,000-member Syrian 9th Armored Division, with the first of 270 tanks, lands in Saudi Arabia, which will bring its forces there to 19,000. The Syrians, along with other Arab troops, are deployed on the front lines.

Baker begins a week-long, eight-nation trip to obtain support for the direct use of military force against Iraq and agreement on how to coordinate offensive operations.

November 5 — Baker, meeting with the Saudi foreign minister and King Fahd in Jidda, obtains agreement on giving the U.S. command structure a free hand in any offensive military action against Iraq.

November 6 — Baker meets with Chinese foreign minister Qian Qichen in Cairo, seeking agreement that China will not block a UN resolution authorizing the direct use of force against Iraq.

UN-sponsored talks begin in Geneva, Switzerland, on the devastating effects of oil price increases due to the Gulf crisis.

November 7 — Marjatta Rasi of Finland, who heads the UN sanctions committee that oversees the trade embargo against Iraq established by Resolution 661, acknowledges that no trade violations have ever been reported. Thatcher tells the British House of Commons, "Either [President Saddam Hussein] gets out of Kuwait soon or we and our allies will remove him by force, and he will go down to defeat with all its consequences."

Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak, saying war is inevitable if Iraq does not withdraw from Kuwait soon, voices support for a UN resolution authorizing offensive action against Iraq and announces that another armored division with 400 tanks and 7,000 men will be in place in Saudi Arabia by the end of November. They will join the already fully deployed 15,000-man 3d Mechanized Division and other units.

African National Congress deputy president Nelson Mandela, in Paris, accuses the West of hypocrisy in its war moves against Iraq, citing the U.S. invasions of Panama and Grenada and the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land.

Japan's prime minister is forced to scrap the proposal to send troops to Saudi Arabia.

U.S. forces, now at 230,000, already include: four and a half U.S. Army divisions and other units with more than 120,000 troops and 1,000 tanks; one U.S. Marine expeditionary force and three expeditionary brigades with more than 45,000 troops; 3 U.S. aircraft carriers with 100 attack and fighter planes, the battleship *Wisconsin*, and 50 other warships; 500 air force and marine bombers, attack, and fighter planes.

Forces allied with Washington include **Syria**: 19,000 troops with 270 tanks in Saudi Arabia and 50,000 more troops on Syria's border with Iraq; **Turkey**: 95,000 troops on Turkey's border with Iraq; **Britain**: 15,000 troops, including the 7th Armoured Regiment with 120 tanks, along with 58 warplanes and 12 warships; **France**: 13,000 French troops, including an armored regiment,

an infantry regiment, and a helicopter regiment, along with more than 75 planes and 14 warships, including the aircraft carrier *Clemenceau*; **Canada**: 1,700 troops, 3 warships, and 18 fighter planes; **Saudi Arabia**: 60,000 troops, with 180 planes and 8 ships, and a small force as part of the Gulf Cooperation Council's rapid deployment force; **Egypt**: 20,000 troops, with a second 7,000-man division and 400 tanks expected soon; **Kuwait**: 7,000 troops as part of the Gulf Cooperation Council's rapid deployment force; **Pakistan**: 5,000 troops; **Morocco**: at least 2,000 troops; **Bangladesh**: 2,000 troops; **Czechoslovakia**: 200 troops; **Argentina**: 100 troops; and **Senegal**: 500 troops. **Bahrain, Oman, Qatar**, and the **United Arab Emirates** have small numbers of troops deployed as part of the Gulf Cooperation Council's rapid deployment force, in addition to their regular armed forces.

Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Italy, the **Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal**, the **Soviet Union**, and **Spain** have sent naval forces to the Gulf as part of the U.S.-led intervention.

Military units from thirty countries are now arrayed against Iraq. U.S. and allied forces face Iraqi regular troops estimated at 550,000, with 430,000 in or near Kuwait. Iraq has deployed 500 top-of-the-line T-72 tanks along with 1,000 T-62s and 4,000 older tanks. In addition, Iraq's reserves number 480,000.

November 8 — Baker meets with Gorbachev and then Shevardnadze in Moscow. The Soviet leadership for the first time gives public support to possible military action as Shevardnadze says, "A situation may emerge that effectively could require" the use of force.

Japan's main opposition parties agree with the Japanese government on a new proposal to dispatch a civilian contingent including retired military officers to join U.S.-led forces in the Gulf. A Foreign Ministry official says, "We are pleased because even though the original proposal died, our work was not futile."

Bush, saying a massive new escalation is needed to provide "an adequate offensive military option," doubles the number of combat troops by ordering 200,000 more U.S. forces to the Gulf. More than 430,000 will be in the Gulf by early 1991. U.S. ground troops during the Vietnam War peaked at 543,000.

The new U.S. deployment includes more than three additional army divisions with more than 75,000 troops and 1,200 tanks — for a total of seven and a half divisions. The new units include the entire 1st and 3d Armored Divisions shifted from Germany and the entire 1st Infantry Division Mechanized from its U.S. base; the 2d Marine Expeditionary Force with 45,000 troops from Camp Lejeune and the 15,000-man 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade from Camp Pendleton, both accompanied by armored units, which will bring the total Marine deployment to two-thirds of the entire Marine combat forces; and three Army National Guard armored brigades, which are to begin desert warfare training in the United States.

In the largest deployment of aircraft carriers since the Korean War, three more carriers and their battle groups will be dispatched, bringing the total now deployed to six of the fourteen carriers in the U.S. fleet. The battleship *Missouri* will join the battleship *Wisconsin* already in the region. An unspecified number of air force warplanes will be deployed in addition to the aircraft on the three new carriers.

The move puts more than 2,000 U.S. tanks in place and gives it superiority over Iraq in the most up-to-date tanks. With these redeployments, U.S. troop strength in Europe will be cut by 50 percent. U.S. officials expect to bring the 82d Airborne, a mobile rapid deployment force, back to the United States to be ready for other possible crises.

November 9 — Cheney announces that U.S. forces will not be rotated until the Gulf crisis is over.

Socialist unionists to hold meetings on war drive and labor movement today

Socialist Workers Party members who are members of trade unions will be holding a series of national meetings to discuss how they can reach out in the unions and more broadly among working people in a campaign against the U.S.-led war drive in the Middle East.

In addition, the socialist workers will discuss the current conjuncture in the labor movement and the meaning of the growing economic crisis for working people.

The dates and locations of the meetings are listed below.

December 1:

Des Moines, Iowa: United Food and Commercial Workers; **Detroit**: United Auto Workers; **Philadelphia**: Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; **Pittsburgh**: United Steelworkers of America

December 8:

Chicago: Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union; **San Francisco**: United Transportation Union; **New York**: International Ladies Garment Workers Union and the International Union of Electrical Workers.

Socialist candidates' antiwar stance noted in press coverage

BY PETER THIERJUNG

The absence of a debate between Democrats and Republicans during recent federal and state election campaigns on Washington's preparations for war in the Middle East was noted in the *New York Times* on election day.

"Once again the major foreign policy issue confronting the nation has generated almost no debate among the candidates about what the United States should do," a front-page article in the November 6 *Times* said.

In many instances, however, the Socialist Workers Party candidates were able to break through the embargo by the capitalist media against their campaigns. The candidates' opposition to Washington's drive toward war against Iraq was a feature of the press coverage.

A campaign against war

While rarely reporting on third-party election campaigns, the November 7 *Times* did feature a short item on the "minor parties." A brief paragraph explained that the campaign of Craig Gannon, the SWP candidate for governor of New York, "was based on opposition to the United States buildup in Saudi Arabia and the possibility of war."

The *Post-Bulletin* in Rochester, Minnesota, reported November 5 that the statewide Socialist Workers candidates made the U.S. government's drive toward war the prominent theme of their campaign.

"This is a filthy war; it outrages us," Craig Honts, the SWP candidate for lieutenant governor, told the *Post-Bulletin*. The daily reported that Honts encountered deep opposition to the U.S. government's sending of troops to the Middle East among workers and farmers he spoke with during campaign stops.

