

Ballot drive for socialist candidates kicks off in Chicago

BY AMY HUSK

CHICAGO — Supporters of the Socialist Workers election campaign here kicked off a drive to collect 30,000 signatures to put working-class candidates who oppose the U.S. government's war drive in the Mideast on the ballot for the April mayoral election. Volunteers — including members of the Young Socialist Alliance — from Chicago and many surrounding cities, as well as from around the country, came in to help get the campaign effort under way December 1.

The Socialist Workers Party ticket includes James Mac Warren, a 38-year-old steelworker, for mayor; Estelle DeBates, 30, for city clerk; and Eric Matheis, 26, for city treasurer. The candidates are seeking to discuss with working people the war by the employers and their government against workers and farmers at home and the bloody slaughter the rulers are heading toward in the Mideast.

On the day following a news conference to announce the ticket November 27, articles appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Several radio stations also picked up a press release.

"The SWP election campaign really helps advance the antiwar campaign we're carrying out on the job," said Dennis Richter, a railworker. "Using the press coverage helped sell more copies of the *Militant*, the campaign newspaper, and promote the new Pathfinder book *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* It also helped deepen the discussions on why workers should attend the December 8 antiwar action here."

On the first weekend of petitioning, sup-
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U.S. builds up forces after UN vote for war

BY SELVA NEBBIA

UNITED NATIONS — Shortly after the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution giving Washington a diplomatic green light to unleash its massive military power against the people of Iraq, U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney signed an order December 3 raising by 63,000 the number of military reservists who can be ordered to active duty in the Mideast.

There are now 96,834 reserve members of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard on active duty. With Cheney's new order the number can rise to 188,000. The total number of U.S. troops in or on their way to the Mideast has reached 400,000. Adding the forces from some 29 other countries that have been sent to the region, the number of imperialist troops now surpasses the half-million mark.

The Pentagon also announced it is sending 300 more warplanes to the Arab-Persian Gulf region. The buildup will include more F117-A Stealth fighters, F-16 fighters, A-10 anti-tank jets, refueling planes, RF-4C reconnaissance jets, and a total of about 15,000 air force personnel. With some 1,600 U.S. warplanes already in the region, more than 2,000

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U.S. troops disembark in Saudi Arabia. Pentagon announced this week 300 more warplanes and 15,000 more air force personnel will be sent to Gulf.

Coalition calls Jan. 26 demonstration in Washington; actions hit war threat

BY GREG McCARTAN

A national demonstration against the U.S. government's coming war in the Middle East has been called for January 26 in Washington, D.C. The call went out from the National Campaign for Peace in the Middle East.

At a December 1 meeting in New York, attended by some 200 people representing organizations from across the United States, the action coalition discussed campaigns and actions for the coming months. Over 100 organizations have joined the National Campaign for Peace in the Middle East.

Participating organizations include the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador; Democratic Socialists of America; Fellowship of Reconciliation; SANE/Freeze; Palestine Solidarity Committee; New Jewish Agenda; Socialist Workers Party; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; MADRE; Socialist Action; Rainbow Coalition; Young Socialist Alliance; and other political parties.

The demands for the January 26 demonstration are "No war in the Middle East!" "Bring the troops home now!" and "Money

for human needs, not for war!"

For further information, readers can contact the National Campaign for Peace in the Middle East at P.O. Box 3009, Church Street Station, New York, N.Y. 10008; telephone (212) 727-3069.

In the largest demonstration yet against Washington's drive to war in the Mideast, 10,000 people from New England rallied December 1 in Boston. They held signs that said, "Support our troops; bring them home now!" "No blood for oil!" "Negotiate now!" and "Embargo yes; war no!"

Organized by the Emergency Coalition for Peace, Justice, and Non-Intervention in the Middle East, the event drew participation from peace, student, and veterans organizations as well as several political parties.

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JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TO GET OUT THE FACTS!

U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations, also available in Spanish, is an irreplaceable tool in the fight against the accelerating U.S.-organized drive toward war. An introduction by Mary-Alice Waters outlines the stakes for working people in the coming war. The book contains a useful chronology of the U.S.-led war preparations since early August and 10 UN resolutions adopted on the Gulf crisis.

