

British, Canadian protests hit war drive

BY MARCELLA FITZGERALD

LONDON — In the largest protest to date against the accelerating preparations for an imperialist war in the Middle East, 6,000 people marched through the city here November 24 — two days after the British government announced it would double its military forces in the Arab-Persian Gulf region.

"No to war in the Gulf!" and "No blood for oil!" were the main slogans of the protest. Some contingents called for "U.S. and Britain out of the Gulf!" while other marchers made their own placards: "Not in my name!" and "Negotiate now!"

Despite cold weather, the mood of the demonstration reflected the jubilation with which many working people greeted the resignation of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher November 22. "It was the miners who led the way" in opposing the policies of the government over the past decade, said Tony Benn, a Labour Party member of Parliament at the rally following the march.

Bruce Kent, representing the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), also spoke at the rally. He compared the reaction to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait by the U.S. government and other countries with their lack of any response to the occupation of East Timor by the Indonesian government in 1975. Dur-

Continued on Page 5

UN resolution approves U.S.-led war in Mideast

BY SELVA NEBBIA

Giving a green light to Washington's unleashing of its massive military force against Iraq, the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council agreed on a resolution November 26 authorizing "all necessary means to restore international peace and security in the area."

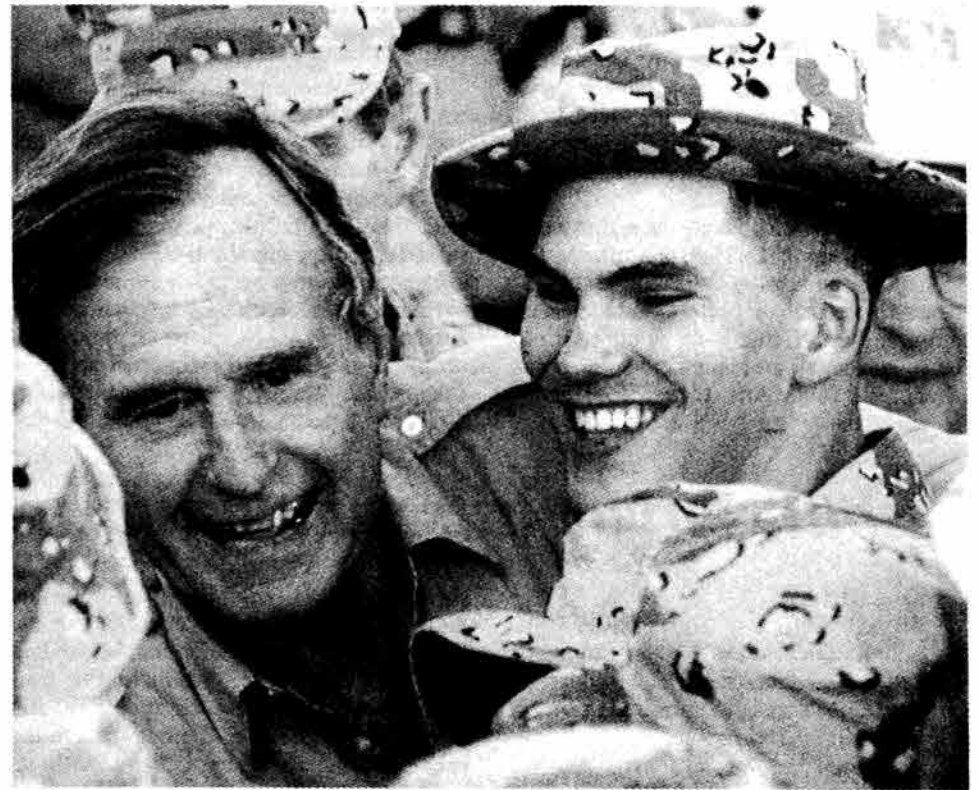
Britain, France, China, the Soviet Union, and the United States — the five permanent members of the body, which hold exclusive veto power — set a January 15 deadline for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to withdraw his forces from Kuwait.

Neither giving the UN even a fig-leaf command over the operation nor imposing any restriction on the scope of the military action, the draft document "requests" that the "member states cooperating with the government of Kuwait keep the council regularly informed on the progress of the actions undertaken." (See text of resolution on page 4.)

U.S. officials say they expect a large majority of the 15-member Security Council to vote in favor of the resolution in a session scheduled for November 29.

Seven of the 10 rotating members of the council — Canada, Finland, Romania, Colombia, Zaire, Ethiopia, and the Ivory Coast

Continued on Page 4



President George Bush meeting with U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia November 22

Board turns down Curtis parole bid

BY CHRIS REMPLE

FORT MADISON, Iowa — The Iowa State Board of Parole held its second annual hearing November 20 to consider Mark Curtis' request for parole. At the conclusion

of the hearing, the board unanimously refused to grant his release. Curtis has already served 26 months of a 25-year sentence on frame-up rape and burglary charges.

An international campaign pressing for the

unionist and political activist's release was mounted in the weeks prior to the hearing. Some 220 letters and messages supporting his parole arrived at the Mark Curtis Defense Committee office in Des Moines, Iowa. The letters came from across the United States and from Australia, Britain, Canada, Denmark, France, New Zealand, Peru, and Sweden.

On November 14 a delegation of 30 supporters met with parole board Chairman Walter Saur and board member Robert Jackson. The delegation expressed their support for Curtis' release and presented Saur and Jackson with the letters and messages.

Some 70 union leaders, civil and women's rights figures, and supporters of human rights requested prison authorities allow them to attend the parole hearing. Prison officials initially attempted to severely limit attendance, but eventually backed down and allowed in nine of Curtis' family members and supporters.

Those who attended the parole hearing included the unionist's parents, Jane and Stan Curtis; his wife, Kate Kaku; United Auto Workers Local 270 Secretary John Oldham; Larry Ginter, a leader of Iowa American Agriculture Movement, Inc.; Chris Nisan, director of the African Student Organization at the University of Minnesota; John Studer, coordinator of the Curtis defense committee; and Nan Bailey, a defense committee supporter.

The state penitentiary CERT squad — the Control Emergency Riot Team — greeted those who arrived for the parole hearing. Wearing camouflage pants, black leather jackets, combat boots, and caps with the CERT insignia, the squad of prison guards had observers empty their pockets and conducted a search with metal detectors before allowing them to enter the hearing room.

Three members of the parole board, including Saur, presided over the hearing. The session was held in the prison visitors' room, which can accommodate up to 30 people.

Another family was already in the room waiting for the parole board to call a relative incarcerated at the prison. They found out later, however, that the hearing for their relative had been held before they arrived.

The parole board is charged with weighing several factors in determining whether to

Continued on Page 11

'Cuba at UN' book is vital tool for workers

BY GREG McCARTAN

With each passing day, the new Pathfinder book, *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*, becomes a more valuable tool for working people, GIs, veterans, farmers, and others opposed to Washington's accelerating drive to war in the Mideast.

Also available in Spanish, each page of the book provides the facts, background, and arguments needed to educate and arm working people to effectively win others to campaign against the U.S.-led imperialist war preparations.

At a November 24 antiwar protest in London, unionists who are supporters of Pathfinder and the *Militant* sold 35 copies of the new book to participants in the demonstration.

"We made a big effort to show the book to as many people as possible, hawking them from literature tables," said Marcella Fitzgerald. "People would see the book, stop, and come back to find out about it. A lot of people were open to finding out about the role Cuba has played in speaking out against the mounting war threat."

Statements by Cuban Ambassador to the UN Ricardo Alarcon and Cuban President Fidel Castro since the crisis began to unfold August 2 are featured in the book, along with each UN Security Council resolution adopted on the crisis.

Alarcon and Castro's statements powerfully explain the stakes for humanity in mobilizing opposition to Washington's war aims against Iraq.

While explaining why the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is a violation of national sovereignty and calling on Hussein to withdraw his forces, the Cuban leaders do not flinch from their course of winning the broadest possible condemnation of the accelerating preparations for a massive and bloody war

of imperial conquest in the region.

"All those concerned about the accelerating buildup of this U.S.-organized death machine have a stake in explaining the truth about Washington's real aims and in mobilizing the weightiest possible social forces to oppose the impending war," writes Mary-

Alice Waters in the introduction to the book.

"Washington's true strategic objective... has become clearer with each passing day. The desired prize is an Iraqi protectorate, beholden to the U.S. government and the oil interests it represents," Waters says.

Continued on Page 7

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A new book, *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!*, also available in Spanish as *¡EE.UU. fuera del Oriente Medio!*, is an irreplaceable tool in the fight against the accelerating U.S.-organized drive toward war. Unionists, GIs, veterans, reservists, and other workers involved in struggles against the employers' offensive at home can use the facts and arguments it contains to arm themselves and help convince others to join in campaigning against the coming slaughter being prepared by the same employers, through their government, in the Mideast.

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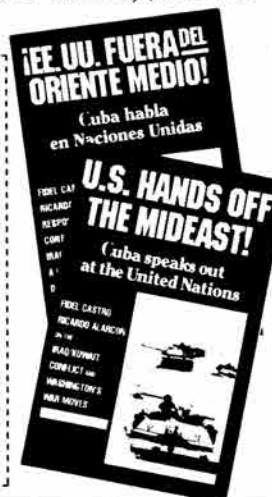
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Students in New York tour S. Africa youths

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

NEW YORK — Two leaders of the South African Youth Congress (Sayco), Brian Thami Hlongwa and Mpho Lekgoro, kicked off the New York leg of their 12-city Free South Africa Youth to Youth Tour here on November 17, giving a keynote address at a student conference of 500 at Martin Luther King, Jr., High School.

Organized by Youth Force, a citywide organization primarily for high school students, the day of workshops and discussion on a wide variety of topics was dedicated to the fighting youth of South Africa.

Campus meetings for the tour were also organized at the State University of New York in Albany, Vassar College, Bard College, and Brooklyn College. At each event the two Sayco leaders were able to arm anti-apartheid activists with the facts about the continued struggle against the system of apartheid and for a nonracial, democratic South Africa.

On November 20 Hlongwa addressed a citywide meeting at Hunter College. He opened his remarks by appealing to the audience to step up their efforts in defense of anti-apartheid fighters in South Africa. Sayco, the largest anti-apartheid youth organization in South Africa, has come under violent attack by the government recently.

"On September 27 the general secretary of our organization, Rapu Molekane, was shot by the South African police and placed under arrest," Hlongwa said. "And today, when we phoned to South Africa, we learned that an assistant treasurer of Sayco has been killed."

"South Africa today is at a crossroads," he said. "Everything that has been won, has been won by the struggling masses. Hundreds of thousands have lost life and limb to bring us to this point, winning the legalization of the African National Congress (ANC) and the release of some of the political prisoners. We wish to take the opportunity to salute the international community, whose help has been vital in this effort."

Negotiation process

In his presentation to the meeting, Hlongwa described the negotiation process under way in South Africa. "Over the past three months, there have been talks about talks."

"The ANC has a clear set of demands," he said. "The 3,000 political prisoners still in jail must be freed, including those under death sentence. All those in exile must be allowed to return. And all repressive legislation must be scrapped. The ANC wants to remove all obstacles to a free and full participation in finding a resolution for South Africa."

Hlongwa pointed out that the ANC has



Militant/Yvonne Hayes

South African Youth Congress leaders Mpho Lekgoro (left) and Brian Thami Hlongwa kicked off New York leg of their 12-city tour November 17. Activities helped arm anti-apartheid activists with the facts about their fight.

had to drop plans for a December 16 full representative conference inside South Africa — its first such meeting since being banned in the early 1960s — because of barriers on participation by those currently in exile that have been imposed by the South African government.

Hlongwa explained that the ANC decided to suspend the armed struggle against the apartheid regime because "the South African government, the United States, and Britain have all raised this issue as a reason to delay negotiations. So the ANC decided, of its own free will, to go around this maneuver. We are going to temporarily halt actual fighting, while keeping our army intact. At the same time," he added, "we want to clearly say the South African people must have the right to defend themselves against attack."

Hlongwa also focused on the issue of "Black on Black" violence. The violence in townships and rural areas in South Africa "has cost the lives of thousands of people and is designed to undercut the ANC's call for one person, one vote," he said.

"It is a campaign set up by the government to buy support for the homelands, to convince people that differences within our people rule out a unified, democratic South Africa," the youth leader said.

"The government utilizes groups like Inkatha to ensure that the ANC and others can't fully utilize their legalization. All evidence against these groups is dismissed in court."

"The ANC," Hlongwa pointed out, "is an organization incorporating peoples who speak various languages, including Zulu. We come from different places and have different backgrounds. And we attempt to ensure the

existence of other groups so that they continue to exist as alternatives. All anti-apartheid organizations have suffered from government repression, and we are opposed to that."

"The ANC," he continued, "believes that the two most important issues that the South African people must take up today are the demand for a constituent assembly and the formation of an interim government. All groups with proven constituencies should assemble to draw up a new constitution."

"We must have an interim government," Hlongwa said, "because we know that the South African regime never honors any agreement."

During the discussion period, Hlongwa expanded his remarks on these two issues. "The ANC respects the autonomy of other groups," he said. "That is not the issue. The issue is transfer of power."

"Some organizations have raised the demand that there must be a transfer of land ownership before there can be negotiations," Hlongwa said. "If land ownership was transferred to the people, we don't know what we would be negotiating about."

"But we think these groups are entitled to their view. Many organizations will lead the struggle, and the people of South Africa as a whole will decide their history," he said.

Greetings given at the Hunter meeting included messages from Dorothy Benz of the New York Labor Committee Against Apartheid, Joyce Duncan from the Nelson Mandela Reception Committee, Rob Nissonoff of the Hunter Student Coalition Against U.S. Intervention in the Middle East, and Dan McFee, a pressman on strike against the New York Daily News newspaper company.

Cuban envoy hits war buildup

BY K.C. ELLIS

PHILADELPHIA — Cuban envoy Clinton Adlum criticized the U.S. government's war buildup in the Arab-Persian Gulf and defended Cuba's socialist course at a meeting here attended by 100 people.

Adlum, first secretary of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C., was invited to speak on "Cuba in Today's World," sponsored by the U.S. Hands Off Cuba Coalition. The event was endorsed by a dozen political activists and organizations.

Adlum, noting that Washington continues a massive military buildup in the Middle East, cited examples of the U.S. government's aggression against weaker nations, including Grenada and Panama. He rejected the notion that concerns about national sovereignty play any part in the U.S.-led war drive.

"Cuba is against the use of force by any country against any country," said Adlum. He explained that Cuba is against the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the military buildup led by Washington.

Adlum also discussed some of the big changes that have taken place in the world,

such as the shake-up in Eastern Europe and the social and economic crisis facing the Soviet Union. He explained that in building socialism, Cubans are "attempting to construct a better, more democratic society" and that there is no chance of going back to the previous system of capitalism, with its "grinding poverty, inferior health care, and education for a wealthy few."

The Cuban leader explained that building socialism is at root "an ideological and political struggle." For Cubans, "there can be no going back," he said. "We have struggled too long to give up what we have achieved."

During the discussion period following the meeting, African National Congress representative Godfrey Sithole applauded the Cuban people for the work they have done in support of the struggling people in southern Africa.

He explained that the reason the South African apartheid government and the ANC could engage in negotiations now is due to the defeat of the South African invasion of Angola in 1988 at Cuito Cuanavale. Cuban internationalist volunteers played a decisive role in defending Angolan sovereignty.

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Farmers hold strategy summit

Discuss crisis facing family farms, U.S. war buildup

BY CRAIG HONTS

KANSAS CITY, Missouri—Farmers and farm activists from 16 states attended a Rural Strategy Summit here November 9–10. They discussed how to organize a fight to meet the deepening crisis facing family farmers. They also discussed the U.S. war buildup in the Middle East.

Members of the American Agriculture Movement, North American Farm Alliance, National Farmers Union, National Farmers Organization, and National Family Farm Coalition, as well as activists in unions, religious organizations, and rural coalitions, turned out for the meeting.

One of the main topics of discussion was the severe attacks on the ability of farmers to survive contained in the 1990 Farm Bill. In addition, participants pointed to the economic crunch being felt by farmers as fuel prices skyrocket and prices for corn, wheat, and other crops decline.

It is estimated that the Farm Bill will result in a 25 percent cut in farmers' net income and billions of dollars in lost farm assets. Returns per acre will fall \$39 for corn, \$25 for wheat, and \$10 for soybeans, according to one study cited at the conference. Loans by the Farmers Home Administration will also be cut in half, ruining many smaller-scale farmers who rely on these loans as their only access to credit.

Debate on war drive

In the first session of the conference, a majority of the groups in attendance addressed the U.S. war moves in the Middle East as a major concern that needed to be discussed further during the meeting. A poll taken half way through the summit, ranking the 12 most pressing issues today, found that most participants thought the threat of war was one of the top three concerns farmers face.

At one point a sharp discussion broke out over a proposal to send a letter to U.S. President George Bush in the name of the summit opposing the war buildup and pledging the participation of farmers in antiwar

demonstrations. The motion to send the letter was passed after being amended to have each of the participating groups decide on their own whether or not to adopt an antiwar stand.

"Your move toward war has a potential to kill tens of thousands of young men and women on both sides of the conflict," the letter to Bush said. "It will cause poverty, hunger, and starvation in the underdeveloped world such as the world has never seen."

"We call on you to withdraw from the military buildup and bring the debate back to the people to decide a more peaceful solution," it demanded.

Some farmers noted the burden of war falls most heavily on those that work the land. One participant pointed out that rural youth will die in numbers out of proportion to the rest of the population.

Rising costs for farmers

Soaring fuel prices have also hit farmers severely. One combine, for instance, can use 100 gallons of fuel a day during harvest. Dryers used to reduce the moisture content of corn and soybeans before storage also require fuel.

The costs to farmers for other farm inputs like fertilizers and pesticides also rise since they are made from large amounts of petroleum.

One report, publicized at the conference by the Minnesota Farmers Union, showed that with fuel prices expected to average above \$30 a barrel in 1991, production costs are expected to rise \$10 an acre for wheat and soybeans and \$25 an acre for corn.

Falling crop prices

Meanwhile, the price farmers are receiving for many crops is dropping. A wheat farmer from North Dakota pointed out he was getting about \$2.20 a bushel now—at least \$1 a bushel less than last year and the lowest price in five years. Dairy farmers are also facing a dramatic drop in what they get for milk.

At the conclusion of the meeting, summit

chairperson Merle Hansen, president of the North American Farm Alliance, said, "We're fighting for our survival against an onslaught that seems to be coming from all sides. We're fighting the Republicans, the Democrats, the weather, the multinational grain shippers, our own U.S. trade negotiators, and skyrocketing fuel prices."

"To make matters worse," Hansen said, "when we look to our secretary of agriculture, Mr. Yentler, to help improve the health of rural America, what we really have is the family farm funeral director."

Summing up, the farm leader said, "We have two choices—we can give up or fight back. We're going to fight. It's an economic struggle that we each fight individually, but it's also a political fight that we all have to undertake together."

Summit participants discussed holding a farmers' demonstration in Washington, D.C., next March, organizing it as a "pickup-cade." A round of farm protests in the 1970s and 1980s featured "tractorcades" of farmers driving their tractors. The conference made a special point of inviting farm worker unions to participate in the demonstration, as well as other unions, church groups, and organizations.

At the end of the meeting, 60 farmers joined the picket line of striking Eastern Machinists at the Kansas City airport. The farmers picketed the Eastern terminal for half an



Militant/Holbrook Mahn
North American Farm Alliance President Merle Hansen chaired the Missouri meeting.

hour before police arrived to enforce a court order limiting the number of pickets to three.