Honts and Henry Zamarrón, the SWP candidate for state treasurer, got a favorable hearing for their antiwar views among farmers bringing their crops to grain elevators in southern Minnesota. "Farmers realize their costs will skyrocket when the war begins," Honts told the *Post-Bulletin*, "but they can't pass on the higher costs."

"Costs are all just passed along until they stop at the farmer," one farmer waiting to drop off his produce at a grain elevator explained to the socialist candidates. "I use 100 gallons of fuel a day at a price that is skyrocketing. And then I go to sell my corn and the price is down to \$2 a bushel."

Several farmers approached Honts after he spoke at an October 25 candidates' meeting sponsored by various farm organizations. "It scares me," one farmer told the socialist candidate, "but I know that what you're saying is absolutely right."

The Minnesota SWP candidates and their supporters also found anger against the war moves among young people. At one campaign stop in Austin, they met high-school activists who had been kicked off school grounds for carrying antiwar picket signs during a recent campaign visit by President George Bush.

Bring the troops home

The *Washington Afro-American*, a news-weekly in Washington, D.C., headlined an article about Ike Nahem, the SWP candidate for mayor, "Bring the troops home."

"Socialist mayoral candidate Ike Nahem has called on the government to bring back the troops dispatched to the Middle East," the article said. The piece quoted Nahem: "A murderous war is being prepared to defend the profits of Big Oil, to maintain reactionary monarchies, and to back up the colonial-settler state of Israel that guns down Palestinian youth fighting for self-determination."

The article was one of several that appeared in D.C.-area newspapers during the last month of the campaign. The *Washington Post* included summaries of the socialist candidates in their "voters' guide" published prior to the election.

Prior to this year's election, the D.C. City Council created the post of U.S. Senator to protest Congress' denial of statehood for the district. Sam Manuel was the SWP's candi-

date for the spot and was interviewed by the *Post* about how he would "go about lobbying Congress for D.C. statehood."

For D.C. statehood

"Like all important gains in progressive social legislation in this country," Manuel told the *Post*, "the right to equal representation — that is, statehood — will not be the result of lobbying Congress. Statehood will be won through the direct political action of working people." Manuel was also interviewed on several radio and TV programs.

The D.C. socialist candidates campaigned from literature tables at Georgetown University in the final days of the campaign and attracted crowds of up to 70 people as they discussed and debated their views on the U.S. war drive in the Middle East.

Utah socialist candidates received coverage in Salt Lake City and in Price for their stand on abortion. Price radio station KOAL aired remarks defending a woman's right to abortion by Tony Dutrow, the SWP congressional candidate in the 3rd C.D.

The October 24 Salt Lake City *Deseret News* featured a story on a debate between pro- and antiabortion forces before a state legislative task force considering restrictions on abortion rights. Pat Grogan, SWP campaign chairperson, spoke at a task force hearing and the newspaper carried her remarks.

A question of equality

"This is a question of women's equality," Grogan said. "The Supreme Court ruled that women — not husbands, not fathers, not clerics, not the government — have the right to make this decision."

"We will not permit these kinds of restrictions to go unanswered," Grogan continued. "It is impossible to conceive of women's equality if someone else has the right to make this decision for us. These bills should be completely rejected and the initial idea of *Roe vs. Wade* should be upheld."

Dutrow headed a team of socialist campaigners through parts of the western coalfields prior to the November 6 election

Socialists hit attacks on workers in referenda

BY DOUG JENNESS

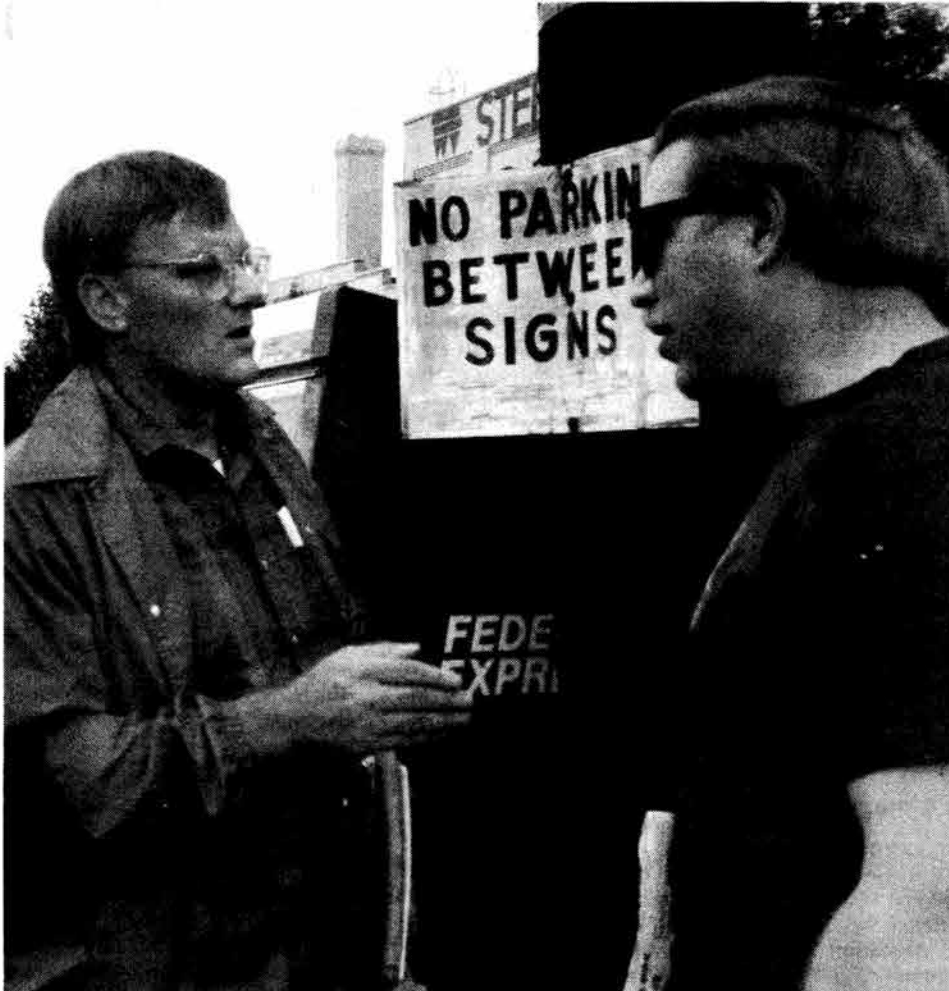
In the November 6 elections Socialist Workers Party candidates utilized campaigns around referenda in Massachusetts and California to respond to mounting attacks on working people by the government and the employers. They presented proposals that could unite workers in a fight to protect themselves.

They also took a stand on referenda in Arizona related to declaring Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a legal holiday.

In Massachusetts, the SWP ticket campaigned against a proposed ballot measure that would have resulted in a \$6 billion cut from the state budget in the next three years. Under the guise of rolling taxes and fees back to 1988 levels, the results of the measure would have been to substantially slash social services, including shelters for the homeless, education, elderly care, veterans benefits, and toxic waste monitoring.

At a November 3 windup rally, Mark Emanation, SWP candidate for governor and a garment worker, blasted the measure. "The overriding issue in this election," he said, "is war being prepared against working people in the Middle East and the war on the rights and living standards of workers in the U.S. this 'tax reform' proposal is an attack on working people, aimed especially at the poorest sections of our class. It is an attempt to divide us at a time when we most need unity to defend ourselves." The measure was written, Emanation explained, so that the lion's share of benefits from the tax reduction would go to businesses or those who are best off.

The ballot proposal received considerable attention and was widely discussed throughout the state. Socialist campaigners found that working people generally recognized the reactionary character of the measure and



Militant/Kristen Merian

Dick McBride, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate, campaigning at a steel plant in Huntington, West Virginia. SWP candidates made opposition to the U.S. war drive central to their campaigns. In the weeks leading up to the Nov. 6 elections, many SWP candidates found growing concern about the threatened war. "It scares me but I know what you're saying is absolutely right," said one Midwest farmer.

day. He spoke with miners at union meetings and mine portals, as well as workers at other plant gates, about Washington's war plans in the Middle East and why working people should oppose them.