Featured in the book are statements by Cuban Ambassador to the UN Ricardo Alarcón and President Fidel Castro that rebut the pretexts and arguments used by Washington to justify its unilateral acts of aggression. 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 slaughter being prepared by the same employers, through their government, in the Mideast.

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Curtis fight is formally cited at UN human rights meeting

BY PETER THIERJUNG

NEW YORK — In a November 27 speech on human rights at the United Nations, René Mujica Cantelar, the minister counselor of Cuba's mission to the United Nations, called attention to Mark Curtis' fight for justice, as well as other important defense cases in the United States.

Cantelar's mention of Curtis' fight at a meeting of the UN's Third Committee was noted by delegates and helped open new opportunities for representatives of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee to get a hearing for the case.

Representatives of the defense committee attended the meeting November 26-December 3. Kate Kaku, Curtis' wife, and defense committee coordinator John Studer headed the delegation and were accompanied by Brigitte Groulx, a leader of the defense effort in Canada, and Tom Fiske, who is organizing

defense activities in the New York area.

Cantelar's reference to Curtis was the first time a government representative has taken up the case in a formal meeting of the UN since Curtis' supporters launched a campaign almost a year ago to win UN action on behalf of the jailed unionist and political activist. Curtis was framed on rape and burglary charges by Des Moines, Iowa, police in 1988.

The Cuban minister counselor's presentation came in the midst of the UN Third Committee's deliberations on human rights and a concerted campaign by the U.S. government to use the meeting as a platform to win support for its coming invasion of Iraq. Earlier that day, a U.S.-orchestrated presentation — charging Iraqi violations of human rights in Kuwait — dominated the meeting. The U.S. campaign also extended to the

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Western Canada miners discuss threat of war

SPARWOOD, British Columbia — "I think that unions all over the world should organize about 10,000 workers to go to Saudi Arabia and picket against the war. And you can quote me on that!" said Ezner DeAnna when he purchased an introductory subscription to the *Militant*. DeAnna, president of United Mine

miners and others on Washington's drive to war in the Arab-Persian Gulf. The Canadian government has dispatched troops, warships, and fighter planes to the region.

Sales teams like this one are part of a campaign to build wider working-class opposition to the war that many *Militant* supporters are en-

gaged in. In addition to distributing the *Militant* as a way to get the facts about the U.S.-led war drive into the hands of workers and farmers, supporters are also promoting the new Pathfinder book *U.S. Hands Off the Middle East! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*.

GETTING THE MILITANT AROUND



Workers of America Local 7292, is one of about 30 miners in the Canadian Rocky Mountains who became new readers after meeting a sales team of *Militant* supporters.

Made up of supporters from both Canada and the United States, the team traveled to a coal-mining region here on the British Columbia/Alberta border November 14-17. There they learned about the struggles of working people and engaged in discussions with union

gaged in. In addition to distributing the *Militant* as a way to get the facts about the U.S.-led war drive into the hands of workers and farmers, supporters are also promoting the new Pathfinder book *U.S. Hands Off the Middle East! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*.

Most of the new subscribers won here are among the 1,400 UMWA members working in Sparwood, home of the largest open-pit mine in Canada. Some are members of the United Steelworkers of America

Local 7884 who work in nearby Elkford at a relatively new mine that employs about 850 workers. In all, miners and others purchased 29 subscriptions to the *Militant*, one to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and three bought copies of the Marxist journal *New International*. The Mayor of Sparwood, a high school student, the wife of a miner, and eight steelworkers are among the new readers.

The sales team arrived shortly before the UMWA local was to hold its first meeting since union members staged a "wobble," or shut-down, at the Byron Creek mine. The team was permitted to display the *Militant* at the union hall while the miners filed in for the meeting.