Many farmers were proud to join their first picket line of striking workers. One noted, "This picket line is only the symbol for how farmers and labor need to stand together to withstand the devastating conditions we will both be facing in the coming months and years."

HANDS OFF THE MIDEAST!

Campaigning worldwide against the imperialist war drive

Working people — in and out of uniform — have been discussing and debating the accelerating buildup for an imperialist war in the Mideast led by the governments of the United States, Britain, Canada, France, and Australia. In factories, mines, mills, on warships, and among those now stationed in Saudi Arabia, workers and farmers have discussed and expressed opposition to the massive military buildup aimed at the Iraqi people.

Rallies, marches, and conferences are being held with broad participation, especially from youth; action coalitions are being formed in cities around the world; veterans, GIs, and reservists are speaking out; antiwar buttons are being worn at work; and more antiwar actions are being planned. We encourage readers to contribute items to this column that will help campaign against and build visible opposition to the war preparations.

BROOKLYN, New York — More than 80 people, the majority of whom were Black, attended a meeting here November 18 to discuss the U.S.-led war drive and its impact on Blacks and others. The event was sponsored by the Black Veterans for Social Justice (BVSJ).

BVSJ President Job Mashariki opened the program, which featured a panel of speakers. Many participants at the event were veterans or were currently enlisted in the armed forces. Two resisters spoke and received a warm response. Renald Jean-Baptiste, who is from Haiti and is a member of the U.S. Air Force Reserve, explained that he thought he was doing a good thing when he joined the reserves. But when he was forced to confront racism in the military, he concluded that the impending war in the Arab-Persian Gulf was not his war. He urged all those present to defend soldiers who are resisting.

Another resister, Emanuel Stanley, described himself as a conscientious objector. "I'm conscious of what they have been doing the last forty years, fighting people of color around the world, and I object to what they're doing now," he said.

CINCINNATI — On Saturday, No-

vember 17, 120 people participated in a teach-in here at the University of Cincinnati. Six workshops featured discussions on the U.S. government's role in the Middle East, the role of the United Nations, the war at home, and the need to organize. There was standing room only for a closing panel discussion with several professors and political activists. The event was organized by the Cincinnati Area Coalition Against U.S. Intervention in the Middle East.

PORTLAND, Oregon — A Veterans Day candlelight vigil to protest the U.S. military buildup drew more than 300 people here November 11. The event was sponsored by a local antiwar coalition and received media coverage in area newspapers.

NEW YORK — Chanting "Hands off Sam! No war in the Middle East!" 300 students rallied here at the New School for Social Research November 13 in support of Sam Lwin, a Marine Corps reservist who has refused to serve in Saudi Arabia. Two days later a bus load of protesters accompanied Lwin to Fort Schuyler in the Bronx. They were warmly received by many reservists there who raised their fists in support of the demonstrators. Later, a counterprotest was organized by reservists who support the war drive.

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Some 200 protesters demonstrated against the imperialist war drive here on November 17. The event was organized by peace groups and the youth organizations of most of the political parties in parliament. The protesters marched to the Iraqi and U.S. embassies where they handed over a statement demanding Iraq withdraw from Kuwait and that no war be fought under the UN flag.

Al Duncan and Deborah Liatos from New York; Floyd Fowler from Portland, Oregon; Barbro Davidson from Stockholm; and Val Libby from Cincinnati contributed to this week's column.

Chicago socialist candidate pledges to tell truth on Gulf

CHICAGO — Announcing his campaign for mayor here, Socialist Workers Party candidate James Mac Warren pledged that he and his supporters will tell the truth about the U.S.-organized drive toward war in the Mideast. "The U.S. government has brought the world to the brink of a devastating war for Big Oil, in which many thousands of working people will die," Warren said at a November 27 press conference.

Warren explained the massive military deployment by the United States and its allies shows that they intend to "invade Iraq, smash the Iraqi army, and establish a protectorate run by the imperialist powers. Carrying out this plan will mean an immense spilling of blood on both sides. We believe this war is the central political issue facing working people in Chicago, in this country, and around the world," Warren pointed out, urging participation in a December 8 antiwar action in Chicago.

Warren, 38 years old and a member of the United Steelworkers of America, said his campaign "will explain that the U.S. foreign policy of war is the extension of the war they have been waging against working people right here — a war resulting in a declining standard of living, more and more dangerous working conditions, union-busting, and poverty, which will only worsen with the coming economic crisis. The same ruling class that exploits us here at home intends to use us as cannon fodder to protect their interests in the Mideast."

Warren said his campaign will advance a program to unify working people worldwide in the face of the coming crisis, central to which is fighting to cancel the Third World debt, shorten the workweek, and enforce affirmative action.

SWP candidate for Chicago city clerk Estelle DeBates, 30, and Eric Matheis, 26 years old and the party candidate for city treasurer, were also introduced. De-

Bates is a member of International Association of Machinists District 8 and is the chairperson of the SWP in Chicago. Matheis, who is currently unemployed, is the chairperson of the Young Socialist Alliance and is active in building antiwar protests in the area.

To be on the April 2 ballot, a drive to collect 30,000 signatures toward fulfillment of the 25,000-signature requirement will begin December 1 and run through January 20.

"The high signature requirement is aimed at keeping working-class candidates off the ballot," Warren declared. "Running candidates who will speak out clearly against the war at home and the war abroad is especially important now when the ruling families will attempt to close down the space for discussion and action against their policies."

"Our campaign will also demand: 'Let the people vote on war.' When working people are told to fight and die in a war, it is our right to discuss, debate, and decide. Their policy of war cannot stand the light of reasoned debate and discussion."

The Democratic, Republican, Harold Washington, and Illinois Solidarity parties have slots on the ballot and are not required to petition. Mayor Richard Daley, former mayor Jane Byrne, and Alderman Danny Davis are running in the Democratic mayoral primary. Davis was selected by a forum of Black leaders as a "consensus African-American candidate" on November 20. The Harold Washington Party announced that it will hold its own separate mayoral primary, but will withdraw its candidates if Davis wins the Democratic primary. The Republican Party and the Illinois Solidarity Party have made no announcement yet.

Supporters throughout the area are gearing up to participate in the drive to collect the signatures. Volunteers can join the effort by calling (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018.

UN draft approves U.S.-led Mideast war

Continued from front page

— have all indicated they will back Washington. The U.S. government does not expect to win support from the government representatives of Cuba and Yemen, who have abstained on or voted against a number of previous U.S.-backed resolutions.

This diplomatic victory for the U.S. government comes after an uninterrupted military buildup in the Mideast since the August 2 invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi military forces. As it deployed tens of thousands of ground troops, tanks, artillery, advanced missiles, warships, bombers, fighter planes, and nuclear submarines in the region, the U.S. government used successive resolutions in the Security Council as a cover for preparing an imperialist war of aggression against the Iraqi people.

The expected adoption of the new war resolution follows an intense round of talks between U.S. President George Bush and top officials of other imperialist countries allied with the United States in the accelerating war drive. The effort included visits by Secretary of State James Baker with representatives of most countries that are members of the Security Council.

Britain doubles forces

British Defense Minister Thomas King announced November 22 that 14,000 more British troops, and additional tanks, aircraft, and ships would be deployed to the Gulf region. This would bring British troop strength to 30,000 by the end of the year,



Some 40 percent of active-duty U.S. military forces are now in the Gulf.

almost doubling the British forces in the region. (See article on page 9.)

"The time is fast approaching," said outgoing British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on the same day, "when the world community will have to take more decisive action to uphold international law and compel Saddam Hussein to leave Kuwait."

Weekly chronology of U.S.-led war buildup in the Mideast

November 16 — Washington orders more than 15,000 reservists to report for active duty and announces that 12,000 more, including the first combat reservists, will be activated within a few days. In an interview Bush asserts that Iraq will soon have nuclear weapons. This, he says, along with destroying Iraq's chemical weapons, are central reasons to go to war.

November 17 — Secretary of State James Baker travels to Europe to begin meetings with representatives of governments of countries in the 15-member UN Security Council. President George Bush and Baker start rounds of meetings to win support for a draft resolution authorizing the use of military force against Iraq.

November 19 — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein announces Iraq will dispatch 250,000 more troops to Kuwait. Some 150,000 of those deployed will be reservists.

November 20 — Forty-five House Democrats file lawsuit to bar President Bush from taking offensive action against Iraq without

obtaining a Congressional declaration of war "or other explicit authority from Congress."

November 22 — President George Bush arrives in Saudi Arabia on a Thanksgiving tour of U.S. troops stationed there. "We won't pull punches," he said at a marine outpost near the Kuwaiti border. "We are not here on some exercise. This is a real world situation. And we are not walking away until the invader is out of Kuwait."

Britain's Defense Minister Thomas King announces 14,000 more British troops and additional tanks, aircraft and ships will be sent to the Gulf, bringing the total number of British troops there to 30,000 by the end of the year. King said the new deployment "is the clearest possible message to Saddam Hussein that there is a credible military option."

Baker meets with President Ali Abdullah Saleh of Yemen to persuade his government to support a UN resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq. Yemen is the only Arab country on the Security Council.

November 23 — Defense Secretary Richard Cheney signs order giving the U.S. Army authority to freeze departures of officers and enlisted personnel from the service, thus extending the time of service of enlisted personnel.

Bush meets with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo.

Bush meets with President Hafez al-Assad of Syria in Switzerland.

Bush asks its NATO allies for the loan of ships and aircraft to move military personnel and equipment to the Gulf.

Baker meets with Colombian Foreign Minister Luis Jaramillo in Bogota. Columbia is currently seated on the Security Council.

November 24 — Baker meets with the Foreign Minister of Malaysia — a member of the UN Security Council — in Los Angeles.

November 26 — The five permanent members of the Security Council — Britain, China, France, the United States, and the Soviet Union — agree on a draft resolution authorizing "all necessary means" be utilized against Iraq. Giving a green light to an invasion of Iraq by mid-January, the resolution will be presented to the full council November 29.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev warns Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz that Iraq faces a "tough" UN resolution if forces are not withdrawn from Kuwait and adds that "Time is running out."

Thatcher was speaking a few hours after she announced her resignation as head of the government.

Stepping up his pressure on Hussein, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, in a speech before the Supreme Soviet on November 26, told legislators that the united front against Iraq must be maintained. Gorbachev said Moscow would continue to act in unison with the United States and other countries to keep up the pressure on Iraq.

Gorbachev told Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz that Iraq faced a "tough" UN resolution if it did not withdraw its troops from Kuwait soon.

"The fate of Iraq is in the hands of its leadership. Time is running out," he told the Iraqi minister.

For the first time referring to Soviet citizens held in Iraq as "hostages", the Soviet news agency Tass said that Aziz "was firmly told that if Iraq really wants a settlement in the entire region and seeks to avoid the worst, it must now openly declare and show by its actions that it is leaving Kuwait, freeing hostages, and in general is not preventing any foreigners from leaving Iraq."

Seeking support for war

Washington's campaign over the last weeks of November to win backing for launching a war was coupled with efforts to build support among U.S. troops stationed in and around Saudi Arabia and among working people in the United States.

"We won't pull punches," said Bush to U.S. GIs at a marine outpost near the border of Kuwait on November 22. "We are not here on some exercise. This is a real world situation, and we are not walking away until the invader is out of Kuwait." He added, "That may be where you come in."

By January the United States will have deployed more military personnel in the Middle East than it had in Europe during World War II. About 40 percent of Washington's 720,000 active-duty army men and women are in or on their way to the Arab-Persian Gulf region.

"There are three key reasons why we're here with our UN allies, making a stand in defense of freedom," Bush told the troops. "We are here to protect freedom; we're here to protect our future; and we're here to protect innocent life."

Bush told the troops that a war with Iraq "won't be another Vietnam." He claimed that by using all the firepower at their disposal, the U.S.-led forces could quickly defeat the Iraqi army.

"No one knows precisely when this dictator may acquire atomic weapons or who they may be aimed at down the road," said Bush, claiming Iraq has the capabilities to amass a nuclear arsenal. "But we do know this for sure: He has never possessed a weapon that he hasn't used."

The U.S. government is the only government that has used nuclear weapons. In 1945, at the end of World War II, Washington dropped the weapons on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing more than 200,000 and causing tremendous devastation to both cities.

Interviews with GIs stationed in Saudi Arabia demonstrated that Bush has made progress in his prowar efforts. Expressing how she felt about Bush's visit, Sgt. Susan Vanvactor said, "It's nice to have our leader come and tell us person to person what we are doing here."

"It was pretty good for him to come on over," said Senior Airman Dereck Thomas. "I mean he's come over here and shown it's more important than golf."

Many soldiers said it would be better to "do it and get it over with," than remain for an indefinite period of time on the front lines.

Several soldiers said Bush "had failed to answer the questions that concern them the most: how long they will be here and whether they will go to war," reported the *New York Times* November 23.

"I'm all for him; I support the president," said Chief Warrant Officer Jim Gilfone. "But, well, yes, I would like to know how long we're going to be here."

Following his meeting with U.S. troops stationed in Saudi Arabia, Bush met with two of his allies in the region. On November 23 he flew to Cairo to meet with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. With 20,000 troops deployed in the Mideast, Egypt is one of 30 countries with forces deployed in the

region facing the Iraqi army.

Bush's next stop was in Switzerland, where he met with Syrian President Hafez al-Assad, the first such meeting in 13 years. Syria has 19,000 troops deployed in the region in addition to 50,000 troops on the Iraqi border.

Freeze on army retirements

As Bush was meeting with the Syrian president, Defense Secretary Richard Cheney signed an order giving the army authority to freeze the departure of officers and enlisted personnel from service, thus extending their time of service.

"President Bush's decision last month to double the U.S. deployment in the Gulf region," reported the *Washington Post*, "to more than 400,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines has prompted military personnel officers to assess whether there are enough trained reinforcements to replace the wounded and killed if war should break out in the Persian Gulf."

The navy and air force are also considering a similar freeze on retirements.

In order to facilitate and speed up its massive military deployment, Washington made an "urgent request" to its NATO allies in Europe November 23 for ships and aircraft to move military personnel and equipment to the Mideast.

Draft text of the latest UN resolution on Mideast war

The following is the draft text of a resolution being circulated by the U.S. government among members of the United Nations Security Council. It is taken from the *New York Times*.

On November 26 Washington secured general support for the resolution from the other four permanent members of the council — Britain, China, France, and the Soviet Union. As indicated in paragraph two, they have not yet reached agreement on the date of implementation.

The texts of resolutions referred to in paragraph one are available in the new book published by Pathfinder, *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*. See page one for information on how to get the book.

Resolution 660 (1990) was passed by the council on Aug. 2, 1990. It calls for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

The Security Council, recalling and reaffirming its resolutions 660 (1990), 661 (1990), 662 (1990), 664 (1990), 665 (1990), 666 (1990), 667 (1990), 669 (1990), 670 (1990), 674 (1990),

noting that, despite all efforts by the United Nations, Iraq refuses to comply with its obligation to implement Resolution 660 (1990) and subsequent resolutions, in flagrant contempt of the council,

mindful of its duties and responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance and preservation of international peace and security,

determined to secure full compliance with its decisions,

acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. demands that Iraq comply fully with Resolution 660 (1990) and all subsequent relevant resolutions and decides, while maintaining all its decisions, to allow Iraq one final opportunity, as a pause of goodwill, to do so;

2. authorizes member states cooperating with the government of Kuwait, unless Iraq on or before January 1 [15], 1991, fully implements, as set forth in paragraph one above, the foregoing resolutions, to use all necessary means to uphold and implement the Security Council Resolution 660 and all subsequent relevant resolutions and to restore international peace and security in the area;

3. requests all states to provide appropriate support for the actions undertaken in pursuance of paragraph two of this resolution; and

4. requests the states concerned to keep the council regularly informed on the progress of actions undertaken pursuant to paragraphs two and three of this resolution.

Working-Class Campaign Against the Imperialist War Drive

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Protests in Britain, Canada hit war drive

Continued from front page

ing the takeover, a large percentage of the population was massacred, Kent said.

Kent also asked how the U.S. government knew that the people of Panama wanted their country invaded by U.S. forces at the end of 1989. "They didn't hold a referendum first," he said.

"The message [from the U.S. government] is clear: If you're not one of our club, you'll be punished," he said.

Kent urged the demonstrators to make the issue of the war buildup "an electoral liability for" Thatcher's Conservative Party. "Haven't you noticed, the Conservatives are very vulnerable at the moment."

A large percentage of the marchers were from CND groups, including two young men in military uniform. There were also several small contingents of trade unionists. The Palestine Solidarity Committee and the Britain Cuba Resource Centre also marched in the action.

BY BEVERLY BERNARDO

TORONTO—Braving icy winds and snow flurries, some 500 people marched and rallied here November 24, demanding U.S. and Canadian troops be withdrawn from the Middle East. Chanting "Hell no, we won't go; we won't die for Texaco!" and "Hey, hey, Uncle Sam, we remember Vietnam!" the protesters began by picketing the U.S. consulate.

The march route included a stop at Conservative Party headquarters, where participants expressed their anger at the decision by the government of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to purchase 800 body bags for transporting the remains of Canadian soldiers killed in the event of war.

Mulroney also has announced that in order to pay the \$90-million-a-month bill (Cdn \$1 = US \$0.86) for Ottawa's participation in the military buildup in the Gulf, it will chop \$350 million off spending on social programs this year.

No party in Parliament has opposed Canadian government participation in the war drive. The New Democratic Party has confined its criticism to saying that cuts in spending to pay for the operation in the Gulf should come from the defense budget and that Parliament should be able to vote on going to war.

Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Joseph

Kuwaitis testify at UN, charge Iraqi atrocities

BY SELVA NEBBIA

UNITED NATIONS — As part of Washington's drive to muster public opinion in favor of the imperialist war drive in the Mideast, the UN Security Council met November 27 to hear testimony from Kuwaiti citizens and view a slide and video presentation depicting alleged atrocities committed in that country by Iraqi occupation troops.

Since the first hours of the Iraqi invasion, UN Representative of Kuwait Mohammad Abulhasan told the council, Iraqi forces carried out killings, torture, rape, and organized pillage.

"Such actions and practices by the Iraqi regime and its invading army," Abulhasan said, "were perpetrated in a way which clearly demonstrates a deviant inclination to sadism, mingled with profound malice, in a desperate attempt to eradicate a fine model of the Kuwaiti political system in which the people intermingled with its rulers in a melting pot of loyalty, work, and cooperation in order to create a community of charity, love, and welfare."

One "witness," described himself as a doctor who up to recently had been working at a Kuwaiti hospital. He told a story of how Iraqi soldiers killed new born babies. "I myself buried 14 babies who had been taken by Iraqi soldiers from their incubators," he said.

Another witness described how, in order to leave the country, he had to give an Iraqi soldier "\$35,000 worth of goods" from his home, including carpets and electronic equipment.

At the end of the testimonies, Abulhasan told the council members that what they had just heard should "further prompt you for decisive action that will lead to peace."

Clark spent November 24 in Jordan as part of a trip through the Middle East to drum up more support for a United Nations resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq. One student from York University carried a placard targeting Clark for the role he has played in Canada and around the world campaigning for war. "Hell no, we won't die for U, Joe," it read.

Union officers speak

Peter Liebovith, president of the Simcoe and District Labor Council and president of United Steelworkers of America Local 8782 at Stelco's Nanticoke plant addressed the rally. USWA members at Stelco recently ended a three-month strike.