Joel Britton, the SWP's candidate for governor of California, and his supporters maintained a brisk pace the week before the election. The candidate campaigned at the University of California in Santa Cruz and at San Francisco State University, meeting with various student groups.

The candidate campaigned outside the United Airlines maintenance barn at San Francisco International airport, where supporters introduced him to dozens of coworkers and friends. Many of them expressed agreement with his position against a war in

the Middle East, supporters reported.

"I was struck by the warm response and good wishes," Britton said after meeting garment workers in the San Francisco garment district. Many were immigrant workers, who are not allowed to vote, but were interested in what the socialist stood for and took his literature.

The two weeks prior to the elections, socialist candidates in Arizona took their message to union meetings, antiwar demonstrations, events in the Black community, and plant gates. Danny Booher, the socialist candidate for state senate in the 23rd district, spoke to a meeting of his union, Steelworkers Local 3937, where he got a hearing for his call for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Arab-Persian Gulf region.

opposed it. It was defeated by a wide margin of 20 percent, 60 percent voted against the measure and 40 percent voted for it.

In California, the SWP ticket of 11 candidates campaigned for a vote against Proposition 139, which will amend the constitution to allow state and local prison inmates to perform work for private businesses.

Joel Britton, SWP candidate for governor, declared, "The labor movement must oppose this and call for a massive government-financed public works program that would offer millions of unemployed workers productive jobs — both those behind bars and those who are not."

Massive public works program needed

Britton, an oil worker and member of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers Union, pointed out that housing, schools, and medical facilities are all deteriorating today. The railroads, air transport, subways, highways, bridges, and tunnels are all in life-threatening disrepair. Rivers and lakes are polluted and poisonous waste dumps dot the map.

A public works program to build and take care of these needs, Britton said, could open the door to meaningful work-release programs that would allow prisoners to be reintegrated into productive and socially useful labor.

Several labor bodies also opposed the proposed private hiring program because it would allegedly deny jobs to workers outside jail. "This is dead wrong," Britton declared. "No jobs will be saved by trying to deny them to other working people whether they are fellow workers in prison, immigrants without papers, or workers in other countries. This, in fact, only weakens our unions even further. The only way the labor movement can effectively fight for jobs is to fight for jobs for all, especially the most oppressed,"

the socialist candidate added.

Gov. George Deukmejian, police organizations, and others backed the measure because, they said, prisoners should help pay for their upkeep.

The proposal was adopted by a more than 50 percent majority.

King holiday voted down

SWP candidates in Arizona backed Proposition 302 that would have made the third Monday in January a legal paid holiday called Martin Luther King, Jr., Civil Rights Day. It was defeated by a 1 percent margin, 50.5 percent to 49.5 percent.

The SWP candidates urged a no vote on Proposition 301 which would have provided for a paid holiday in honor of King, but could have removed Columbus Day as a paid state holiday. It was defeated by a 75 percent majority.

More than 40 states and the U.S. government have made King's birthday an official paid holiday. In 1986 Gov. Bruce Babbitt also declared it a holiday in Arizona, but it was overturned by Gov. Evan Mecham. This provoked widespread protests that led to Mecham's impeachment.

Karen Ray, SWP candidate for governor, said, "The SWP supports the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday to commemorate the achievements of the civil rights movement and to celebrate the possibilities of unifying the working class through the continuing fight against racial discrimination and for affirmative action in education and hiring. "And," she added, "we oppose eliminating paid holidays won by the working class."

Kathryn Owen from Boston, Geoff Mirelowitz from Los Angeles, and Mike Shur from Phoenix contributed to this article.

ALABAMA

Birmingham

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

Washington's Accelerating War Drive. Speaker: Ernie Mailhot, National Committee, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

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

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.

Defend British Coal Miners! Speaker: Mary

BRITAIN

Hear:

Carlos Tablada

Cuban economist and author

Mon., Nov. 19, 12 noon. Polytechnic of Wales. Conference Centre. Treforest, South Wales. **5 p.m.** Cardiff University. OT3 Tower Block. Park Place, Cardiff.

Tues., Nov. 20, 12:30 p.m. Swansea University. Room 150/Debates. Swansea, South Wales.

Weds., Nov. 21, 2 p.m. Newcastle Polytechnic. 208 Lipman Building. Newcastle. **8 p.m.** Colliery Inn, Murton. County Durham.

Thurs., Nov. 22, 1 p.m. Sheffield University. Lecture Theater 8, Arts Tower. Sheffield. **7:30 p.m.** Northern College, Wentworth Castle. Stainborough. Nr Barnsley.

Sat., Nov. 24, 10 a.m. Farmers Third World Network National Conference. The Arthur Rank Centre, National Agricultural Centre. Stoneleigh, Warwickshire.

Mon., Nov. 26, 11 a.m. London School of Economics. Houghton St. WC2 Room S75. London. **4 p.m.** Portsmouth Polytechnic. School of Languages. Hampshire Terrace. Portsmouth.

Tues., Nov. 27, 10 a.m. Polytechnic of North London. Prince of Wales Rd. NW5. London.

Weds., Nov. 28, 11 a.m. Polytechnic of East London. Room 0099, Block G, Barking Site. London.

Thurs., Nov. 29, 10 a.m. Warwick University. Room 303, Arts Block, Warwickshire.

For more information on citywide meetings in Cardiff, London, and Sheffield see page 3 or contact the Pathfinder Bookcentre nearest you listed in the directory below.

Zins, Socialist Workers Party and member United Mine Workers of America. Sat., Dec. 1, 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.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Washington's Accelerating War Drive. Speaker: Tom Fiske, National Committee, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Stop the U.S. War in the Middle East. Lessons of Vietnam. Panel discussion. Sat., Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m. 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

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

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 Forum. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

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

Brooklyn

Support the Daily News Strikers! Panel with strikers and supporters. Sat., Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m. 464 Bergen. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (718) 398-6983.

Korea: The Unknown War. Video and discussion. Sun., Nov. 18, 5 p.m. 464 Bergen. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. Tel: (718) 398-6983.

Manhattan

Speakout: U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Speakers: Angel Lariscy, National Executive Committee, Young Socialist Alliance; Marina Sitrin, Students Against Interventionist Policy, Bard College; Patrick Colclough, military resister, U.S. Army ROTC, St. Lawrence University; Rep. Black Student Communication Organizing Network, Jamaica, Queens. Sat., Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

Young Socialist Class Series. "The Role of Cuba in the Fight Against War." Tues., Nov. 20, 7 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. Tel: (212) 727-8421.

Nelson Mandela and The Fight Against Apartheid Today. Video and discussion. Sun., Dec. 2, 5 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. Tel: (212) 727-8421.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Washington's Accelerating War Drive. Speaker: John Hawkins, National Committee, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Nov. 17, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Party. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cleveland

Washington's Accelerating War Drive. Speaker: Selva Nebbia, National Committee, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Nov. 17, reception 6:45 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

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 Chelton Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (215) 848-5044.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! U.S. Troops Out of Korea! Speaker: Margaret Jayko, National Committee, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Nov. 18, 2 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

BRITAIN

London

The Tory Government in Crisis. Speaker: Brian Grogan, Communist League. Fri., Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 071-401-2409.

Manchester

Class Series on Cuba and Communism. "The Fight for Socialism in Cuba." Mon., Nov. 26, 7 p.m. "Fighting Imperialism's War in the Gulf." Mon., Dec. 3, 7 p.m. "Cuba's Part in the Fight Against Apartheid." Mon., Dec. 10, 7 p.m. "Che Guevara: Cuba and 140 Years of Communism." Mon., Dec. 17, 7 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Sponsor: The *Militant and Perspectiva Mundial*. Translation to Spanish. Tel: 061-839-1766.

Sheffield

Fundraising Party for European Tour of Carlos Tablada. Sat., Dec. 1, 8 p.m. 391 Shoreham St. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 0742-729469.

CANADA

Montréal

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.

The U.S. and Canada's Accelerating War Drive

- The massive military buildup against Iraq
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- The fight for Korean reunification

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Executive Secretary,
Communist League

Sat., Nov. 24, 7:30 p.m.