Some miners expressed the view that the war in the Mideast was necessary to stop Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and that Canadian soldiers have the duty to serve. Others pulled out their checkbooks when they learned that the *Militant* was a working-class newspaper opposed to the war. Many were interested in having a discussion about the labor movement and the war drive. Seven miners signed up to get the *Militant*, one bought a copy of *New International*, and two asked if

team members could visit them later so they could subscribe. Team members were also permitted to set up a Pathfinder literature table at Sparwood Mall, where many workers and their families stopped by to exchange ideas on the coming war. The table featured signs demanding "No blood for oil" as well as a quote about Canadian troops dying in the Mideast made by Canadian Minister of External Affairs Joseph Clark. The display prompted many working people and youth to express their opinions both pro and con.

One UMWA member who was born in Yugoslavia signed up for the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and bought a copy of *New International*. He said he listens to Radio Havana as a source of news and appreciates Cuban President Fidel Castro. After phoning Montréal to make sure the traveling team was "legit" he recommended the publications to friends.

"What a coincidence!" said a high school student as he approached the table. "My friends and I were just talking about the war." He stayed for an hour discussing what the capitalists had in store for working-class

youth like himself and signed up to get the *Militant*. He suggested team members contact his school's librarian and recommend that the school get a subscription.

"I don't want the paper but I'm against the war," said a woman who was married to a miner. She gave a \$20 donation and selected a copy of *New International* featuring an article entitled *The Working Class Fight for Peace*.

In neighboring Elkford, after discussing the imperialist war drive, a USWA President and the editor of the union newspaper both signed up to receive the *Militant*. The USWA officer said the local had sent a donation to UMWA miners at Pittston Coal Group during the 1989-90 strike. The USWA members invited the sales team to a dance cosponsored by the union, and another USWA miner subscribed there.

Throughout their four-day stay, *Militant* supporters found the Mideast crisis to be a big topic of discussion and about half of those they talked to opposed the imperialists' actions.

Robbie Scherr from Seattle contributed this week's column.

W. Virginia aluminum workers are locked out

BY MARY NELL BOCKMAN

RAVENSWOOD, West Virginia — Nearly 1,800 workers at Ravenswood Aluminum Corporation (RAC) were locked out by the company shortly after midnight November 1. Members of United Steelworkers of America Local 5668 had just rejected a company contract proposal that demanded \$3,000 a year in concessions from every worker.

Few workers at the mill were surprised by the company's moves. In the weeks before the contract expired, RAC had spent some \$2 million preparing to run the plant during a strike. The company erected three chain-link fences topped with barbed wire that stretched the entire length of the plant. Every window and glass door was boarded up, and 20-foot-high steel shields were erected around outdoor electrical equipment. A helicopter landing pad was built on the property, and mobile kitchens and hundreds of cots were set up. Several hundred scabs were brought in from northeast Ohio, and all management personnel were ordered to report to the plant on October 31 for a 30-day stay.

The preparations at "Fort RAC," as the pickets refer to it, added to the increasing conflicts between workers and the company

leading up to the lockout. These centered on union protests against unsafe working conditions and mandatory overtime. Four workers have been killed in the plant since June, including a worker in the pot room, where temperatures reach 130 degrees, who died while working a forced 16-hour shift. His death sparked protests inside the mill, which resulted in workers resisting forced overtime and refusing a proposed shift increase to 12 hours. The union also organized a rally at the plant gate.

The mill, which produces 600 million tons of aluminum products a year, was formerly owned by Kaiser Aluminum. Union members say that the new management, which bought the plant in 1989, has carried out a war against the union.

Three weeks after the lockout began, the company announced plans to implement its final contract offer. Full-page ads in the region's daily papers gave workers until November 29 to return to their jobs. The ad — an "open letter" — declared an impasse in negotiations, which means the company can permanently replace the union members now on the picket line.

The attitude of workers remains one of anger and determination. Steelworkers have adopted the camouflage picket line "uni-

form" worn by United Mine Workers of America members during their strike against the Pittston coal company. That 1989-90 strike was supported by workers here, who contributed over \$9,000 in plant-gate collections and made trips to the miners' Camp Solidarity in Virginia during the Pittston fight.

The women in the mill and wives of workers have joined together to call a Women's Solidarity Rally at the union hall in Ravenswood on November 28 in response to the company's attempt to divide the union.