Liebovith linked the drive for war in the Middle East with the attacks against working people in Canada. He accused Mulroney "of trying to create jobs by using the oldest trick in the book: by supporting a war and sending our unemployed young people over to protect the rich and the oil barons of North America."

But, Liebovith continued, "I think that after Vietnam the working people of North America will realize that they will not be cannon fodder for anybody else's war." Charging that Mulroney's sanction of a war in the Gulf would be "the biggest criminal act by a prime minister in modern history," the USWA leader concluded his remarks by urging those present "to build this coalition and get as many people out as possible."

Hassan Yusuf, a representative from the national office of the Canadian Auto Workers Union also spoke.

High school students organize

Young people made up nearly half the crowd. Noah Frank and Jacob Cowan traveled 250 miles to attend the demonstration with two other high school students. They came because "they oppose all military movement in the Gulf."

As part of their campaign against the growing war threats, the four circulated a petition among students at Madawaska Valley District High School in northeastern Ontario to present to the rally. More than 100 students and teachers—including the principal—signed the statement which read, "I won't be able to attend your rally for peace in the Gulf, but I strongly support your cause."

The demonstration was organized by the Coalition to Stop U.S. and Canadian Intervention in the Middle East. Two planning meetings to organize the protest action drew 25 people each, including representatives from campus coalitions at the University of Toronto and York University. Members of the Toronto Disarmament Network, the Canadian Arab and Palestinian Association, Jews for a Just Peace, the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics (OCAC), and Canadian Council of Churches also attended.

Speakers at the rally in Nathan Phillips Square in front of the Toronto City Hall included Cherie MacDonald from the OCAC; Judy Rebick, president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC); the president of Veterans Against Nuclear Arms; a spokesperson for the U.S.-based Coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention in the Middle East; the president of the Canada Palestine Association; and Martha Kanya Fostner from the York Student Coalition.

Ottawa protest

In Ottawa on the same day 300 people also held a demonstration. The protesters, organized by the Canadian Peace Alliance, marched from the war memorial statue near Parliament Hill to the Department of National Defense.

At the monument, chairperson David Kraft proposed a moment of silence "to remember the significance of the recent purchase of 800 body bags."

At the concluding rally, Duncan MacDonald from the Ontario Federation of Labor said, "Working people have a simple message to Mulroney: Your obligation is to Canadians, not to Bush."

"There are plenty of problems here without wandering around the world looking for them. Stop it right now. You're embarrassing us."

Other speakers included Marian Mathieson, vice-president of NAC, and representatives from the Canadian Coalition for Nu-



Militant/Margaret Manwaring

Protest in Toronto against Canada's participation in drive toward war in the Mideast. Picket sign in foreground reads, "We say no to war."

clear Responsibility, Winnipeg Coordinating Committee for Disarmament, Montréal Peace Alliance, Calgary Disarmament Coalition, and Nuclear-Free North from the Northwest Territories.

David Thompson from Newfoundland told the rally, "I come from poorest province of Canada, the most disadvantaged. So you won't be surprised if I tell you that although Newfoundland has 2 percent of Canada's population, 25 percent of those on ships going to the Gulf come from Newfoundland and Labrador."

Canadian unions oppose war drive

Two major trade union bodies in Canada have adopted resolutions opposing the Canadian government's drive toward war in the Middle East.

At the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour convention held October 24-27, delegates voted nearly unanimously to send a telegram to External Affairs Minister Joseph Clark "condemning his arbitrary and outrageous decision to deploy Canadian forces alongside those of the United States, while adding to the balance of terror in this serious situation."

In paragraphs motivating the sending of

the telegram, the resolution noted that Clark had said Canada could go to war "without direction from the United Nations and without approval from the House of Commons." It called Clark's declaration "a sharp deviation from parliamentary procedures... and blatant saber rattling" and protested that this action would destroy "the world's image of Canada [and] Canadians as peacemakers."

The National Executive of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers issued a resolution pledging to work with the Canadian Labour Congress "to pressure the Canadian government to rescind the involvement of the Canadian military and instead initiate diplomatic measures to resolve the crisis in the Middle East."

The resolution explains that "with the ending of the Cold War, it is essential that the United Nations become the forum for the resolution of international differences through diplomacy" and that "the use of force on the part of any nation will not bring peace or justice to the Middle East." It also opposed the fact that the Canadian government "dispatched Canadian military forces to the Middle East without consultation with Parliament or the Canadian people."

Books for working-class campaign against war drive

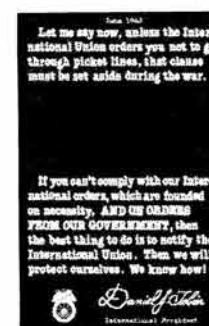
Pathfinder publishes a number of books and pamphlets that are valuable weapons for working people opposed to the imperialist war moves in the Mideast. Below is a selection of titles documenting earlier opposition to imperialist war, and assaults on the unions and democratic rights at home since the 1930s.



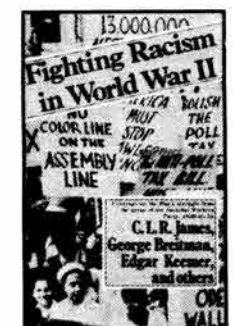
Panama: The truth about the U.S. invasion
by Cindy Jaquith et al., 44 pp., \$2.50



Out Now
A participant's account of the movement in the U. S. against the Vietnam War by Fred Halstead, 759 pp., \$29.95



Teamster Bureaucracy
The trade union campaign against World War II, by Farrell Dobbs, 304 pp., \$17.95



Fighting Racism in World War II
by George Breitman et al., 376 pp., \$19.95

Also from Pathfinder:

Letters from Prison
The communist campaign against wartime repression, by James P. Cannon, 362 pp., \$19.95

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics
The proletarian party and trade unions, edited by Jack Barnes, 346 pp., \$18.95

Socialism and Man in Cuba
by Che Guevara and Fidel Castro, 44 pp., \$2.50

Malcolm X: The Last Speeches
189 pp., \$15.95

Available from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12. Or by mail from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include \$1 for each book for postage and handling.

Sales teams help get out truth about war drive

As part of a campaign to get the truth out about the U.S.-led war drive in the Mideast, supporters of the *Militant* have fanned out in many parts of the United States in

"thumbs up" sign. There were a few miners who backed the U.S. war moves, Rogers said, but they were also interested in having a discussion.



GETTING THE MILITANT AROUND

the past few weeks to introduce the paper to working people and youth and encourage them to purchase subscriptions.

In late October, a team of supporters spent two weeks traveling throughout the coalfields of southern Illinois and Indiana talking with members of the United Mine Workers of America.

"Everywhere we went we met people who wanted to discuss Washington's drive to war," said team member Jim Rogers. He explained that when they held up the *Militant* with the headline "U.S. out of the Mideast!" at mine portals, even miners who did not stop to talk with salespeople tooted their horns in support or gave a

In the Evansville, Indiana, area there were a number of miners and other workers who have read the *Militant* since subscribing to the paper during the 1989-90 strike by UMW members against Pittston Coal Group. One miner at Peabody's Lynnville mine drove up to the entrance, leaned out of his car and said, "The *Militant*! All right!" Team member Bob Rowand told him he could get the paper every week in the mail by subscribing, which he promptly did.

"We spent some time with a subscriber there who has been showing the *Militant* around at the plant where he works. His wife works in a clothing warehouse and decided she wanted a few papers

to take to work also," said Rogers. The two *Militant* supporters organized a meeting for other *Militant* readers and invited socialist candidates from St. Louis to speak.

Another miner in the area subscribed and told team members he was upset about the U.S. war drive. He said he had read about Cuba and learned how Cuban doctors have volunteered throughout the world. The miner decided to buy a copy of the book *In Defense of Socialism* by Fidel Castro.

The team also visited unionists who have been on strike against Bootz Manufacturing for five months. After discussing the aims of the U.S.-led military buildup in the Mideast, several strikers in a picket shack decided they wanted to read a paper that had news on the U.S. war drive written from the point of view of working people. The strikers pitched in for a subscription to the *Militant*.

During the course of the sales team, 150 miners and their families, other workers, and students bought copies of the *Militant* and 24 subscribed.

Supporters from Salt Lake City and Price, Utah, spent a day at Boise State University in Boise, Idaho, during the first week of

November. Six students decided to subscribe to the *Militant*, one signed up for the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, and another purchased a copy of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*. Five students bought copies of *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*.

Militant supporters set up a Pathfinder literature table featuring a big sign that read, "No war for big oil! Bring the troops home!" One student who stopped by and bought a subscription to the *Militant* said an antiwar action that drew 50 people was held the previous week at the campus and more activities were planned.

Some students said they had subscribed to the paper last summer when they traveled to Oakland, California, to hear African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela speak at a rally. "The director of the Student Union came by and congratulated us for being on campus," said team member Mike Fitzsimmons. "He said he remembered the *Militant* being the first paper that told the truth about the U.S. invasion of Cambodia in 1970 and encouraged us to come back anytime."

A member of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps got a subscription to the *Militant* and a copy of the *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* pamphlet and said he would let his friends know about the table. The student had joined the ROTC to help pay for college and said he did not want to fight a senseless war for U.S. President George Bush. Later that day, other ROTC members stopped by the table after seeing a copy of the paper at the ROTC office. Two more students decided to subscribe.

A one-week antiwar sales team crisscrossed Louisiana and Mississippi winning eight new subscribers to the *Militant*. Eight copies of *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* were also sold. At Jackson State University in Mississippi, three students subscribed and 25 bought copies of the paper. Students there said they were planning an antiwar rally.

Antiwar sales teams also traveled through Florida, southern New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania.

Mike Fitzsimmons from Price, Utah, and Jim Rogers from St. Louis contributed to this week's column.

New Zealand socialists wrap up election efforts

BY GEORGE BUCHANAN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Ten candidates of the Communist League of New Zealand wrapped up their election campaigns on October 27.

Election day also marked the end of six years of New Zealand Labour Party government; the Labour Party was defeated by the National Party. No significant differences emerged between the two during their electioneering.

The country's elections took place against a backdrop of worsening conditions for workers and farmers in New Zealand. In recent months the number of unemployed workers reached the highest level in the country's history — the biggest proportion of the work force unemployed since the 1930s depression.

The election campaigns of the big-business parties avoided the issues facing working people. However, the Communist League candidates were able to raise the central questions in politics today before audiences of workers, students, and others.

Mike Treen, Communist League candidate for the parliament seat from Manurewa, south of Auckland, was among those who addressed an October 12 picket line at the U.S. consulate in Auckland protesting U.S.-led war moves in the Mideast.

The action was called by the Gulf Crisis Committee. Treen said, "The war being prepared by Washington is not in the interests of working people, but to protect the domination of the region's oil resources by the major imperialist powers.

"Those who will die in this war will not be the sheiks and emirs of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, nor the sons and daughters of the rich and powerful — such as U.S. Vice-president Danforth Quayle who avoided service in the Vietnam War — but workers and farmers in uniform together with tens of thousands of civilians."

Mandela tour

Communist League candidates also traveled to Australia during Nelson Mandela's tour there. Mandela is deputy president of the African National Congress of South Africa.

New Zealand Labour Prime Minister Michael Moore said Mandela was not welcome in New Zealand during the time prior to the elections because the government did not want the fight against apartheid in South Africa to become a campaign issue.

Socialist candidates Brigid Rotherham and Russell Johnson joined a sales team in Australia to get out the *Militant* and Pathfinder books during Mandela's visit. While there, they met many anti-apartheid activists from New Zealand who made the 1,200-mile journey as well. Upon their return, both can-



Militant/Margrethe Siem

Brigid Rotherham (left) and Russell Johnson spoke out against war moves in Mideast and attacks on workers in New Zealand during campaign.



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

didates held public meetings to report on Mandela's tour.

Prior to the elections Moore made a call for compulsory identification cards for all citizens, claiming the measure would help create jobs and stop employers from defrauding the social welfare system.

Socialist candidate Rotherham denounced the proposal as a "serious attack on the right to privacy."

"Clearly the government's real targets are those who are already victims of the economic crisis," she said. She explained those directly

on the firing line were the unemployed, including many workers who are young and immigrant and those receiving economic aid, the majority of whom are women.

Communist League candidates also won support for their challenge to the Broadcasting Standards Authority's denial of access to radio and television time. The Broadcasting Standards Authority provides the Labour and National parties millions of dollars in free radio and television time, while denying all access to a number of smaller parties, including the Communist League. Among those

backing the League's protest was the Electoral Reform Coalition.

"Broadcasting time is provided free to all parties that qualify," said Phil Saxby, the group's national secretary. "We understand the Communist League qualifies in all respects except that its application was not received by the deadline. Even at this late date, an appeal for broadcasting time should be granted."

The Broadcasting Standards Authority upheld its denial.

The day before the elections, Communist League candidate Eugen Lepou was sacked (fired) from his job. Lepou was a process worker at Independent Fisheries in Christchurch and a member of the United Food and Chemical Workers Union.

Ten days earlier Lepou and supporters had held a campaign event at his home that was attended by several of his workmates. An article about Lepou's campaign then appeared in the Christchurch *Press* along with a photograph of Lepou. "This caused a lot of discussion at Independent Fisheries," said Lepou. "Many workers clipped the article and posted it on notice boards around the plant."

The company claimed Lepou failed to notify them of an absence due to illness, and fired him despite his having a medical excuse from a doctor.

Lepou described the firing as a blatant case of discrimination by Independent Fisheries. "The implication is that ordinary workers don't have the right to run for parliament."

"Furthermore, it intimidates workers from exercising their political rights and participating in political activities," said the communist candidate.

Canada political cops harass airport workers

BY COLLEEN LEVIS

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — "Cop harassment like the type directed against me as a trade unionist and socialist candidate is part of a broader attack on democratic rights by Canada's rulers as they deepen their drive toward a terrible war in the Mideast," declared Nancy Walker. The Communist League candidate for mayor of Vancouver was speaking to a campaign rally here November 15.

Walker had been interrogated October 12 by the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service (CSIS), Canada's political police. Walker is an airport worker and a member of the International Association of Machinists (IAM).

"This interview took place shortly after my campaign for mayor was announced,"

she said. "I was grilled by the CSIS on whether I support any socialist groups or 'Third World movements' and if I am a terrorist."

"The CSIS harassment is aimed at working people and our unions — to intimidate me and my coworkers from holding political views that are different from those of the government and running for office on a working-class program as I am doing," she declared.

Walker explained that airport workers in Canada are required to submit to interrogation by Canada's political police as a condition of employment. Many workers have been called in for questioning about their sexual orientation, debts, drug and alcohol use, travel to Cuba, and their political views.

"The cops have no right asking any of

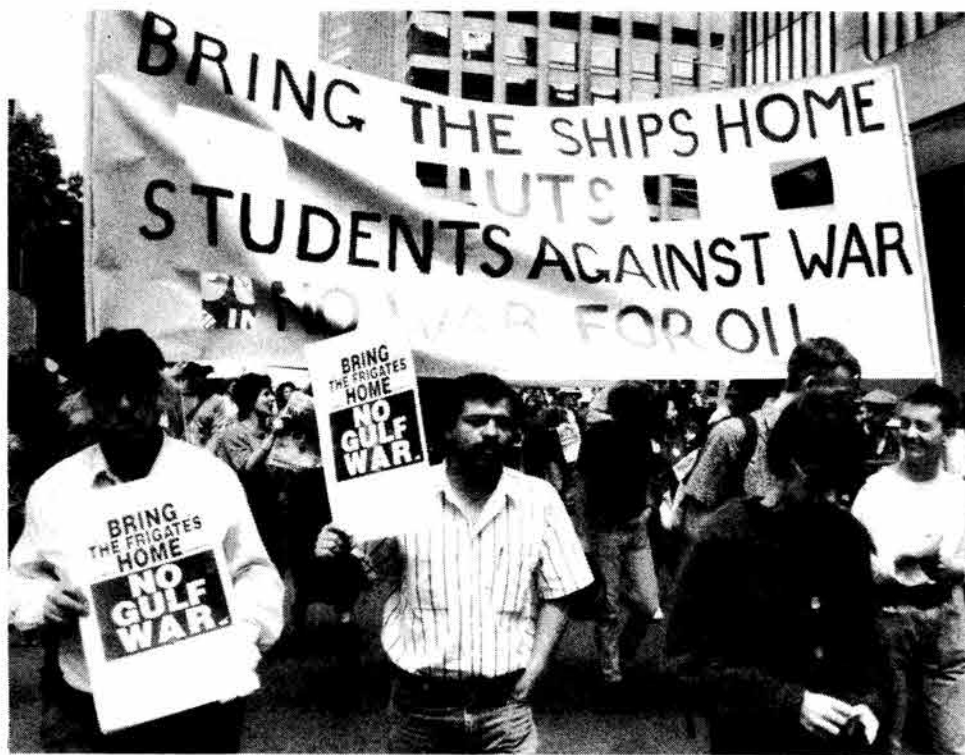
these questions, and I refused to answer them," Walker said.

"My union, the IAM, has fought this CSIS requirement, which is a gross violation of democratic rights. My union took it all the way to the Supreme Court and won, but the federal cabinet passed an order-in-council overruling the decision," she added.

Stand of Machinists union

A local IAM newsletter, the *Snag Sheet*, published an article by another IAM member who had also been interrogated by CSIS. In addition, the paper ran an editorial opposing these attacks and urged airport workers who are called in to bring a union representative with them to the interrogation. The article was picked up by the British Columbia Fed-

Continued on Page 12



October 20 march in Australia against war drive. Supporters will continue campaigning against war at home and abroad with socialist publications.

Militant/Russell Johnson

'Militant' supporters build on sales efforts

BY RONI McCANN

Supporters of the *Militant* in Australia, Britain, Sweden, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, and Vancouver, British Columbia went over the top in the international circulation drive to win thousands of new readers to the socialist press. In the United States, supporters made 68 percent of the goal, with Austin, Minnesota; Salt Lake City and Price, Utah; Miami; Seattle; Des Moines and Fort Madison, Iowa; Annandale, New York; and Baltimore surpassing their targets.

Supporters of the *Militant* will build on the efforts of the last weeks of the circulation drive to get the socialist publications into the hands of working-class fighters — in and out of uniform — as well as students and other youth.

Militant supporters in many cities placed the effort to win new subscribers at the center of a campaign to get out the truth about the imperialist drive toward war in the Arab-Persian Gulf region and the employers' offensive at home and to build wider working-class opposition to the war threat.

Through the 10-week circulation drive, supporters won a total of 3,732 subscribers to the *Militant*, 821 to the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 179 to the French-language quarterly *Lutte ouvrière*. In addition, 872 people bought copies of the Marxist magazine, *New International*. Through the drive, thousands of working people, farmers, GIs, veterans, and youth on college campuses and elsewhere were introduced to the socialist publications.

Given the accelerating march toward a war against Iraq and the enormous stakes for workers and farmers worldwide — coupled with the steadily increasing war against the working class at home — campaigning to build opposition to the war drive is the main challenge before working-class fighters today. Because of the importance of having the facts about the threatened imperialist war, *Militant* supporters will be continuing to talk to workers and unionists involved in struggles against the employers; GIs, veterans, and reservists on military bases or headed for the Gulf; farmers and rural workers; and young people, urging them to subscribe.

Unionists, Eastern strikers

Many workers who have been on the front lines of the battles at home — from the Eastern Airlines picket line to the coalfields of Virginia — view the *Militant* as their newspaper. This is because it tells the truth about their struggles to defend their interests in the face of the decade-long employer offensive and offers a fighting perspective that begins with workers and farmers the world over.