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The Struggle for Korean Reunification and Washington's Accelerating War Drive. Speaker: Margaret Jayko, National Committee, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Dec. 2, 1 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

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Cops go on beating rampage against students at a California high school

BY JIM ALTENBERG

SAN LEANDRO, California — Police here went on a violent rampage around San Leandro High School October 24, clubbing and beating students who were on their lunch hour at an area shopping center. According to students, the police attack began when a Black girl was stopped for jaywalking by an undercover cop.

Other students protested and pointed out that no whites were stopped, only Blacks. The cops immediately grabbed two more Blacks and threw them into a squad car. One was held in a choke hold while the car door was slammed on his leg. When the other, his brother, jumped out to help him, he was grabbed by a cop and held above the ground with a billy club against his neck.

A large crowd of students gathered in protest. More cops were rushed to the scene, including Oakland police, Alameda County sheriffs, and state troopers. Students were shoved and clubbed as the cops drove them back toward the school. They shouted racist insults at the students, telling them to "go back to Oakland," and "we're going to run you niggers and Mexicans out of town." By the time the police were through, twenty students had to be taken to hospitals. Six students were arrested and police say they will charge them with inciting a riot. School was dismissed until October 26.

Police and school officials immediately began to whitewash the attack, the latest in a series of cases of racist harassment by cops

in the area. San Leandro High School principal Robert Oates portrayed the incident as a racial incident between students, despite the fact that white and Black students alike defended one another.

Oates and the mayor of San Leandro painted a picture of unruly youth, gangs, drugs, and violence in hopes of winning support for the police. Police spokesperson Tom Hull told the news media, "Sometimes control has to be taken by force."

Students and their parents organized a boycott of school October 26, along with a rally of 300 students outside the school. The protest forced Oates to agree to meet with parents. Until then, he had refused.

At a National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) meeting, 100 people told of their experiences with the San Leandro police and school administration. Youth, particularly Blacks and Latinos, are routinely stopped by cops for wearing clothes deemed by the police to be "gang" colors. After describing

how the San Leandro cops followed her daughter into her home to "prove that she lived there," one Black parent said, "I'm not begging any more for the rights my children should have. I'm fighting."

With the aid of the NAACP, parents are pressing for an investigation of the police attack, and have retained an attorney to look into legal action.

Over 1,200 people attended an October 30 school administration meeting with parents. Officials running the meeting repeatedly told the polarized, tense crowd that they could only speak about "education," not the police.

Many parents wore "I support San Leandro police" T-shirts and applauded the cops' actions.

The students demanded that there be no reprisals against them and that criminal charges be dropped. They called for all cops to be removed from the school and a serious effort to hire Black and Latino teachers and counselors. They also called for the cops who beat students to be prosecuted.

SAN LEANDRO, California — Socialist Workers candidate for governor of California Joel Britton and congressional candidate Jeff Hamill joined the series of meetings held to protest the police riot. San Leandro is part of the 8th congressional district where Hamill stood for election.

Britton and Hamill talked with students and their parents, explaining their support for the students' demands and their broader fight to be able to live freely in a city long known as a racist enclave.

At a November 3 socialist campaign rally, San Leandro sophomore Joe Arauzo explained the situation at his school. "There has been a long history of racism in San Leandro and in the schools," he said. "The kids and parents have had enough! These problems can no longer be swept under the carpet. Like other East Bay communities, San Leandro is changing! And the city will have to get used to the change!" J.A.

Latinos fight frame-up by Des Moines cops

Continued from page 16

freedom, and for us to be able to tell the true story — but we did not get a chance to defend ourselves because of the plea-bargain procedures," said Jesse Rincon, who was at the dance with Patricia and the other victims the night of the police assault.

"I used to think police were supposed to

be taken to the hospital for stitches to patch up gashes on his nose and head. He was also bruised from kicks he received. He will be scarred for life, cannot breathe well now, and suffers numbness in his hands from the way the cops tightened the handcuffs.

"I am a Latin American," Noboa said. "I was born in Ecuador, emigrated to the United States, and eventually became a U.S. citizen."

"At the elevator I pointed out to the police that I was a citizen and had constitutional rights," he continued. "That made them go crazy. What they did to us is hard to believe. I thought this sort of thing only happened under brutal dictatorships, like several we have in Latin America."

The arrest report filed by the police on Patricia Rincon — as on the others arrested — told an entirely different story, contradicting the facts as witnessed by dozens of people attending the dance.

"Defendant kept pulling on a person that police were trying to arrest and then started fighting with police acting in a violent manner," the report alleges, adding that "Defendant was kicking, tried to bite and tried to strike the officers in the groin with her feet and hands."

"Those are big and cruel lies from one end to the other," Patricia Rincon said. "They are the ones who battered me and the rest for no reason. Besides, the insinuation that I, a 5-foot, 3-inch, 118-pound person who's never

been in a fight, would take on a heavy-weight, more than six-foot-tall cop, armed to the teeth, challenges rationality."

Some of the victims are considering filing a lawsuit against the police officers for violation of their rights and the injuries and hardships suffered.

"We did not win the case at the trial because of the pressure to plea bargain. Now we will try again the legal way, because the only thing we are interested in is justice and the truth. We want everyone else to be aware that this can happen to them," said Jesse Rincon. "If it happens to you, don't stay quiet. Stand up and speak for your rights. Let people know when you are being pushed around and abused by the law. That is how we intend to clear our families of all these false charges and slanders. We want to walk the streets with pride, as we always have, and not put our heads down for something we did not do," he concluded.

Patricia Rincon added "We should have helped the Swift 17, the Mark Curtises, and all the other victims of injustice when they were attacked. The authorities went after Mark because he was standing with the 'nobodies' like us. We will speak up in public to every audience we can reach to tell our story," she said. "This should not happen again, and if it does, we should be in a better position: stronger, more experienced, and ready to fight in solidarity with one another against police brutality, racism, and similar kinds of injustice."

Actions to protest war drive called

Continued from front page

The call for national actions was taken up by the Toronto-based Coalition to Stop U.S.-Canadian Intervention in the Middle East, which plans a large protest march. The coalition includes many youth groups, the Arab-Palestine Association, church groups, women's groups, and a representative of the Toronto Labour Council. For more information call the Toronto Disarmament Network at (416) 535-8005 or the Canadian Peace Alliance at (416) 588-5555.

In New York the Coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention in the Middle East has called a demonstration around the demands, "Stop Bush's war for Big Oil," "Bring the troops home now," and "Money for services not war." The demonstration is to take place at 4:30 p.m. at Penn Station on November 21.

The group has also launched a petition drive to get a million signatures of those opposing the war drive. For more information on the demonstration and the petition drive call the coalition at (212) 254-2295.

An Emergency Coalition for Peace, Justice, and Non-Intervention in the Middle East in Boston has called a "New England-wide" march and rally December 1 to demand "Stop the war before it starts," "Support our troops — Bring them home." The protest will assemble at Copley Square at 12:30 p.m. and march to Boston Common for a rally.

Speakers at the rally include Daniel Ellsberg, former Defense and State Department official who revealed the Pentagon Papers; Rabab Hadi, member of the executive committee of the Palestine Solidarity Committee; Gus Newport, former mayor of Berkeley, California; David Scondras, Boston city councilor; and Dessima Williams, former ambassador from Grenada. For more information or to volunteer call (617) 661-8066.

In Chicago the Emergency Coalition for Peace in the Middle East has called for a demonstration for December 8. The coalition is sponsored by some 50 organizations. The slogans are "No blood for oil!" and "Act now to stop the war."

Jennifer Bing-Canar, director of the Midwest Program of the American Friends Service Committee, said, "We are trying to make this a regional demonstration. We are encouraging people from around Illinois and southern Wisconsin to attend."

The December 8 event will begin at 12:30 p.m. at Daly Plaza and continue with a march.



Luis Noboa. His nose was fractured by police during beating.

protect law and order, but it was the police that violated everyone's rights at the dance, brutalized many of us, and created chaos there. They did not bother to tell my wife or friends what they were accused of and which rights they had," he continued. Police officer George Simmer "went after them like a monster with a swinging club — except a monster wearing a badge."