In a statement from the USWA negotiating committee, Joe Chapman said, "This is a profitable company which is asking the union and its members to accept an inferior contract in wages, benefits, and working conditions. We are urging our members to support their negotiating committee and to reject the company's offer to return to work under the terms of its substandard agreement."

Three days after the lockout, local members rejected by a 99 percent vote a similar proposal from the company. The proposal would have substituted a profit-sharing plan for the cost-of-living allowance and the hot metal bonus, and a 25-cent-per-hour wage increase over three years.



Militant/Tom Nichols
Steel union striker outside Ravenswood Aluminum Corporation in West Virginia.

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UN resolution on Iraq: 'A virtual declaration of war'

Speech by Cuba's foreign minister

The following statement was made by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca during the November 29 session of the United Nations Security Council. The meeting approved, by a vote of 12-2-1, a resolution authorizing the U.S. government to unleash a war against Iraq. The text of the resolution is printed on page 5.

Representatives of the governments of Cuba and Yemen voted against the resolution. Four of the five permanent members of the council — Britain, France, the United States, and the Soviet Union — voted in favor; the representative of the government of China abstained. The permanent members have veto power.

Because the United States held the presidency of the Security Council in November, Secretary of State James Baker chaired the session.

The transcription and translation of Malmierca's remarks are by the *Militant*.

Mr. President:

At the outset I would like to salute you on your assumption of the presidency of this important meeting of the Security Council. We hope that under your direction the council will work efficiently to save humankind from the scourge of war.

We also wish to thank the foreign ministers of the member states of the Security Council who traveled to New York as evidence that it is necessary to redouble our efforts in order to achieve the just solution to which we aspire. We were told that this meeting at the ministerial level, and the resolution that would be proposed during it, would have the aim of enhancing the opportunities of achieving a peaceful solution to the crisis.

Hence, we gladly accepted the invitation to participate.

In recent weeks, the Cuban delegation to this council, together with those of Malaysia and Yemen, has been working on the Colombian initiative with the aim of achieving, rather than a draft resolution on a peaceful settlement, the very basis that could initiate such a settlement.

You are aware of the many consultations that these four countries have been holding within and outside the council in a hopeful and tenacious search for the necessary solution. We will continue along this path.

Simultaneously, our government — which from the beginning of the conflict appealed not only to the president of Iraq, but also to all the Arab heads of state, to other countries, to the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, and to this organization to work for an expeditious solution to the conflict — only two weeks ago sent a vice-president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba as a special envoy to Iraq with a message for President Saddam Hussein. This message had the same purpose — to contribute to a political solution to the conflict.

Cuba pursues peaceful solutions

Before then, our country quietly made numerous efforts in an attempt to have Iraq reconsider and make more flexible its positions. At all times, ever since the crisis began, we have backed peace and not war. We are convinced that more than once this council has allowed itself to be drawn into hasty decisions that did not clear the way for peace.

The invasion and annexation of Kuwait by Iraq is unacceptable and deserves condemnation. In addition, for nonaligned nations and countries of the Third World, it constitutes a regrettable and harmful act. This is because it weakens the unity and solidarity that we sorely need in order to face the challenge of overcoming underdevelopment and gaining a dignified place for the two-thirds of the people of this planet who are so much in need of the resources squandered through the arms race and fratricidal wars.

Using innocent persons as hostages is reprehensible as well, something we have also strongly condemned in this council. On the other hand, it is a real fact that the Security Council — by adopting a resolution imple-

menting a total blockade [of Iraq] that did not exempt foodstuffs and medicines — turned millions of elderly people, women, and children — who are not less innocent — into hostages of hunger and death.

There are already children and those suffering illnesses among the civilian Iraqi population who have died as a result of lack of medicines in the hospitals. The presence of more than 200 Cuban doctors and nurses, who have been rendering their services free of charge in that country for more than 12 years, enables us to testify to this fact. Such measures, among others, are not conducive to a solution of the situation that has been created, but rather they promote more intransigence and inflexibility.

Our clear position of principle with respect to each of the proposed resolutions does not leave any room for doubt. We have supported those that we consider just and unquestionable. We have abstained or voted against those that in our judgment placed obstacles in the way of achieving a peaceful solution or that inexorably led to war.