Many of these readers will want to resubscribe or help get out the truth about Washington's war plans by showing the *Militant* around to cofighters.

A longtime member of the Machinists union and Eastern strike activist in Greensboro, North Carolina, resubscribed and convinced three strikers to subscribe to the paper during the last few weeks of the sales drive. This effort helped *Militant* supporters there reach their goal of winning more readers among Eastern strikers. Supporters of the *Militant* who are members of the Machinists union in the New York-New Jersey area won 25 new readers in the last two weeks.

Militant supporters who are members of industrial unions in Birmingham made a big shift over the last few weeks to begin campaigning against the impending war. Three steelworkers there have won 17 new subscribers among their coworkers. In the final week, after passing around a national petition protesting the war moves in the Mideast on the job, three coworkers signed up to get the paper. One new reader, who is active in Eastern and Greyhound strike support work, decided to subscribe and said, "If this paper exposes what those imbeciles in Washington are doing in the Mideast I've got to have it."

"Here in Vancouver, British Columbia, we've made a big effort to call subscribers and urge them to buy copies of the *New International* given the rapidly changing world today," said *Militant* supporter Ned Dmytryshyn. He reported that one reader, who works at the airport and subscribed to the *Militant* at a plant-gate sale, decided to buy the latest issue of the magazine. Another reader, an officer of the Steelworkers union, bought four copies of *New International* to complete his set of six.

Over the last several weeks, many action coalitions have formed in cities around the world to plan protests against the U.S.-led war drive. And many events are slated for the next few weeks. Supporters in Britain participated in a spirited march of 6,000 in London on November 24. Seven marchers subscribed to the *Militant*, more than 100 bought copies of the paper, and 35 bought copies of the new book *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*. In Bonn the same day, at an antiwar march of 6,500, a *Militant* supporter sold 34 copies of the paper along with a copy of the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial* and the French-language quarterly *Lutte ouvrière*.

Nine people subscribed to the *Militant* in the final week in Reykjavik, Iceland, many after hearing a *Militant* supporter speak on a talk show aired by the state-owned radio station. He was invited by a reporter for the country's biggest daily newspaper who had just returned from Iraq, Yemen, and Kuwait. They discussed the imperialist war drive, the role of the United Nations Security Council and of Cuba, and the place of the fight for the reunification of Korea in world politics.

At a November 19 antiwar action in Twin Cities, Minnesota, that drew 600 people, two participants subscribed to the *Militant*, 20 picked up individual copies, and four bought copies of *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!*

With each day that the imperialists, with Washington at the helm, accelerate their push toward war in the Gulf, the stakes for the working class rise. By campaigning with the *Militant*, opponents of the governments' course can help inform other workers and students about the attacks on — and resistance by — working people internationally as the capitalists continue their war at home and preparations for a bloody slaughter abroad. Having the facts and analysis presented in the paper is essential for building working-class opposition to the drive to war.

'Cuba at UN' book is vital tool for workers

Continued from front page

In addition to the useful and timely introduction, the book also features a day-by-day chronology of the steps toward war. The 17-page listing will give readers both the facts and the scope of the military buildup and propaganda offensive by imperialism since early August. The chronology ends by listing the number of U.S. troops deployed — nearly 430,000, warships, aircraft, and heavy armor. It also compiles the facts on the more than 200,000 troops and heavy-armed divisions deployed by 29 other countries.

The following is from the introduction to the new Pathfinder book, *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! It is copyright ©1990 and reprinted with permission of Pathfinder.*

This war drive and its results are being orchestrated by the bipartisan government of the United States. But the people in whose name this is being done — those whose economic livelihoods will be devastated and whose sons and daughters will die in combat — have no say.

No political party of working people sits in Congress, and no mechanism gives citizens of the United States — in or out of uniform — the right to debate the issues and vote on a declaration of war. That prerogative is reserved to the representatives of the twin imperialist parties that control the Congress and White House.

After much argument and debate over tactical alternatives — and unanimous protestations of a desire for peace — those same parties have already dragged the people of the United States into four horrendous world wars this century: in 1917, 1941, 1950, and 1964. They are on the verge of doing it again, with all the unspeakable consequences it will entail in the Mideast and in the United States itself.

Subscription Drive FINAL 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 | 119 | 132% | 60 | 88 | 18 | 18 | 10 | 12 | 2 | 1 |
| Miami | 200 | 208 | 104% | 110 | 136 | 30 | 21 | 40 | 37 | 20 | 14 |
| Seattle | 190 | 196 | 103% | 115 | 120 | 48 | 44 | 25 | 29 | 2 | 3 |
| Des Moines, Iowa | 180 | 185 | 103% | 135 | 137 | 25 | 27 | 18 | 18 | 2 | 3 |
| Salt Lake City | 185 | 190 | 103% | 130 | 145 | 23 | 22 | 30 | 21 | 2 | 2 |
| Price, Utah | 80 | 82 | 103% | 55 | 57 | 13 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 2 | 0 |
| Baltimore | 125 | 128 | 102% | 90 | 90 | 12 | 11 | 20 | 24 | 3 | 3 |
| Philadelphia | 185 | 184 | 99% | 115 | 112 | 38 | 38 | 30 | 32 | 2 | 2 |
| Los Angeles | 415 | 361 | 87% | 200 | 209 | 115 | 95 | 95 | 54 | 5 | 3 |
| San Francisco | 175 | 142 | 81% | 110 | 99 | 35 | 28 | 25 | 12 | 5 | 3 |
| Omaha, Neb. | 120 | 96 | 80% | 85 | 67 | 18 | 13 | 15 | 15 | 2 | 1 |
| Detroit | 180 | 141 | 78% | 140 | 113 | 10 | 4 | 25 | 20 | 5 | 4 |
| Birmingham, Ala. | 170 | 130 | 76% | 138 | 113 | 10 | 8 | 20 | 8 | 2 | 1 |
| Twin Cities, Minn. | 225 | 152 | 68% | 175 | 131 | 17 | 9 | 30 | 11 | 3 | 1 |
| Oakland, Calif. | 190 | 127 | 67% | 125 | 85 | 35 | 24 | 25 | 17 | 5 | 1 |
| Phoenix | 95 | 60 | 63% | 55 | 41 | 28 | 17 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Morgantown, WV | 155 | 96 | 62% | 115 | 87 | 8 | 1 | 30 | 8 | 2 | 0 |
| Boston | 235 | 144 | 61% | 140 | 89 | 45 | 23 | 35 | 28 | 15 | 4 |
| Charleston, WV | 135 | 82 | 61% | 95 | 72 | 13 | 1 | 25 | 7 | 2 | 2 |
| Greensboro, NC | 115 | 69 | 60% | 85 | 48 | 13 | 9 | 15 | 12 | 2 | 0 |
| St. Louis | 205 | 122 | 60% | 162 | 102 | 10 | 2 | 30 | 17 | 3 | 1 |
| Brooklyn | 345 | 177 | 51% | 190 | 80 | 70 | 35 | 60 | 47 | 25 | 15 |
| Cleveland | 160 | 80 | 50% | 115 | 54 | 18 | 12 | 25 | 14 | 2 | 0 |
| Pittsburgh | 130 | 62 | 48% | 105 | 55 | 5 | 3 | 18 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Newark, NJ | 340 | 158 | 46% | 180 | 95 | 60 | 26 | 70 | 32 | 30 | 5 |
| Atlanta | 198 | 88 | 44% | 135 | 50 | 20 | 14 | 40 | 22 | 3 | 2 |
| Washington, DC | 150 | 64 | 43% | 100 | 48 | 20 | 10 | 23 | 4 | 7 | 2 |
| New York | 520 | 220 | 42% | 275 | 91 | 120 | 78 | 95 | 47 | 30 | 4 |
| Houston | 145 | 61 | 42% | 98 | 34 | 25 | 7 | 20 | 18 | 2 | 2 |
| Chicago | 280 | 117 | 42% | 185 | 85 | 45 | 21 | 45 | 6 | 5 | 5 |
| Kansas City | 125 | 46 | 37% | 88 | 39 | 10 | 4 | 25 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Annandale, NY | 5 | 5 | 100% | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Cincinnati | 17 | 12 | 71% | 12 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | - | 0 |
| Ft. Madison, Iowa | 5 | 6 | 120% | 4 | 6 | 1 | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 |
| Las Vegas, Nev. | 5 | 3 | 60% | 5 | 3 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 |
| Louisville, Ky. | 7 | 4 | 57% | 7 | 4 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 |
| New Haven, Conn.* | 20 | 16 | 80% | 14 | 13 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 0 | - | 0 |
| Portland, Ore. | 11 | 7 | 64% | 10 | 6 | 1 | 1 | - | 0 | - | 0 |
| Other U.S. | - | 2 | - | - | 2 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 |
| U.S. TOTAL | 6,113 | 4,140 | 68% | 3,961 | 2,816 | 966 | 646 | 989 | 590 | 197 | 88 |
| AUSTRALIA * | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BRITAIN | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Manchester | 62 | 66 | 106% | 45 | 39 | 1 | 4 | 15 | 21 | 1 | 2 |
| Sheffield | 100 | 101 | 101% | 70 | 56 | 9 | 13 | 20 | 30 | 1 | 2 |
| Cardiff | 58 | 50 | 86% | 40 | 30 | 2 | 4 | 15 | 14 | 1 | 2 |
| London | 174 | 147 | 84% | 113 | 92 | 15 | 6 | 42 | 45 | 4 | 4 |
| Other Britain | - | 45 | - | - | 8 | - | 2 | - | 32 | - | 3 |
| BRITAIN TOTAL | 394 | 409 | 104% | 268 | 225 | 27 | 29 | 92 | 142 | 7 | 13 |
| CANADA | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vancouver* | 120 | 134 | 112% | 80 | 87 | 15 | 22 | 20 | 20 | 5 | 5 |
| Toronto | 155 | 149 | 96% | 100 | 90 | 25 | 30 | 25 | 25 | 5 | 4 |
| Montréal | 210 | 187 | 89% | 75 | 96 | 35 | 21 | 35 | 24 | 65 | 46 |
| CANADA TOTAL | 485 | 469 | 97% | 255 | 272 | 75 | 73 | 80 | 69 | 75 | 55 |
| FAEROE IS. | 10 | 4 | 40% | 10 | 4 | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | 0 |
| FRANCE | 40 | 26 | 65% | 10 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 20 | 21 |
| ICELAND | 43 | 42 | 98% | 35 | 35 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| NEW ZEALAND | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wellington | 70 | 76 | 109% | 61 | 65 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| Christchurch * | 85 | 86 | 101% | 70 | 72 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 13 | 1 | 0 |
| Auckland | 110 | 110 | 100% | 91 | 91 | 10 | 5 | 8 | 14 | 1 | 0 |
| Other N. Z. | 10 | 8 | 80% | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | - | 0 | - | 0 |
| N. Z. TOTAL | 275 | 280 | 102% | 231 | 234 | 15 | 10 | 26 | 36 | 3 | 0 |
| PUERTO RICO | 15 | 17 | 113% | 2 | 0 | 12 | 13 | 1 | 4 | - | 0 |
| SWEDEN | 80 | 91 | 114% | 43 | 44 | 25 | 35 | 10 | 10 | 2 | 2 |
| Int'l teams | 50 | 0 | 0% | 10 | 0 | 34 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Other Int'l | - | 1 | - | - | 0 | - | 1 | - | 0 | - | 0 |
| TOTAL | 7,703 | 5,604 | 73% | 4,917 | 3,732 | 1,173 | 821 | 1,305 | 872 | 308 | 179 |
| DRIVE GOALS | 7,800 | | | 5,000 | | 1,225 | | 1,250 | | 325 | |
| * Raised goal during drive | | | | | | | | | | | |

How Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast has changed over last decade of upheaval

BY CINDY JAQUITH

(First of a series)

PUERTO CABEZAS, Nicaragua — Rebellions broke out here in October when unemployed war refugees raided warehouses where food donations are distributed to families that recently returned to Nicaragua.

When crowds stormed an Organization of American States warehouse October 4, the cops broke them up with tear gas. Twenty-five people were arrested following a second raid on October 18 of warehouses belonging to the Moravian Church and the regional government. Hundreds of refugees participated in the October 18 incident.

In this city of about 22,000, there are at least 3,000 refugees who have only recently returned from Honduras. Some are ex-combatants of Yátama, the umbrella organization of armed groups of Miskito Indians that fought the Sandinista army in the 1980s.

Neither the Nicaraguan government nor the international organizations involved in the Miskitos' repatriation have provided them land or jobs. Unemployment is already far more than 50 percent here in Puerto Cabezas, the capital of the North Atlantic Autonomous Region.

The economic situation is worse in the small farming villages that dot the region. These communities were the scene of perhaps the greatest destruction in all Nicaragua during the U.S.-backed contra war of the 1980s.

More than 50 percent of the region's population lost their homes in the war, especially Miskitos on the Río Coco, the river that divides Nicaragua and Honduras.

The North Atlantic region has a population of about 160,000, half of whom are Mestizos, Nicaraguans who speak Spanish. Miskito Indians, Sumu Indians, and Creoles, Blacks who speak English, also live here, with Miskitos being the largest of the three ethnic groups.

In the South Atlantic, in addition to these ethnic groups, there are populations of Rama Indians and Garífonos, a second group of Blacks who speak English. The coast residents are collectively referred to as *costeños*.

It was here in the North Atlantic that the Nicaraguan revolution faced its biggest challenge, especially among peasants and fishermen who are Miskito.

Today the contradictions brought to the fore during the revolution are far from resolved. But the North Atlantic Coast is profoundly changed from a decade ago.

British and U.S. domination

The North and South Atlantic regions of Nicaragua were a British protectorate until 1894, when they were reincorporated and placed under the rule of the Nicaraguan government.

Not long after that, U.S. capitalist penetration of the Atlantic Coast began, bringing with it a systematic plundering of the area's gold reserves, forests, and seafood resources. The Somoza family regime installed by the U.S. Marines in the 1930s gave the U.S. companies free rein to superexploit Indian and Black labor and ravage the communal lands of the Miskito and Sumu villages.

The region remained the most isolated in Nicaragua, with no roads connecting it to the rest of the country, and with the majority of its residents speaking different languages and practicing different cultures than other Nicaraguans.

The Somoza regime provided virtually no public education or health care. When it finally opened public schools on the Río Coco in the 1950s, teachers were required to speak Spanish and forbidden to speak to their students in the Miskito language.

Sandinista National Liberation Front

It was in the late 1950s that a layer of young Nicaraguans living on the Pacific Coast, inspired by the Cuban revolution, began to organize to overthrow the Somoza family

tyranny. Led by Carlos Fonseca, they founded the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) in the early 1960s, which launched a guerrilla war against the regime.

By the early 1970s, the FSLN had begun to win substantial support for its struggle among peasants and workers on the Pacific Coast, where virtually all the Sandinista fighters were concentrated.

Meanwhile, on the North Atlantic, Miskitos had also begun to organize against the Somoza government.

In 1973, the Alliance for Miskito and Sumu Progress (Alpromisu) was founded at a conference on the Río Coco. Amalia Dixon, an Alpromisu activist, explained in an interview that one of the group's first fights was against the central government's forestry department. The department was attempting to redraw boundaries in the region to reduce the amount of territory classified as communal land belonging to Miskito villages, in order to increase the amount of state land and land that could be sold to private landowners.

Dixon was involved in organizing villagers on the Río Coco to plant their crops as far from their villages as possible in order to maximize the number of acres that could be claimed as communal land.

Alpromisu also defended Miskitos against the forestry department when it attempted to charge 1,000 Nicaraguan córdobas for every pine tree cut down on "state land."

"Everyone cut down pine trees to build their houses," Dixon recalled. "And 1,000 córdobas was a lot of money in those days. Many Miskitos did not have money; they lived almost entirely off the land or by fishing."

Exploitation of peasants

Alpromisu fought against the exploitation of peasants by merchants in Waspám, the main commercial center on the river. The merchants refused to pay peasants money for their crops. Instead, they made the peasants exchange their produce for items in the merchants' stores, whether peasants wanted the items or not.

Up to this time, no mayors on the river were Miskitos. The sole deputy to Nicaragua's parliament from the region was Mestizo. As a by-product of the growing struggles by Miskitos, the first Miskito was elected mayor of Waspám in 1974. In 1978, Dixon was elected mayor.

By this time, the FSLN-led war to bring down Somoza was nearing victory on the Pacific. Many on the Río Coco followed the progress of the battles on the radio, recalled Dixon. "We saw our struggle as Miskitos coinciding in many ways with the Sandinista revolution."

Miskitos who were later to command Yátama troops against the Sandinistas have similar recollections of this period.

Uriel Vanegas, today president of the North Atlantic Autonomous Regional Council, remembered that "our people were praying for the *muchachos*," the popular term for the Sandinista guerrillas.

Máximo Pantín, now mayor of Waspám, said, "Somoza never wanted to give the Indians our rights. So we supported the Sandinistas' war against him."

Most Miskito working people never got to take a direct part in the fighting, which reached into this region only as far as Las Minas, where the gold mines are located. A small layer of Miskito youth who were studying on the Pacific, however, got more involved. Many were active in the Costeño Student Movement, which organized against race discrimination on the coast. A minority became collaborators of the FSLN and a few fought in its guerrilla units.

Despite its lack of contact with the coast and small number of cadres who were *costeño*, the FSLN had included the struggle against the oppression of Indians and Blacks in its basic platform since 1969. That plat-



Militant/Susan Apstein

The Nicaraguan revolution faced its biggest challenge on the Atlantic Coast, especially among Miskito peasants and fishermen.

form, called the Historic Program, had a special section devoted to the Atlantic Coast in which it pledged to "wipe out the odious discrimination" suffered by Indians and Blacks; to develop agriculture, fishing, and forestry for the benefit of the region; and to incorporate the people of the coast into national political and social life.

The Somoza tyranny was finally overthrown on July 19, 1979. The new government brought to power was a regime of the workers and peasants of Nicaragua, led by the FSLN. The toilers immediately began to use their government to fight for an end to the exploitation they had suffered — demanding democratic rights, land, nationalization of factories, a massive expansion of social services, and arms to defend their newly won revolutionary power.

On the Atlantic Coast, Somoza's overthrow also inspired an explosion of struggle to end the racial discrimination and backwardness to which the region had been condemned. Miskitos were in the forefront of seizing the new political opportunity.

The revolutionary government in Managua moved quickly to initiate some of the most desperately needed health, education, and public works programs on the North Atlantic. Schools and clinics were built, and for the first time, a road was begun to connect the North Atlantic to the rest of the country. It was constructed mainly by Cuban volunteers. The gold mines were nationalized, and miners, many of them Indians, won the right to form unions and receive pensions for the first time.

Few FSLN cadres

The FSLN, however, had almost no cadres among the Miskitos to help organize the government in the region and the popular organizations that could mobilize the toilers. Virtually all the government officials and military commanders initially appointed in the North Atlantic were from the Pacific. They did not speak the population's languages, nor were they familiar with the customs, traditions, and forms of social organization in the villages.

The Sandinistas had assumed that the Miskito peasant population would be organized in the Association of Rural Workers (ATC), which had grown out of the clandestine struggle against Somoza in the countryside of the Pacific. FSLNers also expected to organize the North Atlantic communities in Sandinista Defense Committees (CDS), another form that had emerged from the urban underground neighborhood committees organized in the final years of the war against Somoza.