Simmer is well known in the community as a racist bully. It was Simmer who began harassing Oscar's father, Carlos Araujo, at the dance that night. Oscar told Simmer, "Hey, that's my dad," at which point the highly excited cop had Oscar taken to jail. "I did nothing to be taken to jail for — only worry for my father," said Oscar Araujo.

Noboa and Patricia Rincon decided to take down Simmer's badge number. Simmer then went after Noboa with a billy club, took him outside, kicked him, and threw him into a police car. Next he came back inside to the table where the Rincons were sitting. He grabbed Patricia by the neck, yelled vulgar and sexist remarks, threw her on the floor, put his knee on her face, and handcuffed her. He dragged her out the door and threw her into another police car.

At the police station, Simmer took over the "processing" of Luis, taking him into the elevator, and giving him the infamous Des Moines City Jail "elevator ride." He stopped the elevator between floors and beat his handcuffed captive.

Noboa's nose was fractured, and he had

— 10 AND 25 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Nov. 21, 1980

More than a third of the activists who attended a Pittsburgh conference against the draft on October 25 signed a petition demanding that U.S. Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti halt government attempts to deport Marian Bustin, a member of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

Bustin, a coal miner from West Virginia and member of United Mine Workers Local 2095 is a member of the Morgantown, West Virginia, chapter of the Committee Against Registration and the Draft (CARD).

At one of the conference workshops Bustin pointed out the government's use of spying and disruption tactics against the movement to end the Vietnam War.

"The government threat against me is really directed against the thousands of young people in this country who are opposed to the draft," she said.

On November 5 Pittsburgh CARD voted to send its own mailgram to the attorney general demanding that the harassment against Bustin be stopped.

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

Nov. 22, 1965

One of the most important features of the new antiwar movement is the practice of non-exclusion — of working with anyone opposed to the war regardless of their political or philosophical viewpoints on other matters, and of refusing to go along with red-baiting.

By sticking to this simple principle, the new antiwar movement has already made a good start in educating the U.S. people away from the whole atmosphere of anti-communism that is used to excuse the worst war crimes abroad and the most flagrant violations of civil liberties at home.

The movement, by keeping its eye on its own aim and refusing to exclude anyone who agrees with that aim, has challenged the whole cold war mystique. This is the mystique by which all reasoning, exchange of ideas, and cooperation around common goals is supposed to stop when epithets "communist" or "subversive" are applied.

Organize against the war drive

Marches and rallies being organized in Britain, Canada, and the United States are an important response to the relentless march to war being organized by the imperialist governments in Washington, London, Paris, and Ottawa. Every opponent of the slaughter being prepared in the Arab-Persian Gulf region should help build and participate in these protests.

In addition, the December 1 National Campaign for Peace in the Middle East meeting in New York will be an event where antiwar activists can plan future activities.

These actions are in the interests of all working people. Workers around the world have nothing to gain from a war in the Mideast. The primary victims of war will be working people on both sides of the conflict who will pay the price in deaths, mangled bodies, economic devastation, and shattered lives.

The actions that have been called are an important beginning to building visible opposition to the coming war. It is through demonstrations, rallies, and conferences that opposition to the war drive can be expressed openly and clearly, helping to draw more youth, GIs, and working people into the fight. Activities such as these become focal points for discussion and debate, both for those seeking ways to halt the war moves and those who have not yet made up their minds.

The aim of the ruling families and the media they control is to prepare public opinion for war. As the imperialists drive toward war they will seek to cut back on the democratic space of those who oppose them. Their policies cannot stand the light of reasoned debate and discussion. They must convince working people they have a stake in going to war with Iraq. To make the lie stick, the rulers seek ways to close off the public debate and discussion and divert opposition from the streets into the halls of Congress and parliaments.

The real content of the proposal put forward by the loyal opposition in the U.S. Congress — that it be consulted before the president invades Iraq — is to cut off debate and discussion in the working class. To date, no member of Congress, Democrat or Republican, has voiced opposition

to Bush's war moves.

The aim is not to debate whether war should be declared but to derail the real debate and discussion that must take place among workers and farmers in order to build a movement against the impending war.

As Sen. Richard Lugar, who led the call for a special session of Congress, said, "It is better to have the debate in formal session than to have people carping and cutting piecemeal in their districts and their communities."

The massive military preparations being made are a clear sign of the real intention of the imperialists. Their goal is not just to remove Iraq from Kuwait but to change the relationship of forces in the Mideast. Their aim is to reimpose complete imperialist domination in the region.

Their intention is to invade Iraq, smash the Iraqi army, and establish a protectorate run by the imperialist powers. This cannot be done through air power alone. It will require the massive land forces that are being assembled. Carrying out this plan will mean an immense spilling of blood on both sides.

The ruling classes have a foreign policy that is constructed in their interest, and it includes this war drive. This shows the need for working people to have a foreign policy based on our interests and not theirs. To move in this direction working people need the political space to discuss, to demonstrate, and to meet others who are opposed to the war drive. We need to be able to raise antiwar proposals in our unions and put forward proposals for action.

To be effective antiwar fighters, workers will need to be armed with the facts that are hidden or obscured by the big-business media. Circulating the *Militant* is an essential part of getting out the truth on the war drive and of building an antiwar movement.

Moreover, Pathfinder Press has just released two new books — in Spanish and English — that will play an invaluable role in arming workers with the truth about the drive to war. *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* should be circulated as widely as possible by antiwar activists.

Support the 'Daily News' strike

The fight of the 2,200 newspaper workers and drivers against New York's *Daily News* deserves the support of all working people. Locked out by the company, members of nine of the unions organized under the Allied Printing Trades Council are engaged in a battle against attempts by management to bust their unions and drive down wages and working conditions. In this struggle the unionists face a formidable force that's been preparing for the fight for a long time.

The Tribune Co., owner of the *Daily News*, spent millions of dollars training managers and editors to run presses and built a replacement newsroom in New Jersey as a back-up location to put out the newspaper. Scabs were recruited in advance and brought in immediately after the lockout began. A law firm specializing in strikebreaking was enlisted.

Thugs have been recruited to intimidate strikers. The city administration has dispatched cops on the side of the newspaper bosses. And the big-business media has lined up against the newspaper unions.

After having already demanded and gotten tens of millions of dollars in concessions from the unions in 1982 and 1987, *Daily News* bosses again made huge concession demands this year.

This assault by the newspaper bosses is yet another example of the onslaught of the employing class against working people. But the response by the trade unionists in

defending themselves against the newspaper owners also reflects the desire among layers of workers to resist such union-busting moves.

The increased attacks against working people come out of a growing capitalist economic crisis. As the economy grows worse, the ruling families will deepen their attempts to make working people pay for their crisis.

The most oppressed layers in the working class — Blacks, Latinos, other oppressed nationalities, and women — are being hit hardest by the worsened economic conditions. As the economy heads into a depression, misery and social differentiation will deepen.

In an effort to undermine support for the strike — reflected in the low circulation of the scab-produced newspaper — a company-orchestrated media campaign accusing the strikers of violent acts has been launched. But it is the strikers who face the terror of armed company thugs and city cops, and it is the workers who have been pushed into the street by the bosses.

The striking newspaper unions urgently need support. Trade unionists, democratic rights activists, antiwar fighters, and all working people have a stake in this fight. Standing with the strikers on the picket lines and mobilizing support from the labor movement is crucial in blocking the union-busting moves by the *Daily News*.

Curtis defense wins a victory

Defenders of democratic rights won an important victory when District Judge Arthur Gamble in Des Moines, Iowa, rejected efforts by attorney Stuart Pepper to get the court to further pry into the affairs of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Pepper had requested the court give him access to the committee's financial files and lists of contributors in an attempt to make the committee's funds available as part of a financial award from Curtis to his clients, Keith and Denise Morris. The harassment lawsuit seeks thousands of dollars in damages.

Judge Gamble had ruled in favor of Pepper's earlier motion ordering defense committee treasurer Julia Terrell to testify about the committee's finances, saying he wanted to determine if Curtis had access to the committee's funds.