Enormous destruction to region

We have also expressed our concern here about the enormous and increasing concentration of military forces from the United States and its allies in the Gulf and over the danger of the outbreak of a war that, even if it were limited to conventional methods, would bring enormous destruction to the countries of the region, beginning with Kuwait and Iraq and their neighbors, in addition to the losses by the attacking forces.

The destruction of the oil fields and facilities concentrated in the region, and the re-

“This resolution can be termed the ‘chronicle of a war foretold’ . . .”

sulting shortage of crude oil and exponential price increases, would affect not only the oil-consumer industrialized countries, but above all the non-oil-producing countries of the Third World. The latter would have to add astronomical figures to the already inflated oil prices, suffocating external debt, and brutally unequal terms of trade.

Mr. President, we have previously pointed out from this same rostrum the difference between the attitude of this council toward the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and its attitude toward the recent U.S. invasion of Panama and the situation prevailing in Palestine and in the Arab territories occupied for 23 years, just to mention two examples.

We have been told in this chamber that these are things that belong to the past, to the time of the Cold War, which has ceased to exist. We have been told that this is a new stage in which the United Nations Charter will indeed be respected by all, and that Iraq's action violates this new world order which stems from the best of the post war spirit.

The fact is that this body has not even been able to send a representative of the secretary-general to the occupied territories nor provide even minimal guarantees to the Palestinian youth being murdered on a daily basis in the same land of which they have so cruelly been deprived.

Notwithstanding its moral, legal, and historical grounds, Cuba has not attempted, nor considers it realistic in the present situation, to establish any linkage between Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the Arab territories occupied by Israel.

Norms for some and not others?

However, is it not shockingly incongruous to invoke norms for some that we ignore for others? Hasn't this very council been holding consultations in the course of these past days on another minimum, moderate, and exclusively humanitarian draft resolution on Palestine, also drafted by Colombia, Malaysia,



Soviet, British, and U.S. representatives voting in favor of U.S.-sponsored Security Council resolution against Iraq November 29. Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, who voted against the measure, called it “the equivalent of an unrestricted authorization to the United States and its allies to use their enormous, sophisticated military power.”

Yemen, and Cuba?

Nevertheless the president of the council has ignored the request to convene this body and has bypassed the established rules and procedures. Can it be that the long-suffering Palestinian people are not considered today in this new post-Cold War era to be as deserving as other peoples?

Can the full terror and brutality of the sophisticated military might of a strategic ally of the United States be used against them, as against the Lebanese, without causing even a shudder among those who declare themselves shocked by other actions that equally violate international laws and norms?

If we are indeed at the outset of a new era, if our intentions are to have international law prevail instead of strategic or geopolitical reasons, if we are interested in achieving justice and not in hegemony or control of the world's greatest oil riches, then this would be the time to work together for a new world order in keeping with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which we have accepted as a sovereign nation, so that there could be true equality and justice for all.

It would better still if the United Nations itself were democratized and left behind norms and practices of privilege, adopted almost a half a century ago, that are incompatible with the world of today and deprive the immense majority of states in the international community of their full prerogatives and powers.

We understand that the various problems faced by humanity today cannot be resolved simultaneously. However, when there is sincere goodwill, adequate solutions can be achieved. Dialogue and negotiations have proven to be the best instrument available to the United Nations and its members states for the resolution of conflict.

Namibia is an encouraging example of the many difficulties that may be resolved by the contending forces sitting down at the negotiating table.

On the other hand, the case of Korea is an example of how — after three years of war, hundreds of thousands of victims, and enormous material destruction — the use of force under the banner of the United Nations ended in an armistice that even today keeps that country divided as it was before the conflict broke out. There are still tens of thousands of soldiers and foreign military bases in the southern part of that territory.

Virtual declaration of war

Mr. President, Cuba believes that it would not be advisable to adopt a resolution that constitutes a virtual declaration of war, an ultimatum with a deadline for the start of hostilities, the equivalent of an unrestricted authorization to the United States and its allies to use their enormous, sophisticated military power.