But the struggles that gave rise to the ATC and the CDS on the Pacific had not taken place on the Atlantic. Miskito activists pressed instead for the central government to recognize an indigenous organization as the main way to organize Atlantic Coast residents.

Founding of Misurasata

The central government was initially reluctant to do this. At a November 1979 assembly of hundreds of Miskitos here in Puerto Cabezas, Daniel Ortega, representing the junta of the central government, came to discuss the question.

Hazel Lau, a Miskito rights activist at the time and today an FSLN member, recalled

that "representatives of the villages argued with Ortega that we needed our own organization. He said, 'Why? We're all equal now.'"

By the close of the meeting, however, Ortega had agreed that the government would recognize a new organization called Miskitos, Sumus, Ramas, Sandinistas Working Together (Misurasata).

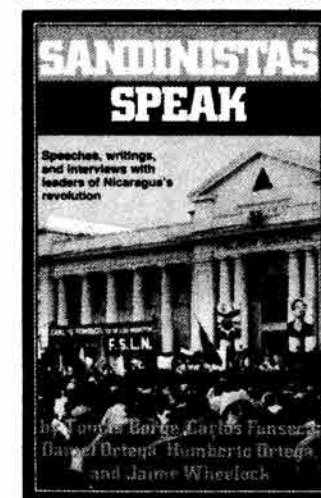
The new organization incorporated a disparate spectrum of political and class forces within the Miskito community. Nevertheless, Misurasata's first document stated, "The Sandinista revolution is based on the popular and democratic principles of nationalism, anti-imperialism, internationalism, and class. We, the indigenous people of the nation, declare that these principles are the most consistent with, and effective for, our national reality in general, and our indigenous reality in particular."

Three leaders of Misurasata were elected: Hazel Lau, Brooklyn Rivera, and Steadman Fagoth. All were Miskitos who had become political activists while studying on the Pacific Coast. Fagoth was selected to represent Misurasata in the Council of State, Nicaragua's provisional parliament.

Misurasata spread rapidly on the coast as Indians rushed to organize for their rights — with government backing — for the first time in 400 years. The organization had its strongest base among Miskitos, although it

Continued on Page 12

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Thatcher resigns after 11-year term

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher resigned November 22 as pressure built inside the Conservative (Tory) Party for a new leader.

Showing continued unanimity on Britain's participation in the escalating drive to war in the Mideast, however, Defense Secretary Thomas King announced on the same day that 15,000 more troops would be dispatched to the region. (See article below.)

Across Britain, working people cheered as they heard the news that the person most identified with attacks on their living standards and democratic rights for the last 11 years was to go. Demonstrators outside Downing Street, the prime minister's official residence, chanted "No more years!" — in contrast to the chants of "10 more years!" at the 1989 Conservative Party conference that celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Thatcher government.

Thatcher announced her resignation after she was unable to beat off a challenge for the party's leadership from former defense secretary Michael Heseltine. Heseltine won 152 out of 372 votes among Tory members of Parliament, forcing a second ballot in the leadership election.

The Thatcher resignation has yet to resolve the government's crisis, which had intensified over the previous two weeks. It has now left a three-cornered contest between Heseltine and two members of Thatcher's cabinet, Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major.

Most big-business newspapers had editorialized in favor of Thatcher standing down. The November 19 *Financial Times* editorial stated that in the event of a second ballot, "she should withdraw in favor of a replacement in whose hands her legacy could safely be left."

Unease in ruling class

These sentiments and reactions reflect deep unease within ruling-class circles about the orientation of the government. A bitter fight at the heart of the cabinet over Britain's attitude to the European Community and the country's budget has resulted in the resignation, in the last year alone, of three cabinet members. This includes former chancellor Nigel Lawson, close Thatcher associate Nicholas Ridley, and, just two weeks ago, Deputy Prime Minister Geoffrey Howe. Michael Heseltine himself resigned over the same issue in 1986.

Heseltine, Lawson, and Howe resigned to protest Thatcher's determination to cling to the "special relationship" with the United States. These "special relations" are used as a prop for maintaining British imperialism's diminishing economic, military, and political clout in the world and the place of the British pound as a world currency. They said that this was undermining the capacity of Britain to compete with other European capitalist powers, especially Germany.

Britain remains the largest foreign investor in the United States, with investments of £51.4 billion (£1=US\$1.95) between 1980 and 1986. In 1987 British Petroleum spent £7.6 billion in taking over Standard Oil of California. Investments by Britain in the United States are part of large overseas investments compared to other capitalist powers.

In turn, first Heseltine and then Lawson and Howe said they wanted government measures aimed at fostering domestic investments to improve the competitiveness of British industry in relation to where the bulk of British trade is today — in Europe.

Tensions within the government have increased as the economy has moved into recession. Manufacturing output dropped 1.3 percent from August to September and industrial production was down 2.5 points for the year. The monthly rise in unemployment was the highest in four years, and inflation has officially stayed at 10.9 percent for two months.

Recent by-election results in Eastbourne and Bradford — where there were dramatic swings away from the Tories — increased the pressure for change. Government unpopularity reflected the erosion of Thatcher's social base, so carefully nurtured in the administration's early years. In particular, 14 percent interest rates, consistent with the government's economic policy, have taken their toll on the middle classes and the more highly paid sections of the working class.

The Thatcher government's measures had,



G.M. Cookson

Margaret Thatcher resigned as British prime minister. Rulers remain united on Gulf policy.

from the start, hit the worst-off section of the work force the hardest. The number of people receiving a lower-than-average wage has increased from 4.4 million in 1979 to 7.7 million today. The official poverty rate has increased by 68 percent — there are now 10.2 million people living at or below the poverty level, itself a standard deemed very low by social welfare organizations.

Erosion of social services has also affected living standards of the majority of workers who so far have been able to defend their real wages. Unemployment remained high even during the peak of the business cycle. Today some 2 million are officially without jobs.

For more highly paid workers and professional and middle-class layers, real wages increased substantially during the "Thatcher years."

These workers took advantage of the government's housing policy to become homeowners at a time of sharply rising house prices. Many became shareholders through government privatizations during a rising stock market. It was upon these people that Thatcher depended for support, as well as the labor and trade union leaders who failed to give any genuine political alternative to the government's policies. This was true when the government went to war against Argentina over the Malvinas Islands in 1982 and when the government took on the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) during its 1984-85 strike.

Limitations on Thatcher

But mounting inflation, an increased tax burden, high interest rates, and recession have shifted support by these layers away from the government. The introduction of poll taxes in Scotland in 1989 and in Britain in 1990 further eroded Thatcher's support. These effects were already limiting Thatcher's ability to carry through her third-term project of radically lowering public expenditures, which currently stand at around £200 billion a year.

With the downturn in the economy, small businesses have suffered. And the impact of the crisis in the Common Agricultural Policy, exacerbated by British government proposals to substantially reduce farm subsidies, has resulted in the biggest single farm protest in Britain in decades.

With this response in areas of traditional electoral support, the Tory Party has moved into an open and fractious debate, not only about the way forward for the British economy but also about the achievements of the government.

There is increasingly widespread recognition that the government has failed in its number one objective: to transform British industry by radically overhauling the relationship of forces between the employers and the unions.

In Britain there has been a substantial increase in productivity. Following the recession of 1981-82, the most unproductive firms were closed and a government-backed employer offensive tightened work discipline, enforced speed up, and expanded job descriptions. Antiunion legislation was strengthened, and the number of days lost due to strike action over the last year was down to 4.13 million — from 29.47 million in 1979. Furthermore, union membership is at 70 percent of its 1979 level of 12 million.

Weak investment picture

While there has been an associated increase in investment, only in 1988 did investment reach its pre-1979 level. Despite huge revenues from North Sea oil — amounting to government income of £65 billion in taxes and royalties — and despite Britain's ability to share in the massive expansion of the U.S. economy during this period, there has been no substantial investment in capital-producing plant and machinery.

Writing in the *Financial Times* November 23, John Gapper described the industrial situation as an "improvement" rather than a "transformation." He bemoaned the fact that

Britain doubles Gulf force

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — Hidden by the pages of news analysis and hours of television post-mortems of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's resignation was a government announcement that 15,000 more British soldiers will be deployed in the Arab-Persian Gulf region.

In the announcement to the House of Commons on November 22, Defense Secretary Thomas King said that the move will bring British forces to more than 25,000 by January, and ultimately to 30,000. He described the move as a "potent increase" in British deployment in the Middle East. The Fourth Brigade, now located in Germany, including an additional 43 Challenger tanks as well as a divisional headquarters and supporting forces, will be sent to join the massive U.S.-led force aimed at Iraq. The new brigade, along with the Seventh Armoured Brigade, which is already stationed in Saudi Arabia, will form the First Armoured Division.

The new deployment includes two armored infantry battalions equipped with Warrior fighting vehicles, an armored reconnaissance squadron, a Field Regiment Royal Artillery, engineers, and supporting services.

Along with the two brigades, a powerful artillery force including the British Army's new Multiple-Launch Rocket System is also deployed.

Among the extra forces are two full regi-

"union influence has not slipped substantially in traditional areas of strength" and that "groups such as the railway and ambulance workers have shown they can retain public support while taking disruptive industrial action."

Labour Party member of Parliament Denis Skinner pointed out that despite the most sustained media witch-hunt against NUM leaders Arthur Scargill and Peter Heathfield, which was backed by employer and government attacks, the two remain while Thatcher is gone.

The strike Scargill and Heathfield led in 1984-85 is viewed by miners and others in the labor movement as an inspiration for future battles and not the end of an era. The union question remains on the center stage of British politics. Unions have backed protests against the poll tax, and two national unions backed the November 24 demonstration against the accelerating war buildup in the Arab-Persian Gulf region.

Leadership challenge inevitable

Against this background, the leadership challenge to Thatcher from within the Tory Party over the European policy was inevitable. No significant section of the ruling class has argued in favour of a Labour Party government. All have argued that their most decisive need is for a revamped Conservative Party leadership capable of defeating Labour in the next election.

Despite the increasing convergence of the policies of the Labour Party leadership with those of the government, especially with those of the current challengers for Conservative Party leadership, big business is united in considering the Labour Party unfit to do what is necessary on its behalf in the turbulent decade of the 1990s.

Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock claims the opposite and has called for a general election. Other reactions to Thatcher's resignation from around the world were quick. U.S. President George Bush said, "I'll miss her." He continued, "She has been a staunch friend and ally. She is a woman of principle. She stands for what we believe in."

French President François Mitterrand wrote to Thatcher saying she had "marked an important moment in the history of her country and also of Europe." Gennady Gerasimov, Soviet foreign ministry spokesperson, said, "We will remember her as someone who made a great contribution to the good relations between the Soviet Union and the continent."

Former Belgian prime minister Willy de Clercq said, "I hope this will put an end to divisions on such a vital issue as the European one." Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, predicted a shift in Britain's European policy as a result of the resignation, but said he did not anticipate any change in the British government's policy on the Gulf crisis.

ments of Royal Engineers with equipment designed to overcome and destroy land-based obstacles. This includes howitzers and Lynx antitank helicopters.

A correspondent of the *Independent* newspaper wrote on November 23 that the "strong engineer component is particularly significant in view of the possible need to force a way through the 15-mile-deep belt of Iraqi defenses on the southern Kuwaiti border."

The additional deployment brings the total British forces to three times the number of personnel deployed during the 1982 Malvinas war and half the British forces currently in Germany.

Defense Secretary King also announced that reservists would be called up selectively, and he urged employers to be sympathetic to the need to send skilled personnel to aid the war preparations. He also said an additional two minesweepers would be dispatched to the Gulf.

Conservative Party leadership challenger Michael Heseltine welcomed the decision to increase the size of the British force. "Once the government had taken the right and proper decision to support the international force in the Gulf," he said, "it was essential that the military capability of that force had total credibility."

Gerald Kaufman, the Labour Party spokesperson on foreign affairs, also welcomed the announcement.

Socialist unionists campaign against drive to war

BY JAMES HARRIS

"As we are meeting here today, there are meetings taking place at the Pentagon — just two miles away — and the White House — which is only seven blocks away — where the government is planning its strategy for its war against Iraq, a war that the rulers expect working people to fight and die in but to have no say about," said Nancy Brown. She was

bers and supporters of the SWP to prepare to meet the challenge of the war buildup in the Mideast.

These gatherings are playing an important part in initiating the SWP's campaign against the impending war. The first round of fund meetings shows that people are eager to have serious discussions on the war drive, to raise their own questions, and to get involved in activity.

itant, which gets the facts on the war drive and the fight against it into the hands of workers, farmers, and GIs; weekly Militant Labor Forums; participation in protest activities and conferences called to oppose the war threats; and work within the industrial unions.

At the fund meetings, SWP leaders explain the real roots of the war drive. World capitalism cannot solve its mounting crises without resorting to the savagery and destruction of war. The war preparations are not the result of a mistake or misunderstanding on the part of imperialism. War is the way the ruling rich seek to solve their economic and political crises. In addition, the war drive is an extension of the employers' war against the living standards and working conditions of the workers and farmers of their own countries that has been pursued for more than a decade, the SWP leaders explain.

Contributing to the party-building fund is one way to participate in the antiwar campaign.

Contributions to the fund help mount the kind of working-class campaign that is both needed and possible today.

At this time the fund has received \$114,406 toward the overall goal of raising \$150,000 by December 1. To be on schedule, we should have \$138,462. This means that to make the goal — in full and on time — supporters should organize to get their contributions in immediately.

Many fund meetings have been rescheduled from December 1 to December 8. In order to reflect the full amount contributed, the final fund chart will appear in our issue published December 12.

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

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY-BUILDING FUND



speaking before a meeting in Washington, D.C., of Socialist Workers Party members and supporters who belong to the International Association of Machinists (IAM).

"The SWP is making the campaign against the war drive its central priority. At this meeting we will discuss how communists who are members of the IAM can leave here and be a part of the campaign," said Brown. She is a national committee member of the SWP and a member of the IAM on strike against Eastern Airlines.

Later that evening Jack Barnes, the national secretary of the SWP, spoke at a Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund meeting in a room packed with more than 170 people on the working-class fight against the accelerating war drive.

The meetings where Brown and Barnes spoke were a part of a series of events being hosted by the mem-

Mary-Alice Waters, the president of Pathfinder Press and a leader of the SWP, spoke at a party-building fund meeting in Chicago. Over 60 people were in attendance, with more than a dozen from local high schools and colleges. Many were activists in anti-apartheid and anti-war organizations.

"An important aspect of the meeting was its international character, with young people from Iran, Jordan, the Philippines, and South Africa. There was lively discussion that went on past midnight," said Waters.

The SWP's campaign to build working-class opposition to the imperialist war preparations is being carried out in every aspect of the party's work. This includes campaigning with the new books from Pathfinder, the English and Spanish editions of *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*; the circulation of the *Mil-*

Where We Stand

| Area | Pledged | Paid | % of Total |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
| San Francisco | 4,755 | 3,975 | 84 |
| New York | 10,221 | 8,420 | 82 |
| Houston | 4,895 | 3,935 | 80 |
| Kansas City | 2,560 | 1,975 | 77 |
| Newark, N.J. | 7,320 | 5,565 | 76 |
| St. Louis | 8,000 | 6,025 | 75 |
| Greensboro, N.C. | 1,600 | 1,183 | 74 |
| Brooklyn | 7,180 | 5,294 | 74 |
| Salt Lake City, Utah | 4,050 | 2,980 | 74 |
| Omaha, Neb. | 2,455 | 1,768 | 72 |
| Cleveland | 5,350 | 3,850 | 72 |
| Atlanta | 6,445 | 4,590 | 71 |
| Seattle | 6,300 | 4,400 | 70 |
| Price, Utah | 1,750 | 1,200 | 69 |
| Oakland, Calif. | 9,450 | 6,335 | 67 |
| Phoenix | 1,250 | 829 | 66 |
| Boston | 4,646 | 3,011 | 65 |
| Birmingham, Ala. | 5,475 | 3,540 | 65 |
| Pittsburgh | 6,600 | 4,230 | 64 |
| Chicago | 8,110 | 5,168 | 64 |
| Austin, Minn. | 1,750 | 1,115 | 64 |
| Washington, D.C. | 3,540 | 2,252 | 64 |
| Detroit | 7,000 | 4,400 | 63 |
| Los Angeles | 16,000 | 9,721 | 61 |
| Twin Cities, Minn. | 5,300 | 3,140 | 59 |
| Philadelphia | 4,630 | 2,730 | 59 |
| Morgantown, W.V. | 3,854 | 2,239 | 58 |
| Charleston, W.V. | 3,815 | 2,165 | 57 |
| Des Moines, Iowa | 1,370 | 725 | 53 |
| Miami | 2,010 | 1,045 | 52 |
| Baltimore | 3,800 | 1,560 | 41 |
| Other U.S. | 5,085 | 3,612 | 71 |
| International | 1,929 | 1,429 | 74 |
| TOTALS | 168,495 | 114,406 | 68 |
| SHOULD BE | 150,000 | 138,462 | 92 |

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

Newspaper strikers at 'Daily News' win support

Continued from Page 16

tempted to split off support for the strike by picturing the strikers, in their majority white males, as racist.

Daily News management consultant John Scanlon, who has worked for strikebreakers like former Eastern Airlines head Frank Lorenzo, told *Newsday* that the strikers and the drivers "are the freeloading, featherbedding scum of the earth."

"They are the same people who beat up the kids protesting the war in Vietnam," he said. "Did you ever see any of them marching for civil rights?"

New Zealand gov't assaults rights of immigrant workers

BY JANET EDWARDS

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Since early October, the rights of immigrant workers here have come under increased attack.

On October 10 the government announced that beginning November 19 visitors would only be able to enter the country on a shortened permit of three months. The stated aim of this measure is to make it more difficult for visitors to obtain work permits.

Soon after the announcement immigration officials raided asparagus fields in the Waikato region where Indian farm workers are employed.

One farm owner described the fear these raids struck in the workforce in a press interview. "When immigration turned up," he said, "the workers were in such a mad rush to get away, one of them almost drowned trying to get across a creek."

All the workers fled the farm, he said, "even the ones who, it turned out, were quite entitled to be here."

The new measures come at a time of record unemployment. Employers are attempting to utilize the heightened level of competition among workers for jobs to try and drive down wages and working conditions.

The vast majority of the replacement workers hired by the *Daily News* are members of oppressed nationalities and women. However, a management attempt to get the membership lists from Black, Asian, and Hispanic journalists groups in order to recruit scabs blew up in their face and exposed the previous racist hiring practices of the paper. All three associations refused to turn over their lists after appeals by striking newsroom workers, some of whom are Black, Asian, and Hispanic.

The *Daily News* "wants to break the unions and create a subclass of workers who will be paid a lot less than the people who are on strike," David Hardy told the *New York Times*. Hardy, who is Black, was one of four plaintiffs in a successful discrimination suit against the *Daily News* in 1987. "The name of the game here isn't affirmative action — it's corporate greed," he said.

Hollis Bernard, also a striking reporter who is Black, told the Harlem-based *Amsterdam News*, "The *Daily News* doesn't have clean hands."

He condemned management efforts to lure Black and Hispanic workers to cross the picket lines as "race-baiting." He called the paper's actions divisive, "as though we want to be scabs of the 20th century."

Many working people have rejected management attempts to violence- and race-bait the striking unions and are finding ways to support the strike.

Missing from the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade this year was the *Daily News* float, thanks to union members at Macy's who do the volunteer work necessary to put on the huge parade.