In response to this attack, the Mark Curtis Defense Committee launched a broad international campaign to protect the privacy of those who contributed to the defense effort. Support was sought and won among those who endorsed Curtis' fight for justice as well as among many who had not yet decided to become endorsers of the defense

case itself, but who saw the stakes involved in the assault on the committee.

Those won to the effort saw this as an attack against the rights of all committees to protect the constitutional right of privacy and freedom of association.

In his latest ruling in favor of the defense committee, the judge admitted that he allowed the investigation into the defense committee "to go on long enough" and said that there is no evidence showing that the assets of the committee "are assets for Mark Curtis available for recovery in damages."

Had Pepper been successful, a blow would have been dealt not only to freedom of association but the defense committee's ability to seek support in the fight for justice for Curtis. Pepper's demand would have opened the door for further attacks on the constitutional rights of all.

This victory is one that can be celebrated by all supporters of the rights of defense committees fighting frame-ups. It is a victory for the rights of unionists, civil libertarians, antiwar activists, and all defenders of democratic rights the world over.

Iranian-British reconciliation and Salman Rushdie

BY DOUG JENNESS

Part of the fallout from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August and the massive imperialist-orchestrated preparation for war against Iraq was the normalization of diplomatic relations between the British and Iranian governments. These ties, which were broken March 7, 1989, were reestablished nearly two months ago. British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd said the restoration of relations on September 27 was "one more brick in building this coalition against [Iraqi President] Saddam Hussein."

The severing of relations between the two governments was triggered by Ayatollah Khomeini's call in February 1989 for the death of novelist Salman Rushdie, a British citizen living in London. Rushdie's novel *The Satanic Verses* was at the time the target of demonstrations and book burnings by Moslem organizations in Britain, Pakistan, and other countries.

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Those attacking Rushdie charged that his book was blasphemous and an insult to the Muslim religion. British government officials joined in the attack, including then foreign secretary, Geoffrey Howe. In a radio interview he stated, "We do understand that the book itself has been found deeply offensive by people of the Muslim faith. We can understand," Howe added, "why it has been criticized. It is a book that is offensive in many other ways as well." British officials seized on the campaign against Rushdie to increase efforts to curb the rights of working people.

In spite of their conciliatory tone, the Iranian government did not consider the British authorities' actions adequate. Tehran demand they ban the book and publicly apologize for permitting it to be published and for protecting its author. When London failed to meet these conditions, Khomeini's government severed relations with it.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher continued to seek normalization of relations, but even as recently as June discussions fell apart when Iranian officials reaffirmed the death sentence against Rushdie and condemned the British government's "insults to Islam." On June 5 Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's chief clerical leader since Khomeini's death last year, demanded that Rushdie "be handed over to British Moslems so that God's decree would be implemented on him."

(A blasphemy case brought by a British Muslim group against Rushdie was thrown out by Britain's High Court on April 9. This ruling, upheld by another court in May, didn't rule against the reactionary character of blasphemy laws. Rather, it said that Britain's blasphemy law only covers Christianity.)

The situation changed after the Iraqi military forces entered Kuwait in early August. Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd praised Islam and distanced the British government from Rushdie's *Satanic Verses*. In the following weeks the Iranian government clearly indicated that it would abide by the United Nations Security Council resolutions calling for an economic blockade of Iraq. When full diplomatic relations were reknit, Iran's death charges against Rushdie weren't dropped.

Rushdie, now 43 years old, will soon have been a virtual prisoner for two years as a result of the death sword hanging over his head, and he has no immediate prospect of getting free. He continues to grant interviews and write books (a volume of children's stories has just been published). Penguin, which published *Satanic Verses*, however, still refuses to issue a paperback edition. Fearful of threats, the publisher's executives have held back, promising to publish the paperback edition sometime in the future. Over the past year this has stirred controversy in British and international literary circles about censorship and whether or not Rushdie should apologize publicly to Muslims.

In a debate early this year in the pages of the *Guardian*, a British daily, a letter by novelist John LeCarré insisted, "it has been within his power to save the faces of his publishers and, with dignity, withdraw his book, until a calmer time has come."

On the same day on the same page of the paper, South African writer Nadine Gordimer took a counter position: "It is contemptible to read," she wrote, "that some cultured people — including a few of his fellow writers — blame the victim for the savage and evil intolerance of his persecutors: he should have known that he would cause 'offence.'"

The stepped-up pressure for censorship took another twist in July when the British Board of Film Classification banned the video of a Pakistani film, *International Guerrillas*, depicting Rushdie as a drunkard and a torturer of Muslims. The board said the three-and-a-half-hour film is libelous.

Rushdie, to his credit, didn't back the ruling, instead saying the film should be open to the public for everyone to judge for themselves whether or not it is libelous. The court decision can only make it easier to suppress free assembly and speech, which working people and other forces fighting for social justice need.

Surrogacy ruling: a setback for women's rights

BY RONI McCANN

Telling Anna Johnson she had served as a "home" for nine months to a baby boy she gave birth to in mid-September, California Judge Richard Parslow denied her request for parental rights in an October 22 ruling. He also terminated her twice-weekly visitation rights.

Johnson had signed a "surrogate mother" contract with Mark and Crispina Calvert who agreed to pay her \$10,000 plus expenses to bear a child. She was implanted with an embryo formed by the "test tube" fertilization of Crispina Calvert's egg by sperm from Mark Calvert.

In carrying the fetus for nine months, Johnson said, she had bonded with it; she gave birth to the child; and thus was

AS I SEE IT

entitled to parental rights. Earlier she filed suit against the Calverts demanding custody and damages but dropped the charges in hopes of sharing in the child's upbringing.

In his ruling Parslow declared the Calverts, not Johnson, the "genetic, biological, and natural" parents. He called Johnson a "genetic stranger" to the baby, comparing her to a foster parent who provides "care, protection, and nurture" to a child at a time when the biological mother cannot. Johnson must now "give the child to the mother, walk away, and live with it. That's the way it works."

Parslow questioned the emotional bond Johnson said she formed during her pregnancy, saying there was "substantial evidence" that she never bonded with the child "till she filed her lawsuit, if then." Mark Calvert said the only bonding Johnson has is "with the press cameras."

Later, Johnson told reporters at a news conference she plans to appeal the decision.

Parslow's ruling is a blow to working people and the fight for women's rights. Under California law the woman who gives birth to a child is the legal mother, so Johnson's request for parental rights should be granted.

"We are entering into very dangerous times if we allow this decision to stand," said Ramona Ripston, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union in Southern California, after the ruling in the Johnson trial.

In upholding the surrogacy contract the judge further legitimizes this exploitative practice. Surrogate motherhood contracts run counter to the struggle for women to control their own bodies.

Surrogacy contracts not valid

In signing a surrogate mother "contract" a woman agrees to carry a pregnancy for someone else for nine months. Varying conditions are imposed upon the woman — such as assumption of all risks and agreement not to smoke or take medicines not prescribed by the paying couple's doctor. Some agreements require an abortion at the mandate of the customers.

The woman also must agree *nine months beforehand* to surrender a child she plans to bear.

There is no way to make these contracts binding within the framework of the U.S. Constitution. They have no validity. They are similar to involuntary servitude contracts that were outlawed through the struggles of workers and farmers in the last century.

James Nelson, an associate for ethical studies at the

Hastings Center — a medical ethics research center — said Parslow's foster-parent comparison "offers an image of women as interchangeable fetal containers, and that when it comes down to it, any womb will do."

In his October ruling Parslow went so far as to suggest to the state legislature even more stringent rules that surrogate mothers should be made to follow.

He said such guidelines were necessary because "test tube" fertilization requiring the use of surrogate mothers would become more common. Many advocates of the practice speak of surrogacy contracts as the wave of the future and an advance for women's rights.

"Males can sell their semen. Why can't women as a matter of law become nine-month foster mothers by carrying another couple's child," said the Calverts' attorney, Christian Van Deusen.

No advance for women's rights

But surrogacy contracts are no advance for women's rights.

Many, such as Jan Sutton of the National Association of Surrogate Mothers, say women have the "individual right" to become surrogates. The same could be said of prostitution — it is a degrading, antiwoman institution but shouldn't women have a "right" to sell their bodies if they "want to"?