If the crisis is going to be resolved in this fashion, it cannot be denied that the result will be uncivilized, to say the least. It will bring enormous frustration to the international community and will show that the United Nations and the main leaders of

today's world are incapable of finding peaceful political solutions to the problems facing them.

Moreover, the text violates the Charter of the United Nations by authorizing some states to use military force in total disregard of the procedures embodied in the Charter.

We would have favored a resolution that firmly ensured respect for the will of the international community while being generous and magnanimous, one that rectified the decision to prevent foodstuffs and medicines from reaching the children, women, and elderly of Iraq.

Indeed, the United Nations would by that procedure have enhanced its moral authority to demand more strongly the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, the restoration of the sovereign rights of that state, and the immediate release of all hostages.

But, instead, we are asked to support a deadline for war. An attempt is made to meet the inflexibility and intransigence of the government of Iraq, with inflexibility, intransigence, and extreme measures by the Security Council.

It is the duty of the United Nations to respond with wisdom to any manifestation of contempt and extremism, rather than with

“Total blockade of Iraq has turned elderly, women, and children into hostages of hunger and death . . .”

an exaggerated and single-minded focus on the use of force.

It has been clearly shown that force has not brought us closer to a solution, but on the contrary has encouraged the rigidity of Iraq's positions. Measures taken in the political, trade, and financial fields are more than enough. Today Iraq cannot receive by air, sea, or land those products that, beside foodstuffs and medicines, are essential to the life of a nation.

Obviously no state could withstand for long the political and economic isolation imposed on that country, without the necessity of starving women, children, and the elderly to death or of a bloody and destructive war.

We will face a situation unique in history. From the moment this resolution is adopted, and for more than six weeks, the world will resemble the crowd in a gigantic stadium waiting for the outbreak of war. Paraphrasing the title of a famous novel by Gabriel García Márquez, this resolution that is being proposed can be termed the “chronicle of a war foretold.” This way, and no other, is how the text presented to us must be interpreted.

No one can escape the fact that the unleashing today, with the authorization of the Security Council, of an undesirable conflict would be the worst expression of the equivocal role that the United Nations could assume in the future by following this path.

Cuba is not willing to take on that historical responsibility.

Thank you.

U.S. continues buildup after UN votes for war

Continued from front page

U.S., French, British, and Saudi planes are now aimed at Iraq.

Seizing on the November 29 Security Council resolution against Iraq, the newly-elected National Party government of New Zealand announced December 3 that it is sending the first armed forces of that country to the Arab-Persian Gulf region to join the massive United States-led military buildup there.

Introduced by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Resolution 678 (1990) authorizes "member states cooperating with the government of Kuwait . . . to use all necessary means to uphold and implement" all Security Council resolutions passed since the August 2 invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi troops. Adopted November 29 by the 15-member Security Council by a vote 12 to 2, the war measure set January 15 for Iraq to comply or face a U.S.-led invasion. (For text of resolution see page 5.)

Cuba and Yemen — currently seated on the Security Council — voted against the resolution. China, one of the five permanent members of the UN body with veto power, cast the abstaining vote. The other four permanent members, the United States, France, Britain, and the Soviet Union, voted in favor. The rotating members of the council that voted in favor of the resolution were Canada, Finland, Romania, Ethiopia, the Ivory Coast, Zaire, Colombia, and Malaysia.

"Peaceful and just"

Baker presided over the Security Council and opened the meeting saying the United Nations "must fulfill our common vision of a peaceful and just post-Cold War world. But if we are to do so, we must meet the threat to international peace created by [Iraqi President] Saddam Hussein's aggression."

"If Iraq does not reverse its course peacefully," Baker said, "the other necessary measures — including the use of force — should be authorized. We must put the choice to Saddam Hussein in unmistakable terms."

With the exception of Yemen and the Ivory Coast, all other Security Council member countries at the meeting were represented by their foreign ministers. Iraqi representative to the United Nations Abdul Amir al-Anbari and the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah were invited to address the body.