Santa Claus, who usually entertains children in the lobby of the *Daily News* headquarters, will be out on the picket line this year. Trips by school children to the building to sing holiday songs have been canceled because teachers are refusing to cross the picket line.

"We will do everything in our power not to have children meet a scab Santa," said Bert Shanas, a spokesperson for the United Federation of Teachers.

The battle to continue to slash the advertising base of the *Daily News* took another step forward Thanksgiving weekend, as union members held rallies and passed out leaflets in front of Sears and Alexanders —

companies that continue to advertise in the paper — on Fordham Road in the Bronx.

Union members also leafleted shopping centers where some stores that continue to advertise in the *Daily News* are located.

Gift idea from Pathfinder Mural



Militant/Margrethe Siem

New full color photos of Pathfinder Mural are available for order

BY BECKY ELLIS

NEW YORK — A 16-by-20-inch color photograph of the Pathfinder Mural is now available from the Friends of the Pathfinder Mural. The six-story mural, featuring portraits of revolutionary and working-class leaders whose works are published by Pathfinder Press, was unveiled one year ago. It is dedicated to the workers and farmers of the world.

Thousands of people have visited the mural to view the portraits of Nelson Mandela, Fidel Castro, Mother Jones, Malcolm X, Karl Marx, and many others.

Articles about the mural have appeared in publications such as *Artpaper*, published in Minneapolis; *Third Text*, a journal of artists of color published in Britain; and *New Art Examiner*, a monthly published in Chicago. As a result of an article in *Gente Viaggi*, a magazine of travel and tourism published in Milan, Italy, three letters have been received

by the Friends of the Pathfinder Mural with orders for posters of the Mandela portrait. The Italian magazine encouraged visitors to New York to see the mural.

Small photos of individual portraits from the mural and the Mandela poster and postcards have been sold since the November 1989 unveiling to raise funds for the mural's defense, maintenance, and promotion. Plans are in the works to produce a portrait and postcard featuring the portrait of Malcolm X painted by African-American artist Carole Byard. It will be ready for use by Black History Month in February 1991.

The color photo is available for \$20. Please add \$3 for shipping in the United States, \$5 internationally. Volunteers are prepared to fill quickly holiday gift orders for mural photos. Write to the Friends of the Pathfinder Mural, 191 7th Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10011 or call (212) 727-8421.

Iowa board turns down Curtis parole request

Continued from front page

release a prisoner, including the amount of time served in jail, the conduct of the inmate in prison, and the amount of community support the prisoner has received.

Questions from the parole board, however, sharply deviated from establishing whether the criteria for parole had been met and shifted the focus of the hearing to Curtis' frame-up, his unfair trial, and the international defense campaign on his behalf.

Curtis introduced his supporters to the board once he was allowed into the room. But before he was able to present his case for parole, one board member asked Curtis, "Do you still consider yourself a political prisoner?"

"I don't use that term," Curtis replied. "I don't believe I received a fair trial, and that's why I was wrongly convicted."

Another board member asked Curtis' family and supporters if they had read the transcript of his criminal trial. All raised their hands to show that they had.

Curtis then proceeded to make his case for parole, explaining that he had served the average time for the third-degree sexual abuse charge of which he was convicted in 1988. He pointed to his outstanding conduct in prison, including maintaining a job and having no major violations of prison regulations on his record. He also told the board that the hundreds of messages received by them demonstrate community support for his release.

Curtis said the burglary charge of which he was also convicted was tacked on by the prosecutor two months after his indictment and lengthened the amount of jail time he faces. The sexual abuse charge carried a 10-year sentence and the burglary charge, a 25-year term. The trial judge ruled that Curtis should serve these terms concurrently.

One board member asked Curtis how he

had received so much support and if his supporters knew all the facts in his case. Supporters "have read news reports from different sources and have seen a video that has been shown around the world," Curtis said. Support groups "provide as much information as possible," he added, and they "have reviewed both sides of the story."

Curtis explained that, while he was happy to discuss these matters, the issue before the parole board was not his innocence or guilt, but whether he should be released.

"Until your conviction is overturned, we are faced with a 25-year sentence," one board member said. "We don't have the luxury of reading the trial transcript and deciding your ultimate guilt or innocence." Board members explained that the average time for a 25-year jail term is five to six years.

Keith Morris' statement

Others attending Curtis' hearing included Keith and Denise Morris, the parents of the woman Curtis was charged with assaulting. According to parole board procedures, victims of crimes and their families are allowed to attend parole hearings.

Keith Morris read a prepared statement and passed out copies to the board. He charged that Curtis was dangerous and asserted that all rapists are multiple offenders. He repeated previous slanders alleging that Curtis, while out on bail, had hounded his daughter. "The Mark Curtis Defense Committee has waged a campaign to harass myself, my wife, and my family," he said.

Morris, however, admitted that backers of Curtis' frame-up have not fared well. "We can't match them letter for letter," he said. "When you talk about the scoreboard of support, it's 5,000 to 4. We can't compete."

Morris' printed statement included sections of Curtis' testimony last July in a harassment lawsuit. In his testimony, Curtis



Militant/Stu Singer

Mark Curtis with his wife Kate Kaku in 1988, prior to his incarceration. He has now served 26 months in prison on frame-up rape and burglary charges.

reasserted that he was framed by Des Moines police and denied he committed any crime.

The lawsuit was filed a year ago by the Morris to win a massive financial damage award against Curtis and his wife, Kate Kaku. An Iowa district court judge recently ruled against attempts by the Morris' attorney to make the defense committee liable for any financial judgment against the unionist. The judge also said he would issue a final ruling in the suit soon.

Demand for conditions on Curtis

Morris raised that, as a condition for being released, the parole board should require Curtis to admit his guilt, express remorse, and submit to behavior modification therapy at a state prison facility.

"I hadn't intended to raise any of these issues," Curtis said in reply, "but I feel compelled to respond to some of these charges. The testimony in the [1988 criminal] trial transcript shows no physical evidence to link me with the alleged crime." He pointed to the discrepancies in the woman's description of her attacker and the uncontested testimony of a coworker who explained that Curtis was elsewhere at the time of the alleged crime.

Curtis' frame-up by Des Moines police stemmed from his defense of Latino coworkers arrested during an immigration raid at the Des Moines packinghouse where he worked. Curtis was a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union there.

Saur said, "It's rare that we see this many people interested in both sides. However, we don't retry the case. It's true you have done well, but the average is six years or closer to five." He concluded his remarks by asking if there was a motion for parole from the other two board members and none was made.

Curtis' requests to be assigned to a work release program or to be moved to a minimum security prison were also denied.

Jane Curtis, speaking for her family, addressed the parole board at the end of the hearing.

Stepping up the defense campaign

Defense committee coordinator John Studer explained in an interview following the hearing that the decision not to release Curtis had been made prior to the hearing. "They made a political decision to keep Curtis in jail," he said. "They decided that the political price for keeping Mark behind bars is not yet a factor that would make them consider releasing him."

"Mark clearly meets the criteria for parole, and he presented his case well," Studer explained. "But the parole board, having decided not to release him, attempted to draw Mark and his supporters into a false debate on the question of his guilt or innocence and other issues." This was an attempt to divert attention from the request for parole, he said.

"Mark was right to insist that he is a prime candidate for parole, if ever there was one, and to ask the board to consider his parole request on its merits," Studer said.

"There is also another point to the line of questioning by the board. The logic of the questions and the decision of the board leads to the idea that there are special criteria that Mark must meet to be released, that Mark

has to pay a higher price for his freedom," Studer said. "But Mark and his supporters will never give up this fight for justice."

"The international campaign for Mark's release showed that support is growing, is gaining strength, and that the opponents of his freedom are weaker," the defense committee leader said. "While we didn't win his release this time, we are closer to the day Mark will be released because of our efforts."

"Supporters of the defense effort will now tell the story of Mark's fight for parole and win new backing because of the board's biased conduct and decision," Studer said. "Our goal is to step up the international defense campaign and create the conditions that make it impossible for Iowa authorities to keep Mark behind bars."

Later that evening, a meeting in Des Moines of the Curtis defense committee and its supporters heard a report on the hearing and decided to turn the outpouring of support for the unionist's release into solid support for his ongoing fight for justice.

Robert Berry, a Des Moines political activist and member of the defense committee, captured the spirit of the meeting when he said, "It's time to turn up the heat."

Korean workers expose Pico company exploitation

BY SUSAN ANMUTH

NEW YORK—Members of the Pico Korea Workers Union, on tour as part of their two-year battle for workers' rights, spoke to 50 people here November 20 at the American Federation of Musicians Local 802 union hall.

The meeting also commemorated the life of Chun Tae Il, who immolated himself 20 years ago to protest the refusal of companies in South Korea to abide by labor laws. His death helped galvanize the union movement in the country.

Pico Products is a manufacturer of cable television components. The company has its corporate headquarters near Syracuse, New York, and until recently maintained a factory in Seoul, the capital of South Korea.

Union officer Lee Yeun Ree described the horrible working conditions the 300 workers, mostly women, at Pico Korea faced. Sickened by lead fumes, a plant with unusable bathrooms, and wages of \$6 a day—below even the Korean minimum wage—the women formed a union in June 1988. That November they signed a collective bargaining contract with the U.S. owner, Bernard Hitchcock. In February 1989 the whole management team fled the country, having failed to pay workers a month's wages and the severance pay demanded by law.

The workers were devastated, Lee said. They had worked hard for high productivity, believing that they could show that unionism was good and profitable for the company. Because the production level was so high, no one could believe they had been "abandoned." When they realized what had happened, it was "a cataclysmic shock."

The union tried to get help from South Korean government officials, but found that because Hitchcock was a U.S. citizen, he was exempt from the laws of South Korea.

Their protests were met with police violence. "We would scream: 'What good is dragging us into the police station when all we want is to find our boss and work?'" Lee said.

Believing if they could see Hitchcock the problem would be resolved, the union raised

money to send three workers to the United States. They learned quickly that Hitchcock was not to be moved. "If the legal system protects Hitchcock," Lee said, "that legal system must be abolished."

Yoo Jum Soon, the president of the union, explained that the Pico Korea workers and their supporters picketed the New York offices of Pico for 98 days. They then engaged in a hunger strike. They picketed Hitchcock's home, only to be hosed down with water by the owner himself. Last July the workers launched a lawsuit against Pico for breach of the collective bargaining agreement.

Frank Field, from the Center for Constitutional Rights, also spoke at the meeting. For the first time, he said, a court agreed that it had jurisdiction over a multinational corporation based in the United States for actions in another country. The trial is expected to begin in late spring.

Kang Young Hyo, the third union member on tour, explained that having met strikers from Eastern, Greyhound, and the *Daily News*, he realized that "not only are workers in the world one, but capitalists in the world are one."

In answer to a question, Kang explained that in Korea all issues and problems are related to the issue of reunifying the country. He pointed out that the National Security Law and anticommunist laws are used to repress the labor movement in the South.

"When our country is no longer divided, the government will no longer have that excuse, and our struggle will not be able to be stopped," he said.

Three video tapes on the rise of the union movement in South Korea and the Pico struggle were also shown.

The unionists will travel to Chicago and other Midwest cities (November 28–December 3), Seattle (December 4–5), Los Angeles (December 5–9), and San Francisco (December 9–12). The Committee for a New Korea Policy, based in Albany, New York, is coordinating the tour. For information contact David Easter at (518) 434-4037.

Socialist unionists will hold meetings on impending war, labor movement

Socialist Workers Party members who are members of trade unions will be holding a series of national meetings to discuss how they can deepen their resistance to the employers' 10-year assault on the unions and working people by reaching out broadly among workers and farmers—in and out of uniform—to campaign against the U.S.-led war drive in the Middle East.

The socialist workers will discuss this 10-year offensive by the employers on the labor movement, the resistance to it, the deepening economic crisis at home for working people, and how this is intertwined with the fight against Washington's accelerating steps toward a slaughter in the Mideast.

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 Electronic Workers; **Charleston, West Virginia:** United Mine Workers of America.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Antiwar Protest Against the Middle East Action. Sat., Dec. 1, 11 a.m.—1 p.m. Federal Bldg. (Westwood), 11000 Wilshire Blvd at Veteran. Sponsor: LA Coalition Against U.S. Intervention in the Middle East. For more information call (213) 655-3728 or (818) 780-8238.

FLORIDA

Miami

Washington's Accelerating War Drive. Speakers: Dave Prince, Socialist Workers Party national financial secretary; Muhammed, airport worker, Overtown community activist; Zena McFadden, member International Association of Machinists Lodge 702. Sat., Dec. 8. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Stop the U.S. War Drive in the Mideast! Speaker: Jackie Floyd, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Party. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Defend British Coal Miners! Speaker: Mary Zins, Socialist Workers Party, 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.

IOWA

Des Moines

March Against War, Rally for Peace in the Middle East. Sat., Dec. 8. Assemble, 1 p.m., west side of State Capitol; rally, 2 p.m., Wesley United Methodist Church, 800 E 12th. For more information call: Iowa Peace Network, (515) 374-4851, or CND, (515) 282-5851.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Washington's Accelerating War Drive. Speaker: Luis Madrid, Socialist Workers Party National Committee, *Perspectiva Mundial* editor. Sat., Dec. 1, 8 p.m. Days Inn-Downtown, 231 Michigan Ave. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund. For more information call (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA

Austin

Washington's Accelerating War Drive.

Speaker: Doug Jenness, business manager and former editor of the *Militant*. Sat., Dec. 8. Reception, 7 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 407½ N Main St. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund. Tel: (507) 433-3461.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

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

Stop the U.S. War Drive. Panel discussion; eyewitness report from Iraq by Rev. Mike Woodard, Fellowship for Reconciliation delegation. Sat., Dec. 8, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cleveland

Cuba in Today's World. Speaker: Clinton Adlum, first secretary, Cuban Interests Section, Washington, D.C. Sat., Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m. Cleveland State University, International Conference Center, University Center Bldg. at 21st and Euclid.

TEXAS

Houston

Washington's Accelerating War Drive. Speaker: Frank Forrestal, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., Dec. 1. Reception, 7 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Washington's Accelerating War Drive. Speaker: Margaret Jayko, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E Madison. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

How Atlantic Coast changed

Continued from Page 8

also organized among Sumu and Rama Indians and among Creoles.

Conflicts arose between Miskitos and the government from the beginning, but many of these were initially resolved. For example, the first round of the 1980 literacy crusade was conducted in Spanish on the Atlantic Coast, instead of in the languages of many of the residents. Misurasata convinced the government to authorize a second literacy drive, which was led by Misurasata and conducted in Miskito, Sumu, and English.

Similarly, after a fight, Misurasata got government agreement to compensate villages for pine trees cut down by the state on Indian communal land.

The government had also tentatively accepted Misurasata's proposal that land titles be distributed in the North Atlantic to legalize the communal property of Indian villages. The government did not give the titles out, however, until 1984.

Conflicts between Misurasata and the government worsened in 1980. There were clashes between the young Miskito activists leading Misurasata and some government officials who were Mestizo and largely ignorant of the Coast. Lau characterized their attitude as one of "incomprehension of our demands and racism." At the same time, a perception developed within the FSLN that the conflicts were due to "separatist" ideas among the Miskito activists.

The problems were exacerbated by the fact that no FSLN cadres were members of Misurasata. They worked outside it, despite the fact that Misurasata — not the FSLN — was viewed as the vanguard by most Miskitos.

Miskitos in the FSLN today have different opinions on why this happened.

Lau charged that Miskitos who belonged

to the FSLN "didn't identify as Miskitos," counterposed building Sandinista Defense Committees to building Misurasata, and disagreed with the demand for literacy classes in Miskito.

William Watler, who today heads the FSLN on the Río Coco, argued that Sandinista Miskitos were excluded from Misurasata. "They said you weren't really Miskito if you were in the FSLN."

(To be continued)

Cops in Canada harass unionists

Continued from Page 6

eration of Labour in its newsletter.

At the Communist League campaign rally, Walker explained, "As Canada heads into a Mideast war in defense of Big Oil and imperialist domination of the region, the rulers will increasingly use 'national security' pretexts to veil their attacks on our unions and democratic rights at home." She added, "This is just as they did in World War II by jailing Japanese-Canadians, trade unionists, socialists, and other opponents of the war."

Walker urged everyone to join the struggles today by working people and to campaign against the accelerating war moves.

Robert Demorest, candidate of the Communist League for Vancouver City Council and a member of the Young Socialists, told the rally about experiences the YS has had in building support for the Native struggle for land and sovereignty as well as campaigning against the war drive on campuses and street corners. Demorest participated in a campaign team that visited Esquimalt Naval Base on Vancouver Island to talk with young sailors, some 300 of whom will be

sent to the Arab-Persian Gulf region in January.

Also at the rally, Ron Dan, a Native activist from the Lil'wat People's Movement, explained how he and 62 other defenders of Native sovereignty had been arrested a week earlier defending a blockade on the Mount Currie reserve.

Dan explained how the provincial government expropriated Native land to build a road and then arrested those defending Native rights. "We've become criminals on our own land," he said, urging continued support for the recognition of Native rights.

Mike Barker, a leader of the British Columbia Hospital Employees Union chaired the rally. Ken Kawakubo, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Washington State senator in the recent U.S. elections, and Fred Nelson, Communist League candidate for Vancouver City Council, also addressed the rally, taking up the antiwar theme.

Vancouver radio station CKNW and the Chinese-language newspaper *Sing Tao* carried interviews with Walker on the CSIS harassment and her campaign.

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Class Series on Cuba and Communism. "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: *Militant, Perspectiva Mundial*. Translation to Spanish. Tel: 061-839 1766.

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Fund-raising 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

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

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The Movement Against the Vietnam War: Lessons for Today's Antiwar Fighters. Speaker: George Fyson, former leader of the anti-Vietnam War movement. Sat., Dec. 8, 7 p.m. 157a Symonds St. Sponsor: Socialist Forum. Tel: (9) 793-075.

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Another win — Natasha Denis, 10, is a star goalie for a girls' soccer team in Denton, Texas. During a game, two fathers from an opposing team demanded a panty



Harry Ring

check to see if she was a boy. Responded Natasha, "I think they should go somewhere and check and see if they have anything between their ears."

Fig seeds? — Bowing to pro-

test from the artist, Dallas officials removed the fig leaves they had added to three of his nude figures on display at City Hall. The statues are 7½ inches tall.

Clean team — In North Carolina, the army is using "Camouflage," a rock band, for high school recruiting sessions. They do their number in front of a jungle backdrop, replete with smoke and helicopter noise. The sergeant in charge says the hard job is to find popular songs with no references to drugs or sex. He also watches for any "peace or protest songs."

Underground agent? — He never set foot in the United States and he died 17 years ago. But the FBI has maintained a file on Pablo

Picasso since he joined the French Communist Party in 1944. However, the agency advises, there's no "current investigation" of the celebrated artist.

What price imperialism — The average wage of Mexican factory workers is a reported \$1.57 an hour, one of the lowest in the world, ranking below the wages in Singapore, Hong Kong, and Korea. In those centers, key competitors for foreign assembly plants, the average wage runs from \$1.79 an hour to \$2.70, according to the Mexican Labor Federation.

The bright side — In the past five years, the number of bankruptcies has doubled and there's a growing interest in bankruptcies among

law students, some of whom prefer to call it "corporate restructuring." A Harvard law school spokesperson said, "Certainly, there's a feeling it's a much more stable part of the profession right now."