What is at stake is not the "right" to be a surrogate mother but the oppression of women under capitalist society and the best road to advancing the struggle for their equality.

Interviews with women who have been surrogate mothers show they do so for many emotional and financial reasons reflecting pressures that bear down on women in a society where they are oppressed.

Polly Craig, program administrator at the Center for Surrogate Parenting in Los Angeles, said that the average \$10,000 fee was not the most common motivation to sign a surrogacy contract. She claims that women enter into the contracts because they enjoy being pregnant, feel sympathy for childless couples, or feel remorse over a past abortion.

The facts are that this practice exploits women and the "womb-selling" business is becoming more and more lucrative.

Similar to 'Baby M' case

The questions surrounding the ruling on Johnson's parental rights are similar to those raised two years ago around what became known as the "Baby M" case.

In that case, a New Jersey judge upheld a surrogacy contract and, without proving the mother of the baby, Mary Beth Whitehead, to be unfit, took the child away and placed it in the custody of William and Elizabeth Stern.

Lawyers for the Sterns argued that Whitehead must be held to the "contract" she signed. They claimed she was unfit to raise the baby and the child would be better off with the Sterns who, unlike Whitehead and her husband, were middle-class professionals who made more money. Moreover, the lawyers claimed William Stern was the biological father of the baby and had a "right" to have "his own" child to carry on his bloodline since his relatives were killed by the Nazis in World War II.

In 1988 the New Jersey Supreme Court reversed Sorkow's ruling and declared surrogate motherhood contracts invalid and illegal in the state. Although the court ruled that Whitehead was the legal mother, it refused to turn the baby back over to her. She was granted limited visitation rights.

In light of the recent court ruling, it is useful to read or reread the Pathfinder pamphlet *Surrogate Motherhood, Women's Rights, and the Working Class* by Cindy Jaquith. Written when Jaquith was a *Militant* staff writer, the pamphlet presents the facts in the Baby M case and puts forward a clear working-class perspective. Jaquith's arguments on the reactionary character of this procedure are powerful and convincing.

'Genetic' parents

The media campaign around the recent Johnson trial has attempted to paint a picture of a situation different from the Baby M case. The *Washington Post* stated the cases are distinct because "Johnson is not genetically linked to the baby."

Parslow acknowledged Johnson's "substantial contribution" to the baby's life, but said having three "natural parents" was not "in the best interests of the child."

Parslow asserted that Johnson did not acquire the genetic rights to claim parenthood through her surrogacy.

But just who is the mother of the baby Johnson bore? How is motherhood determined and what do genes have to do with it?

Far from being different, the Johnson and Baby M cases are similar and raise similar questions regarding the rights of women and the care and protection of children.

In both instances a woman carried a pregnancy to term, gave birth to a baby, and decided to keep the child.

Under adoption law, a woman has a period of time after her baby is born to decide if she wants to put the child up for adoption, even if that is what she previously agreed to do.

In both these cases the courts — or more accurately a single judge — reached in and made a decision on who is the parent of the children involved.

But neither eggs nor sperm can be the basis for deciding who is the "mother" or "father" of a child or who has the right to bring that child up. Only one criterion conforms to the reality of the society we live in and the obligation of society to act in the best interests of the child: the woman who carries out the pregnancy, gives birth to the baby, and begins nurturing it has the right and responsibility to raise that child if she decides to do so.

The only reason the state should intervene to take her child away is if she is guilty of child abuse.

The best interests of the child and the rights of the woman who gave birth were not the starting points in the Johnson and Baby M cases. Rather, it was the idea that adults have the "right" to "their own" child who is "genetically linked" to them.

The attitude that people must have "their" child with "their" genes so they continue "their bloodline" or "family name" is deeply rooted in capitalist society. Under capitalism the welfare of the child is not the principal concern, nor are the rights of the woman who gives birth. Defending the line of inheritance is. And the working class, which has no property to pass on to its offspring, is nonetheless affected by this ruling-class ideology about the family.

But motherhood, fatherhood, and parenthood are not based on genes but on the rights and responsibilities of raising and caring for children. The obligation of the state doesn't rest in reaching in through the courts and determining parenthood based on genetics, but an obligation to guarantee that every child has protection and care.

LETTERS

Racists dealt blow

A Multnomah County jury dealt a major blow to Tom Metzger and his group, White Aryan Resistance (WAR), when it awarded \$12.5 million to the family of Mulugeta Seraw.

Seraw, a native of Ethiopia, was beaten to death by racist youth in November 1988.

Lawyers for the family charged that weeks before the murder Metzger and his son John sent three WAR "agents" to Portland, Oregon, to recruit and direct members of a racist youth group known as East Side White Pride.

One of the three, Dave Mazzella, became a chief prosecution witness and testified that under Metzger's close supervision he encouraged and aided East Side White Pride in attacking Blacks and others. Three members of the racist youth group pleaded guilty in 1989 to murdering Seraw.

The jury found that the Metzgers had assisted in Seraw's murder by sending the agents to Portland to incite and organize racist violence. Metzger claimed that he was exercising his right to free speech.

But Morris Dees, the chief attorney for the Seraw family, said, "This case is not about free speech. It is about killing an innocent man by incitement, encouragement, and

even direction of the third-highest agent" in WAR.

The day before the trial, several thousand people participated in an antiracist march. Daily protests against the racists were also held in front of the courthouse.

John Linder
Portland, Oregon

Pleased with Militant

I have been a socialist for many years and will vote for the Socialist Workers Party this November.

I would like more coverage on the *Daily News* strike and more coverage on striking peoples everywhere.

I like your newspaper and I am very pleased with it.

K.U.
Patchogue, New York

School officials back off

School administrators in Omaha, Nebraska, announced October 15 that they were canceling the implementation of a dress code until they had more time for discussion with parents, students, and teachers.

This victory for all of us and the democratic rights of youth is something that all working people need to support. Students waged a fight against the dress code, which was supposed to be designed to curb gang violence in the high schools.

Under the code, students were not allowed to wear red suspenders, bandannas, saggy pants, combat boots, or military fatigues. They could not shave patterns or letters into their hair or perform rap music in the school during breaks. One young woman was suspended for wearing a flannel shirt.

Students quickly responded by organizing to confront the school board on several occasions. They staged a walkout of hundreds at one high school, and other walkouts were planned. Some students noted racist connotations in the dress code.

One Central High student asked the board, "If a gang starts wearing three-piece suits, will you stop wearing them?"

African-American students at the university here sponsored a Freedom of Expression Dance for the high school students.

Brian Gibbs
Omaha, Nebraska

Exposes gov't tactics

I thought readers of the *Militant* would be interested in an article published in the *1967 Local Review*, the newspaper of my union, Canadian Auto Workers Local 27 at McDonnell Douglas Canada in Toronto, Ontario.

Tim Carrie, the plant chairperson

of Unit 17, wrote the article. He said that he was a soldier at an October 1974 demonstration when the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Canadian forces attacked some 200 Native protesters.

Carrie said he was struck by the lack of violence at the protest and recalled wondering, "What are we doing here?" Then the brass ordered the soldiers to attention and told them to mount bayonets on their rifles.

"Once the bayonets were placed on the end of the rifles," Carrie said, "that was when some of the Natives started throwing things at us."

"As I look back at my experience," he continued, "and compare this to the situation in Oka [the town in Québec where Mohawks recently carried out a struggle for Native rights], I know what I was doing there. I believe that we were not brought in to keep peace but were brought in to start violence."

"The government now wanted to portray the Natives as violent people. The picture of soldiers placing a knife at the end of the rifle is what started the violence and I strongly believe if this would not have happened there would have been no violence that day in October," he concluded.

Margaret Manwaring
Toronto, Ontario

Youth in the '90s

Too many young people are being turned off to unionism. Efforts to address youth issues must start now or the left will lose touch with this generation.

More and more young workers are being victimized by a society that is beginning to thrive on junk food, cheap entertainment, and cheap labor. This society is not only filling this planet with garbage, but is filling their minds and bodies with garbage.

The union movement has the ability to combine the social need to be part of society with the economic need to earn a living.

This generation will be facing the grim reality of a '90s recession. Only when youth begin to see their problems as something beyond their individual control will the union movement have the opportunity to help these youth organize themselves.

A. Paul Gill
Vancouver, British Columbia

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.

Largest steel local on strike at Canada's Stelco signs contract

Hilton workers in Hamilton settle, while other locals discuss company's offer

BY CAROLE CARON

MONTREAL — Steelworkers in Hamilton, Ontario, on strike against the Steel Company of Canada (Stelco) voted 85 percent in favor of accepting a new 3-year contract November 3. Seven union locals comprising some 3,000 steelworkers in the Stelco chain are still out in Ontario, Québec, and Alberta.

Members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) struck the company August 1 to defend their cost-of-living allowance (COLA), win indexing of pensions to increases in the cost of living, stop contracting out of work, and maintain the chain bargaining that has united Stelco workers across the country in face of the company's attacks on their wages, benefits, and working conditions.

Right from the beginning of the strike, the company tried to break the chain by seeking separate contracts with each of the USWA locals across the country. Steelworkers saw this as an attempt to weaken their union.

The settlement at the Hilton Works in Hamilton, where 6,800 members of USWA Local 1005 work, includes an 85 cent-an-hour wage increase over three years. The pact maintains the COLA formula previously won by the union. The union was also able to win "the first agreement in the steel industry to index pensions" as explained in a pamphlet put out by Local 1005 on the settlement. The contract also has a clause limiting contracting out.

In addition, the union agreed to the Income Sharing Plan — a form of bonus linked to the company's profit levels. Stelco, however, announced it only planned to call back 400 workers immediately and possibly 1,600 by the end of December. Other steelworkers will remain on indefinite layoff.

At a union meeting held October 31 prior to the ratification vote, a discussion broke out on whether a settlement by Local 1005, before the other locals had settled, would break the chain.

John Martin, president of Local 1005, argued the chain was not at stake. He maintained that Stelco was on the verge of negotiating similar settlements with the other locals. Don Fraser, one of the union negotiators, disagreed and insisted that signing the agreement amounted to a major blow against the smaller locals.

Strikers from Stelco's Parkdale plant in Hamilton stood at the gates outside Local

1005's union hall appealing for solidarity as workers at the Hilton Works decided on the new contract. They explained that many strikers they spoke to were unclear about the implications of an agreement by Local 1005 prior to a settlement with all the locals.

"Although Local 1005 has settled the fight is not over," Michel Dugré explained to a Montréal election campaign rally that night. "There are still 9,000 steelworkers out fighting for their rights — 3,000 Stelco strikers and 6,000 at Algoma Steel in northern Ontario. Building solidarity with these workers in their fight against concessions and in defense of their union is more necessary than ever."

Dugré was the Communist League candidate for mayor in the Montréal municipal elections, and is a member of USWA Local 7625. He made solidarity with the Stelco and Algoma strikers, as well as those at Eastern Airlines, a central theme of his campaign, walking their picket lines in both Québec and Ontario.

As of November 6, the Steelworkers local at Stelco's plant in Contrecoeur, Québec, voted to accept a company offer and return to work. All other union locals are either discussing whether to accept the company's latest offer or are in negotiations.



Steelworkers at Stelco plant in Hamilton, Ontario. USWA members struck the company on August 1 to defend their standard of living and maintain chain bargaining that has united Stelco workers across the country in previous negotiations.

Workers occupy plant in Greece

BY BOBBIS MISAILIDES

THESSALONÍKI, Greece — Peraikí Patraiki, a state-owned textile plant, has been occupied by a majority of its work force of 2,000 since September 27. Located in Patras, the third-largest city in Greece, it is the biggest textile plant in the country.

The occupation began after the government threatened to shut down the plant two months into a strike, which started July 27 when the company fired 605 workers. The government wants to bust the union and sell the factory to private owners.

"Either all of us or none of us" has become the strikers' battle cry, referring to their demand that all workers be rehired. Another slogan on strike banners is "Come and get it."

Hundreds of strikers stay overnight at a union camp in the plant's courtyard. Committees have been organized for the distribution of food and clothing, for cooking and strike defense.

For over three months the Peraikí Patraiki Workers Union — which organizes the workers at the plant — has led mass mobilizations in Patras in support of the strike. Several thousand women participated in a solidarity march in September, and the union continues to receive regular donations of food and money from the labor movement. The textile workers have in turn helped other strikers by walking their picket lines and defending them against cop attacks.

On October 2, the cops surrounded the

plant with the stated intention of attacking the strikers if they did not end the occupation. The union appealed for support through a radio station set up in the factory, and 40,000 workers, students, and other supporters showed up at the picket line and formed a giant human wall. The police backed off.

The government of Constantinos Mitsotakis still refuses to give in on the strikers' major demand of rehiring all the fired workers.

The resistance the government confronts in Patras is a serious challenge to its policy of privatizing state-owned industries, cutting the work force by massive firings, and instituting part-time work.

The events in Patras are part of a generalized attack on the rights, working conditions, and living standards of workers here by the government and the bosses. Inflation has reached around 30 percent, and unemployment is approaching 10 percent. In the middle of the deepening economic crisis, the Mitsotakis government reduced the national cost-of-living-adjustment plan to a limit of 15 percent and announced it wants to eliminate it next year. It also severely cut health benefits, increased the age limit for retirement, and began to lay off 40,000 workers in the state sector.

Working people have responded with a number of strikes, culminating in three 48-hour general strikes that brought the country to a standstill in September. The government declared most of these strikes illegal and used special police units to crush some of them. At the Olympic Airways Catering Section, 60 workers were hospitalized and 30 were arrested on October 4 after a brutal cop attack on their picket line. Faced with this repression, the leadership of union after union retreated, giving in to concession demands by the government, and the strike wave ended. The textile workers in Patras are fighting alone at this point.

Messages of solidarity can be sent to "Peraikí Patraiki Workers Union," Kolokotroni 20, Patras, Greece.

Latinos speak out against cop attack

BY PATRICIA RINCON AND HÉCTOR MARROQUÍN

DES MOINES, Iowa — Three Latinos, victims of a racist police attack, went to trial here October 18 facing false charges of assaulting police officers, disorderly conduct, interference with the police, trespassing, and other allegations fabricated by the cops.

The charges were filed by the police after they beat up, maced, and terrorized dozens of people attending an August 25 social and dance at the United Mexican Community Center. According to at least two dozen witnesses who were willing to testify on behalf of the victims, the cop assault was totally unprovoked and extremely violent.

Luis Noboa, Oscar Araujo, and Patricia Rincon, among the most seriously battered victims, were among those charged.

In the courtroom, supporters of the cops included members of the Hispanic Legion of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, who came in their uniforms and hats. Also with the cops and the Legion members was Joe Gonzalez,

Victims of Des Moines police assault expose racist treatment

a Mexican-American police officer notorious for police brutality. Gonzalez was involved in the frame-up against union and political activist Mark Curtis.

Relatives and friends of Rincon, Noboa, and Araujo attended in support of the victims of the attack. Also attending were John Studer, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, and Héctor Marroquín, who belongs to the same local of the International Association of Machinists as Patricia's husband, Jesse.

In an interview, the three defendants and Jesse Rincon described events leading up to the trial and their fight against the racist treatment meted out by the cops.

Like tens of thousands of working people

in Iowa and around the country, Noboa, Araujo, and Rincon were dragged into court, charged with numerous crimes they never committed, and subjected to intense pressure — from legal costs to the threat of serving time in jail from falsified police testimony — to plea bargain.

"I felt as if some thug offered to beat you up while being handcuffed and offered to hit you two instead of four times," said Rincon. "In the situation we faced, it seemed as if we had no choice other than accept the lesser number of blows. At first I thought we probably were stupid, but in thinking about it I realized that was not the case. Like most common people, we did not understand the law, the court system, and how it all works. We did not fully comprehend what we were agreeing to."

Faced with four counts, Rincon and Noboa pleaded guilty to two. Araujo, who faced two counts, pleaded guilty to one.

"I wanted justice to be done, to win our

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