And he's only a U.S. oil underling — The sultan of Brunei spent a reported \$975,000 decorating a London hotel ballroom as a giant New York sewer, headquarters of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. It was a nephew's ninth birthday.

Things are tough — Richard ("I'm no crook") Nixon sold his seven-bedroom Saddle River, N.J., house to move into a smaller apartment. Like a lot of folks he found the market wasn't too good. He initially asked \$3.25 million for the

place but finally settled for \$2.4 million. He bought it in 1981 for \$1,025,000.

They feel for him — Released from jail on bail, indicted thrift kingpin Charles Keating returned to his Phoenix, Arizona, mansion assertedly so poor that his electricity was going to be shut off. A local talk show wag staged a fund-raiser. Phone calls poured in, plus pledges totalling \$4 — none of which have been paid.

P.S. — Keating and three associates are charged with the fraudulent sale of \$200 million worth of worthless bonds, many to elderly people who were led to believe the bonds were federally insured.

Cuban author explains contributions of Guevara

Continued from Page 16

after the triumph of the revolution in 1959, the Cuban people "began to organize a society on a different basis than capitalism. We knew full well," he said, "that capitalism could not solve our problems. We therefore started to build a society with a human face."

Guevara played a leading role in these developments, the Cuban author noted. He explained how Guevara had returned from a visit to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union impressed by the material progress achieved by those societies. But, Tablada said, Guevara was deeply concerned that alongside the economic progress, new human values of solidarity had not been developed in these countries.

Guevara, said Tablada, "aimed at creating a model that would develop human spirituality, solidarity, and the individual man. For 15 years we tried and tried to find this different way of doing things, and we made great progress."

However, Tablada explained, during the decade beginning in 1975 the Cubans "stopped thinking with our own heads" and began to implement the economic models taken from the Soviet Union. These measures had the effect of allowing the development of "corruption of workers, of leaders, even of government ministers," he said.

Internationalism

Despite these problems, the revolutionary values of the Cuban people were kept alive by Cuba's response to the call made by the Angolan government for support against the invasion by the South African army, Tablada pointed out.

"The moment when my people started to be corrupted on the level of production," he said, "was the same moment when the most beautiful page of solidarity between peoples was written." Up to the final defeat of the South African forces in 1988, more than 300,000 Cubans volunteered and served in Angola.

In 1984 the Cubans began a fight to overcome the effects of the economic models implemented in 1975, Tablada explained. Headed by Cuban President Fidel Castro, this battle is called the rectification process.

During the question-and-answer session, Tablada was asked about the recent watershed events in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The economic policies followed by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev represent a turn back toward capitalism, Tablada said.

"In fact," the Cuban author said, "perestroika is only Stalinism in a new form." He said that despite the crisis in Eastern Europe, it is capitalism and not communism that is in trouble today. Cuba is proving this in thought and in action, he said.

Participants gave Tablada a standing ovation at the end of his talk and contributed more than £150 (US\$294) toward the cost of the tour. Nineteen copies of his book on Guevara's economic thought were purchased.

Prior to the public meeting a reception was held in Tablada's honor at the Manchester Town Hall, hosted by the Lord Mayor and the city council Anti-Apartheid Working Party. During the course of the event Tablada was able to meet a number of city councillors, leaders of the city's West Indian and Pakistani communities, and leaders of the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

The author's visit here was kicked off with a meeting attended by 50 students and teachers that was organized by the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences of Manchester University. University lecturer Donna Pankhurst introduced the Cuban author. Tablada's talk provoked a lively question-and-answer session that ran well over the two hours allocated for the meeting.

After the campus meeting Tablada gave a seminar at Manchester Polytechnic. The seminar was chaired by George Zis, head of the Department of Economics and Economic History.

The next day Tablada attended a lunch organized for him by the local offices of the Transport and General Workers Union. The district committee of Region 6 of the union, which covers the North-West of Britain, was among the sponsors of Tablada's tour.

Following the lunch, Tablada fielded questions from 25 members of the transport union, the construction workers' union, and the electricians' union. Many of the questions focused on the organization of the unions in Cuba and the recent renewal of union leadership there. Tablada explained how this renewal had allowed leaders from among the younger workers to head up the unions.



Economist and author Carlos Tablada in Malmö, Sweden, prior to Britain tour.

First-ever U.S. tour by Vietnamese vet begins

BY MAUREEN COLETTA

PHILADELPHIA — For the first time, a Vietnamese veteran of the U.S. war against that country is on tour in the United States. More than 50 people attended a meeting here to greet Nguyen Ngoc Hung, who is on an 11-city speaking tour. Nguyen, an English professor at the Hanoi Foreign Languages College, was also featured on a nationally broadcast segment of the popular TV program "60 Minutes" about Vietnamese veterans.

Nguyen got the idea for the tour after several meetings with U.S. veterans who had returned to Vietnam on a "healing mission." Nguyen's tour is sponsored by the National Network of Indochina Activists and the Asia Resource Center and is cosponsored by Philadelphia Veterans for Peace.

Nguyen explained that, like many of the U.S. soldiers he fought, he still finds himself waking up in a cold sweat from nightmares of the bloody Tet Offensive in 1968. But unlike U.S. veterans, Nguyen and the Vietnamese people still face the devastation and destruction wrought by the imperialist war against their country.

Nguyen described the impact of the war that, to this day, makes it impossible to rapidly reconstruct the economy. Attempts to reforest and plant sections of the country treated by Agent Orange have failed. Floods, loss of harvests, disease, and suffering have been the consequences of the war.

The veteran went on to explain that Vietnam needs economic aid to survive. "A better, healthier relationship between the United States and Vietnam would bring benefits to both sides — economically, politically, and morally," he said.

During the discussion period, many of those present raised the prospect of a Vietnam-like war in the Middle East as the U.S. government prepares for military action in that region. A group of 20 Vietnamese-

Americans challenged Nguyen's views on the U.S. role in the Vietnam War and placed the blame for the current economic crisis on the Vietnamese government. Three U.S. veterans of the Vietnam War spoke on the need

to establish relations between the two governments, give economic aid, and prevent future wars.

Nguyen is in Boston on November 29 and New York City on December 1.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Dec. 5, 1980

Fifteen hundred Black activists met here November 21-23 at a convention that founded the National Black Independent Political Party.

Convention delegates represented a broad cross section of the Black community. They came from at least 25 states and the District of Columbia. They included activists from community organizations and religious, student, and socialist groups. Black unionists attended, along with scores of activists affiliated with no organized group.

The convention adopted a charter, outlining the principles and structure of the party. The preamble states, "Our party will not be like the Democratic and Republican parties. . . .

"There are two kinds of mass parties, bourgeois and progressive. The bourgeois party exists to serve a regime that is in power which represents the interests of a minority, but claims a mass constituency, i.e. Republican and Democratic Parties.

"The progressive party exists to serve the interests of the working class and the poor, therefore our party will actively oppose racism, sexism, capitalism, and imperialism."

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

Dec. 6, 1965

The November 27 March on Washington for Peace in Vietnam made it clear that a growing number of Americans are opposed to the war and willing to go out of their way to demonstrate their opposition. With at least 35,000 in attendance, the march was the biggest such action in the capital so far.

The march included more young and middle-aged adults, many with their children, than the predominantly college-aged student march of April 17. But it also represented a much wider variety of organizations and localities. Many of the demonstrators had never been in Washington before.

One of the striking things in this respect was the number of groups from southern cities and universities whose members say they have just gotten started building anti-Vietnam War committees in recent weeks — and often in none too friendly surroundings.

One thousand copies of the pamphlet distributed by the Young Socialist Alliance, entitled *War and Revolution in Vietnam* were sold, along with 800 copies of the *Militant* and 1,000 copies of the *Young Socialist*.

UN sanction for imperialist war

Working-class fighters, GIs, reservists, farmers, and others should deepen their campaigning against the war toward which Washington is rapidly moving in the Mideast.

The agreement among the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to a resolution approving the unleashing of the massive, U.S.-led arsenal against the Iraqi people after January 15 is a major diplomatic victory for Washington and its imperialist allies. It gives Washington a green light to wage a massive, bloody, and destructive war of imperial conquest in the region.

The governments of Britain and France support the U.S. resolution. The Soviet regime announced November 27 that it would also back the measure. Representatives of China, the fifth permanent member, have said they will not veto the act.

The U.S. government — joined by the ruling regimes of 29 countries — has amassed on the Iraqi border and in the Arab-Persian Gulf one of the most colossal assemblies of troops, matériel, and weapons of destruction in this century.

Far from concern about Kuwait's national sovereignty, Washington seized on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait to mobilize the forces necessary to defeat Baghdad's army and set up a protectorate government in Iraq to serve the U.S. rulers and defend imperialist interests in the region.

This war will not only result in tens of thousands of working people dead and wounded on both sides, but untold devastation of countries in the region and around the world.

President George Bush made Washington's aims to go to war against Iraq crystal clear when he visited U.S. troops stationed in Saudi Arabia over the Thanksgiving holiday. "We are not here on some military exercise," he told U.S. GIs in the Saudi desert. "We are not walking away until the invader is out of Kuwait. That may well be where you come in."

The war resolution follows four months of the most rapid

military buildup of its size in the history of warfare by the imperialist powers and their cohorts. At each step in the drive to war, Washington enjoyed the backing of a big majority in the Security Council — moves that were approved by the Soviet and Chinese governments.

The Security Council draft resolution excludes any pretense of a UN command of the imperialist forces or any UN say in the ongoing U.S. military strategy in the region.

Unlike the U.S. war against Korea in the 1950s, the motion scheduled for approval will tear the fig leaf off the fakery of a war waged under a UN flag. It will, for the first time, give full backing to an imperialist war organized and led by the U.S. government.

Such UN backing will be used by Washington and its allies to attempt to silence and render illegitimate any discussion and debate on the coming war among working people and to intimidate opposition to it. They will seek to parley a UN vote into winning wider acceptance in public opinion for the bloody slaughter.

All working people and other opponents of the war that the imperialists are marching the world into must step up their efforts to build wider working-class opposition to Washington's course. Seeking discussion and debate in mines, mills, and factories and on warships about the issues; using the *Militant* and Pathfinder's *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* to get out the facts; and joining in protests organized by action coalitions are ways to join in campaigning against the impending war.

Workers who have engaged in struggle against the employers' war on the unions, democratic rights, and living standards at home can now also involve other workers and farmers in a fight against the war of the employers' government abroad.

The fight for Curtis' freedom

The Iowa State Board of Parole should have granted Mark Curtis his release on November 20. By every criteria set forth under Iowa law, Curtis is a prime candidate for release.

Prior to his 1988 conviction on frame-up rape and burglary charges, Curtis had no criminal record. He has no prior history of drug or alcohol abuse or of sexual misconduct. His prison record is clear of any major offenses, and his conduct is rated "excellent." Since he was incarcerated, he has held a prison job. And he has now served the average amount of time behind bars for the main charge of which he was convicted — third-degree sexual abuse, which carries a 10-year sentence.

Along with the substantial labor, community, religious, and civic support from Des Moines, Iowa, and around the world, these facts should have moved the parole board to release Curtis. But the hearing and the conduct of board members put a spotlight on the political character of the case and the high stakes involved.

In early November prison officials attempted to deny Curtis the right to have his supporters appear at the hearing. During the hearing itself, the board shifted the focus off of the parole issue and onto Curtis' frame-up by police, his trial, and the international defense campaign on his behalf — important issues, but irrelevant to the board's deliberations.

The political character of the case and the high stakes were also clear in the demands raised by Keith Morris at the hearing. Morris, the father of the woman Curtis allegedly attacked, stated that Curtis should admit guilt and submit to behavior modification therapy prior to parole. Such demands are a gross violation of the rights of prisoners to parole and to maintain their innocence.

In other words, Curtis must be broken before his freedom can be considered, Morris demanded. This has been the aim of the cops, prosecutor, and prison authorities from the

beginning.

By refusing to judge Curtis' parole request according to the established criteria, the board exposed its bias against the unionist and political activist and tacitly confirmed that Iowa authorities are judging his case by different standards.

The board's claim that it must judge Curtis' bid for parole by the burglary conviction, which carries a 25-year jail term, is a smoke screen. The burglary charge was tacked on by the prosecutor two months after Curtis was indicted, lengthening his sentence. No one ever charged that Curtis stole anything, only that he was on private property when arrested.

At each stage in Curtis' fight, the authorities and other opponents of justice in this case have attempted to abridge important democratic rights.

Just recently the Mark Curtis Defense Committee won an important victory for the right to privacy and political association in a lawsuit against Curtis by Morris and his wife. After retaining noted Iowa constitutional rights attorney Mark Bennett and waging an international campaign, the committee turned back an attempt by Morris' attorney, Stuart Pepper, to get an Iowa court to pry open the financial books and records of the defense committee and find the committee liable for any financial judgment against Curtis. Had the court ruled for Pepper, the defense effort would have been severely crippled.

While Curtis' release was not won this time, the efforts of the defense committee and thousands of supporters from around the world actually helped to bring the day of freedom closer. The authorities and opponents of Curtis' fight for justice are weaker. The task now is to step up the international defense campaign so that the tables are turned and Iowa authorities are forced to decide that the price for keeping Curtis behind bars is too high.

Join Chicago socialist campaign

The Socialist Workers Party candidates in the Chicago city elections stand as a working-class voice in opposition to the U.S.-led war moves abroad and the employer and government offensive at home.

The candidates and their supporters are campaigning to get out the truth about the imperialist war drive in the Mideast and plan to reach out broadly to discuss and build opposition to this twin offensive among workers, farmers, GIs, veterans, as well as students and other youth.

SWP candidates James Mac Warren for mayor, Estelle DeBates for city clerk, and Eric Matheis for city treasurer correctly point out that this war drive is totally intertwined with the deepening capitalist economic crisis. This crisis will have a devastating impact on working people. The war moves in the Mideast and the impending economic catastrophe provide the framework for an increased offensive by the employing class against working people's standard of living, conditions at work, and deepening attacks on democratic rights.

The candidates have made their campaign a platform for

working people to debate and discuss the impending war. Such a perspective points toward working people charting an independent course in the fight against the war at home and abroad.

In addition to an antiwar campaign, the candidates and their supporters will deepen their active participation in the fights of workers and the oppressed who are resisting the onslaught of attacks by the capitalists and their government.

The socialist candidates face obstacles, however. The city's undemocratic requirement that nominating petitions with 25,000 signatures be submitted is designed to block working-class candidates from access to the ballot.

To comply, campaign supporters have launched a big effort to collect 30,000 signatures — well over the requirement — as part of the fight to win ballot status. Volunteering to become a part of this effort is one way fighting workers and youth can join in campaigning against Washington's rapid moves toward war. Gaining a ballot spot for the SWP ticket in Chicago is an important part of keeping political space open and deserves the support of working people.

World War I and working-class fight against it

BY DOUG JENNESS

With each day that passes, Washington takes another step in accelerating the preparations for an imperialist military assault on Iraq. At the same time the employers' offensive to drive down workers' wages, impose more onerous work rules, speed up work, lay off workers, and attempt to bust unions — including with armed thugs — continues to intensify.

The specter of a war at home and abroad will increasingly pose questions for working people about why wars occur, why the same class that is exploiting us goes to war against peoples in other countries, and how to fight these interconnected evils.

In the next few issues we will review the nature of other wars in this century and the experience of working people in them. This week I'll raise a few points about World War I.

That war, which began in 1914 and ended in 1918, was not an accident nor was it the result of the policies of this or that dictator. Nor was it a war to "make the world safe

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

for democracy" as capitalist propagandists of that day and many history books today claim.

World War I was the direct consequence of the expansionist nature of capitalism. From their earliest days, capitalists were driven by the quest for profits to move into new parts of the world and compete with each other for markets and raw materials. By 1914, in a few countries, the concentration of capitalist industry, trade, and banking had led to the development of monopoly by a handful of ruling families. They used their control over national governments to dominate most of the rest of the world. Between 1876 and 1914, for example, six imperialist powers, including the United States, grabbed nearly 10 million square miles of territory and enslaved 523 million people by bringing them under their direct colonial rule.

The conflict between these capitalist rulers over control of markets, sources of raw materials, and spheres of influence, as well as domination of colonies, mounted until they went to war over how to redivide the world among themselves.

The problem the capitalist rulers in each country had in waging war for these goals was convincing working people to accept the sacrifices required. To this end, they attempted to conceal their predatory aims by appeals to "national interests" or "national destiny."

During the years of preparation for war by the imperialist powers preceding August 1914, most socialists said they opposed war and wouldn't defend their governments in the war. However, when war was declared and the shooting began, the big majority sided with the capitalist governments in their own countries, making a shambles of international solidarity between workers.

The principal exception were the Bolsheviks in tsarist Russia. They didn't turn to any government, capitalist politician, or labor bureaucrat. Rather, they looked to working men and women, soldiers and sailors, and ruined peasants. The large majority of Bolsheviks were workers who had gained experience in some rich battles against the employers in the years immediately before the war.

The Bolsheviks refused to subordinate the struggles of working people against the capitalist exploiters, landed aristocracy, and monarchy to support for the imperialists' goals. They utilized every avenue they could to advance these rights during the war. Their deputies in the Duma, a parliamentary body set up by the tsar, made use of their legal standing as long as they could to help get out literature and travel widely to organize workers. They were soon tried and exiled to Siberia for life.

The communist workers' organization published an underground newspaper and distributed leaflets in factories and army barracks. And as the opportunities opened up, their members in the armed forces encouraged fraternization of Russian troops with the "enemy" at the front.

They recognized that as the war dragged on and conditions increasingly worsened for working people, the possibility existed of turning the predatory war of the capitalist rulers into a massive workers' and peasants' revolt aimed at the rulers themselves in their own country. In February 1917 this revolutionary explosion occurred, toppling the monarchy.

The liberals, reformist socialists, and populists supported the new provisional government's continuation of the imperialist war. The Bolsheviks, however, opposed this course and continued to fight against the landlords and capitalists. In October 1917, they led the workers, peasants, and soldiers, organized in their delegated councils to overturn the capitalists and set up their own government. That government published the secret agreements the capitalist regime had made with its allies for dividing the spoils. And it signed a treaty that took the country out of the imperialist slaughter.

Why calls for military draft should be rejected

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Working people — in and out of uniform — young people, and others who oppose Washington's rapidly accelerating drive toward war in the Middle East should heed the talk beginning to surface in the press about reintroducing the draft.

A debate on this issue must be taken up, and efforts should be made to expose the deliberate attempts to confuse and dampen potential opposition to the war drive and military conscription.

Clarification of the stakes involved for working people and youth if the U.S. government reinstitutes the draft will put opponents of Washington's war aims on a better footing

AS I SEE IT

to mobilize broader opposition.

The *New York Times* reported November 11 that former navy secretary James Webb has appeared on several recent television interviews proposing reintroduction of the draft. Webb, who served in the Reagan administration, has argued that military duty is something everyone should submit to equally. He criticized the all-volunteer armed forces for saddling the less fortunate in the United States with the "dirty work."

The U.S. Army has always supported a draft, the *Times* said, quoting a report on army personnel published by the U.S. Army Soldier Support Center. "The fighting force must be broadly representative of the population," the report said. This is required to maintain the "political and democratic legitimacy" of a war effort. The center is the agency charged with developing army doctrine.

The *Times* article confirmed that Pentagon war planners have never really rejected the need for a draft since it was abolished in 1972. The military brass has generally viewed with trepidation the prospect of waging a war on the scale of the one now looming in the Middle East without a draft.

The "total force" concept, whereby regular and reserve forces are mobilized for a war, is now being tested. This setup may suffice in the early stages of a war, but a more massive conscript army is needed to both carry on a prolonged military conflict and maintain Washington's numerous military bases abroad.

Webb has not been the only one publicly peddling reinstitution of the draft. The initial strains of support come not

from Bush administration spokespeople, but from an array of liberal capitalist politicians and figures, including New York Governor Mario Cuomo, Jesse Jackson, Harlem Congressman Charles Rangel, and Harvard professor and liberal savant John Kenneth Galbraith.

On November 26 columnist William Safire reported that during an interview, Cuomo asked, "What are you figuring on, Bill, a three-day war? You have to assume it will not be short. You cannot escape the question of a draft."

"Could you have a war without a draft?" Cuomo asked. "You can't ask soldiers to fling their bodies in front of tanks and say: 'We'll take our chances on reinforcements.'"

In a November 16 interview with the *Times*, Jackson said that if war came, he would support a draft so that the military would not be composed disproportionately of poor people and minorities. A few days later, Jackson wrote in his syndicated national column: "It cannot escape notice that the president, who campaigned with Jesse Helms and vetoed the civil rights bill at home, is now asking a military that is 40 percent Black and brown to risk their lives abroad. Would the president require the same of a conscript army that included the sons and daughters of the elite?"

Rangel followed a similar line. In a November 10 *Amsterdam News* interview, he asked, "Those Americans calling for swift action now against Hussein, how many of their children are there" in Saudi Arabia; "or how many funerals will they attend?" The congressman said he regretted that the United States has a volunteer army.

Galbraith wrote a November 7 *Times* op-ed piece called "(Class) War in the Gulf." Referring to his own social class, he said, "We are, as in the much regretted practice of the Civil War, hiring people from the lower-income classes to do our military service with its possibly heavy consequences. The affluent stand above and apart."

"One obvious remedy," he continued, "would be to reinstate the draft with random selection and service on an economically indifferent basis."

The personnel of today's all-volunteer army, reserve corps, and National Guard is mostly working-class and poor, with a disproportionate number of oppressed minorities. While Blacks comprised 26 percent of last year's army recruits, they are only 14 percent of the U.S. population in that age bracket. Fewer members of the "well-to-do classes" serve in the military today than during the Vietnam War, the November 12 *Times* article said. Only two of the 535 members of Congress have sons or daughters deployed in the Gulf.

Arguments that a draft is needed to slow the drive toward war; to combat class divisions, racism, or sexism; and to equalize the burdens of war in society are sheer demagoguery. They are designed to appeal to progressive sentiments held by working people and thereby confuse the real issues. The nub of the matter is that support for conscription aids the war drive of the U.S. billionaire ruling families who are dragging us into a horrible slaughter in the Middle East.

In every previous world war — including World War I, World War II, and the Korean and Vietnam wars — the draft was the primary source of cannon fodder for Washington. Its implementation did not slow the march toward war in any case and did not alter one iota who fought and died in those conflicts.

There were more than a million U.S. casualties during World War II, almost 160,000 during the Korean War, and more than 210,000 during the Vietnam War. Working people, especially the poor and oppressed minorities, were always hardest hit.

During the 1960s, proportionately more Blacks (30 percent) than whites (18 percent) were drafted for service in the Vietnam War. Between 1961 and 1967, Blacks suffered nearly 17 percent of all deaths, although they comprised around 12 percent of the troops. In 1970, Blacks took 22 percent of the casualties.

Martin Luther King, Jr., pointed out during the Vietnam War that Blacks have half as much of the good things as whites and twice as much of the bad things. Thus, he said, "there were twice as many Negroes as whites in combat in Vietnam at the beginning of 1967, and twice as many Negro soldiers died in action in proportion to their numbers in the population."

The draft was ended by the Nixon administration in 1972, but not out of good will or a desire for peace. The growth of the anti-Vietnam War movement, which encompassed millions and had the support of many millions more, and the dead end of the war itself eventually led to demands that both the war and the draft be ended. By 1971 the Selective Service System, which conducted conscription, was a shambles, and Washington was forced to concede to widespread antiwar sentiment.

The abolition of the draft for the first time in decades was a victory for working people and was a big setback for the imperialist rulers. In a future column we will take a look at former president James Carter's attempt to reintroduce the draft a decade ago and the opposition it produced.

LETTERS

Gulf buildup

Stephen Lewis, former New Democratic Party leader and recent Canadian ambassador to the United Nations, made the following points on a popular radio program:

- 1) The Persian Gulf buildup is a U.S. imperialist (his word) adventure to gain control over the oil-rich area.
- 2) The United States is cynically using the UN.
- 3) The United States does not want a negotiated settlement and is using the invasion of Kuwait as an excuse for war.
- 4) The political and economic repercussions will be horrendous and this may be "the last hurrah" for the United States.

This forthright and honest diagnosis by a prominent social democrat, whose party won a landslide victory in Ontario, shows the potential for a strong antiwar movement in Canada.

Bea Bryant
Blenheim, Ontario

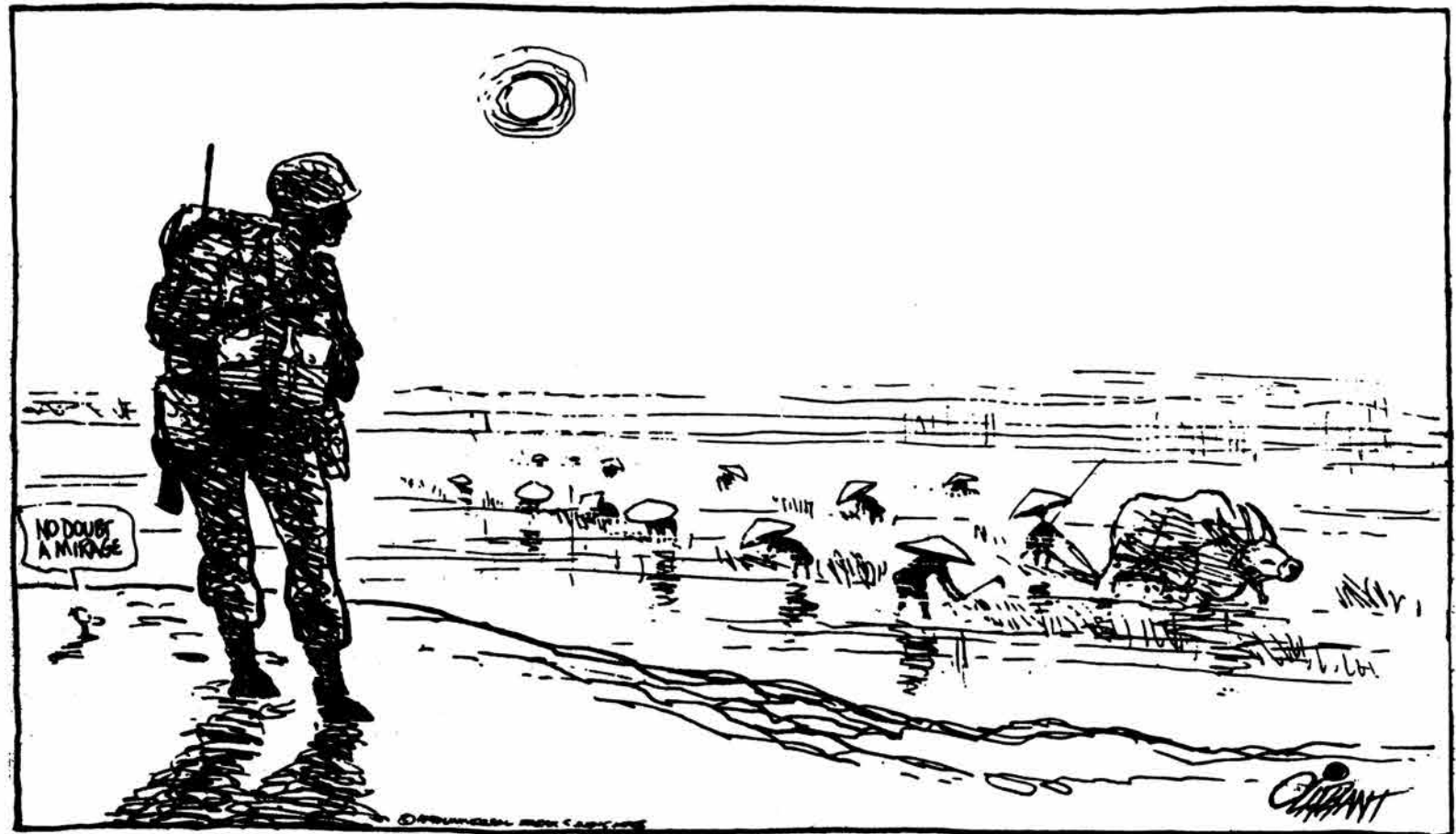
GIs in Germany

In a recent issue, the *Militant* printed an "Open letter to GIs" by Socialist Workers Party candidate Andrew Pulley from Michigan — a Vietnam-era veteran who fought for the rights of GIs to speak out against that war. I am considering reprinting this on a leaflet for GIs here in Germany or proposing to the antiwar committee emerging here to do so.

A reader
Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Students organize

A group of 250 students from our small 1,650-student college united for an effective voice on campus. We occupied the Occidental College administration building on November 15 to protest the undemocratic process by which the affairs of the



students and faculty on campus are handled. One example is the fact that Occidental College is still shamefully investing in South Africa, even though students and faculty have expressed overwhelming dissent and have demanded action.

The media and our administration have continually misrepresented our position, claiming the entire demonstration was based on the cancellation of a rap concert. In reality, that unilateral action by Occidental's administration was only the final straw and rallying point.

The existing power structure has "locked in" a group of 40 students at the administration building, cutting off both food and ventilation.

Support rallies, held each day, have drawn 250 to 350 students. We have received messages of solidarity from the Progressive Student

Network and from students and faculty from Oregon, Michigan, Massachusetts, and other colleges in California.

We realize the only way we can correct the ills and injustices of our society is by having an effective voice in the making of policies and ideas.

Malek Doulat
Occidental College
Administration Building
Los Angeles, California

Timely

The Afrikan Culture Workshop at the Black Canyon prison in Phoenix wants to thank you for printing "Shakedown" in your letters column. Its timing could not have been better. We also liked the "Learning About Socialism" section.

There have been some interesting discussions here on the subject of dialectics and about how the propaganda machine of capitalism has made the average person fearful of socialism and communism. We came up with ways of dealing with the problem by talking about the reality of the world situation and familiarizing people with the scientific element. The bottom line is to win people over by the example of love for the welfare of the masses, with true internationalism as a guide.

Combating false internationalism and building the leadership of working people, we also exposed false nationalism. There are those who say they are for their people, calling themselves leaders in the struggle for liberation, yet at the same time they sell drugs or pimp women.

We must criticize false interna-

ionalism whenever we hear of it, where it may be demonstrated by error or intentionally.

A prisoner
Phoenix, Arizona

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

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

Newspaper strikers win support to counter 'Daily News' lockout

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

NEW YORK — A month after being forced out on the street by the *Daily News*, 2,400 workers are continuing to resist management's drive to break their unions.

Through mass rallies, family days on picket lines, leafleting, and a new door-to-door campaign in working-class communities to urge subscription cancellations, striking workers are reaching out and winning solidarity with their struggle, devastating the circulation of the paper.

The unionists, who are members of nine unions organized under the Allied Printing Trades Council, were locked out by the New York daily October 25.

Workers were forced out on the street after eight months of working without a contract and a drive by the company to impose "management rights" on the shop floor. Workers describe conditions they faced prior to the lockout as being "like a concentration camp," with armed guards and dogs inside the plant and arbitrary suspensions and firings.

"You have the support of the entire labor movement behind you," Lane Kirkland, president of the AFL-CIO, told a cheering crowd of 5,000 outside the editorial offices of the *Daily News* November 4. Flanking Kirkland were the international presidents of several large unions. Almost \$300,000 in aid was pledged at the rally.

Both the response of working people in New York to the paper's open strikebreaking and the unity and staying power of the nine unions have come as a surprise to the Chicago-based Tribune Company, which owns the *Daily News*.

Union-busting plan

Union-busting experts hired by the Tribune Co. spent tens of millions of dollars and nearly a year mapping out a plan to train scabs and bring in gun thugs to break the

The paper's circulation has collapsed; advertisers are pulling back.

unions. When members of the Newspaper and Mail Deliverers Union protested a foreman's demand that a disabled worker stand to do his job, they were locked out of the Brooklyn printing facility early in the morning October 5.

At that point a military-style plan of action by the company clicked into place. A busload of replacement workers was at the plant gate within an hour, and the paper rolled off the presses and went out on trucks that same morning.

This is the first time that a New York newspaper has been printed and driven past union picket lines.

However, management made a serious error in judgment — many working people who regularly buy the *Daily News* refused to buy a paper engaged in strikebreaking. Thousands of small vendors in the city decided not to try to peddle the paper as well.

Despite promotional efforts and a 25-cent cover price, management has not been able to sell the scab paper. From a prestrike daily distribution of over a million copies, today it is hard to find a single copy for sale on city newsstands.

Across the city, union members and their supporters have taken it upon themselves to urge vendors not to trade the goodwill of their regular customers for a few dollars a day profit from sales of the *Daily News*.

Unionized drivers delivering other newspapers are also in a position to offer a daily reminder to the vendors.

Industry analysts say paid circulation of the paper may be down to below 300,000 copies a day, mostly from home deliveries.



Some 270 New York cops are assigned to 24-hour force at *Daily News* plant in Brooklyn. Management has tried to smear strikers as violent and racist.

On November 17, 200 union members from 25 different unions went door to door in Queens to appeal to subscribers to cancel home delivery.

"I canceled my subscription the first week of the strike," explained a member of the International Association of Machinists who lives in Queens. "Besides which, there's nothing in the paper."

Once a hefty daily, the paper has lost quite a bit of weight and all its columnists. Out-of-town reporters who work for other papers owned by the Tribune Co. are attempting to cover New York City news. No bylines appear on the articles. Amusing stories of scab reporters lost in the subway system or holed up in fancy hotel rooms are a regular feature in competing New York papers.

With plummeting circulation, most companies have stopped advertising in the *Daily News*. Macy's, the paper's largest advertiser, canceled its \$6-million-a-year ad campaign. And Pergament Home Centers, the paper's second largest source of advertising revenue, also canceled its ads and is requesting compensation for recent ads that have not reached the prestrike readership. Even the Sunday edition coupon insert is no longer printed. Industry analysts put the paper's losses at between \$3 million and \$6 million a week.

In desperation the owners of the *Daily News* have turned to taking advantage of the city's homeless people to get their paper out. Hawkers, some recruited at homeless shelters, have appeared on the streets and in subways, getting whatever they can for single copies.

Bundles of the *Daily News* are given out free, sometimes along with a daily stipend, in the early morning hours outside the paper's Brooklyn and Manhattan offices. Unemployed and homeless people drawn into this scheme can keep all or most of the proceeds from their sales. In contrast, vendors normally earn from five to seven cents a copy.

Management claims

Management recently announced that it has stopped giving copies away and will have 1,000 hawkers selling them at the regular 35-cent price by the end of the month.

Daily News spokesperson Lisa Robinson proclaimed, "We are moving to our normal and routine circulation, day by day." Robinson has become a hated figure; effigies of her are burned on *Daily News* picket lines, and placards point out that her previous employer was at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant — a facility that suffered a near

meltdown.

Robinson has led the attempt to reduce support for the strikers by smearing them as violent and racist. The company claims that newsstands are refusing to sell their paper because of threats of physical violence by striking unionists.

Feature articles in the *Daily News*, and ads in other newspapers, asserted that Leo Imerti, a blind Queens newsdealer, was threatened by union drivers and told his Seeing Eye dog would be killed if he sold the paper.

Imerti, interviewed in both the *New York Post* and *Newsday*, calls the *Daily News* story a lie. He said that he was not selling the paper because "I am a union man from way back."

Gun thugs used by management

The reality of violence in the strike is that management has deployed paramilitary-style "security guards" in the streets of New York.

At the November 14 rally, Kirkland pointed out that the "root cause" of any violence in the strike was the company's decision to take union workers' jobs and fill them with outside nonunion replacements.

"Who brought the bully boys?" he asked the crowd. "Who brought the brown shirts? Who brought the hired thugs to New York?"

Fresh from sometimes murderous attacks on miners in the coalfields, professional strikebreakers have been brought in to ride shotgun on delivery trucks. In addition, at least three private security companies are under contract with the *Daily News*. According to a November 15 front-page article in the *New York Times*, "The men are being recruited from areas around military bases in the South... where the local economies are being hard hit by the deployment of troops to Saudi Arabia."

A 21-year-old army veteran from the Lexington, Kentucky, area told the *Times*, "I felt that we were being used as meat, so I got out of there. I think they did us dirty."

The sight of thugs in black jumpsuits and matching berets, sometimes with "Ninja style" face masks, and carrying walkie-talkies as they guard piles of the *Daily News* at Penn Station, has served only to reinforce the opposition of working people in the city to the circulation of the strike-bound newspaper.

Despite objections by the New York City Police Department, Federal Judge Jack Weinstein ruled November 21 that the police must allow striking *Daily News* workers to expand their picket lines at the newspaper's main printing plant in Brooklyn and that the strikers have the right to confront replacement workers crossing their picket lines.

Weinstein also pointed out that the 24-hour police force at the plant, which includes 270 officers, represented a serious drain of resources for the city. Police have maintained a massive presence at rallies organized by the strikers and are facing a well-publicized police brutality suit for beating a striking reporter who was attempting to write down the badge numbers of cops he saw roughing up other strikers.

Company spokespeople have also at-

Continued on Page 10

Cuban author tours Britain explaining Guevara's ideas

BY CHRIS MORRIS, HELEN ARTHUR AND ANDY BUCHANAN

MANCHESTER, England — Cuban economist and author Carlos Tablada spent two days here as part of a three-week tour of Britain. His visit was organized by the Pathfinder Bookcentre and supported by a wide range of trade union bodies, academics, Cuba solidarity activists, church groups, and local politicians.

Tablada is the author of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* published by Pathfinder. Ernesto Che Guevara was a leader of the Cuban revolution who was assassinated in 1967 while helping to lead a guerrilla struggle in Bolivia.

At a November 16 public meeting at the Manchester Town Hall on the theme "Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism in Cuba Today," Tablada was introduced by city councillor Ruby Khan. Khan drew attention to the role Cuban volunteers played in defeating the South African army's invasions of Angola and hailed Cuba's role in championing the fight for cancellation of the "unpayable and immoral" foreign debt imposed on Third World countries by the banks in the imperialist countries.

Tom Hart, the education officer of the transport union in the region, also welcomed the Cuban author to the city. Hart stressed the importance of the stand Cuba is taking in opposition to the war moves of the U.S. government and its allies in the Middle East and urged the 120 participants at the meeting to join the November 24 demonstration in London against the war drive.

Chairing the event was Pam Holmes, the organizer of the Manchester Pathfinder Bookcentre. She outlined the breadth of support for the meeting and read messages of welcome from the Lancashire Area of the National Union of Mineworkers, the district committee of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, the local Rail and Maritime Trade Union, the Association of South African Students, and the Twelve Apostles Church Justice and Peace Group.

Steve Wilkinson spoke on behalf of the Britain Cuba Resource Centre. He pointed out that "factual information about Cuba is something we don't get very often, and so we are extremely grateful to Pathfinder for organizing this tour."

In his presentation, Tablada outlined how,

Continued on Page 13