"If war is imposed upon us by the United States," al-Anbari said, "this will be our destiny. I wish to reaffirm to you that our people will not kneel. We will rise to the level of responsibility because we are calling for a right."

Describing the U.S. policy in the Mideast as "a premeditated policy to impose domi-

nation on the fate of a region for purely imperialist designs," al-Anbari criticized Washington for avoiding "the resolution of the Palestinian problem in spite of the fact that Palestinian blood is shed every day as well as the continuation unimpeded of Israeli crimes."

Speaking prior to the vote, Abdalla Saleh al-Ashtal, the UN representative of Yemen, said that "since the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq on August 2, the Security Council has adopted 10 resolutions calling for the complete withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, the immediate release of all hostages, and the restoration of the legitimate government of Kuwait. In order to ensure implementation of its resolutions, the Security Council imposed the most sweeping and enforceable sanctions on Iraq. Today the Security Council has before it a draft resolution in effect authorizing force in order to implement these resolutions."

"In the annals of the United Nations this

"That was the most expensive no vote you ever cast," a U.S. diplomat told representative of Yemen.

will long be remembered as the war resolution," he said.

The representative of Yemen called for a continuation of the "sweeping and comprehensive" sanctions imposed against all trade with Iraq.

"It is not being reported in the press," said al-Ashtal, "but many Iraqi as well as foreign ships sailing to and from Iraqi and Kuwaiti ports are being stopped and searched on the high seas or nearby ports in order to ascertain that no violations of the sanctions are taking place."

The representative of Yemen noted that the Security Council committee established to oversee the implementation of the sanctions had to date not reported any violations. The sanctions imposed on Iraq, he said, are "almost airtight."

Referring to Yemen's abstention in several votes on resolutions by the Security Council against Iraq, the Yemeni representative said, "Even before the eruption of war, Yemen is paying a dear price for its policy of neutrality."

The economy of Yemen has been "dealt a severe blow" as a result of its compliance with the blockade against Kuwait and Iraq, al-Ashtal said, "particularly in activities relating to oil and refining."

"Moreover, 900,000 Yemeni immigrant workers suddenly became a casualty of the

crisis in the Gulf" when their residency in neighboring Saudi Arabia was suspended and they were forced to return to Yemen, the UN representative said. "Comparatively speaking, it is like having 30 million jobless American come back home within a short period of two months. You can imagine the economic strain that will be caused by this demographic dislocation."

Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca also addressed the body before the vote. (For the full text of Malmierca's speech see page 3.)

"Our clear position of principle with respect to each of the proposed resolutions, does not give any room for doubt," Malmierca said. "We have supported those that we consider just and unquestionable. We have abstained or voted against those that in our judgment placed obstacles in the way of achieving a peaceful solution or that inexorably led to war."

Explaining that more than 200 Cuban nurses and doctors are giving their services free of charge in Iraqi hospitals and are witness to the effects of the embargo, Malmierca spoke against the inclusion of foodstuffs and medicines in the UN-imposed blockade against Iraq.

During his speech the Cuban Foreign Minister referred to the "difference between the attitude of the council toward the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and its attitude toward the recent U.S. invasion of Panama and the situation prevailing in Palestine and the Arab territories occupied for 23 years."

"Notwithstanding its moral, legal, and historical grounds," Malmierca said, "Cuba has not attempted, nor considers it realistic in the present situation, to establish any linkage between Iraq's withdrawal of Kuwait and the Arab territories occupied by Israel."

Explaining the need to use "dialogue and negotiations" to resolve the Gulf conflict, Malmierca said, "Cuba believes that it would not be advisable to adopt a resolution that constitutes a virtual declaration of war."

As president of the council, Baker met with every member of the Security Council prior to the vote. The meeting with Malmierca was the first such high-level meeting held between the Cuban government and Washington in 30 years.

Speaking to the council following his vote for Resolution 678, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze warned Iraq that those "who break the peace must know all available means will be used against them."

"If even one Soviet citizen is harmed, I cannot say what the consequences might be, but they would be very, very serious," Shevardnadze said. The United States, Britain, France, and the Soviet Union all indicated that they would ignore the January 15 deadline if Iraq harmed any of its hostages.

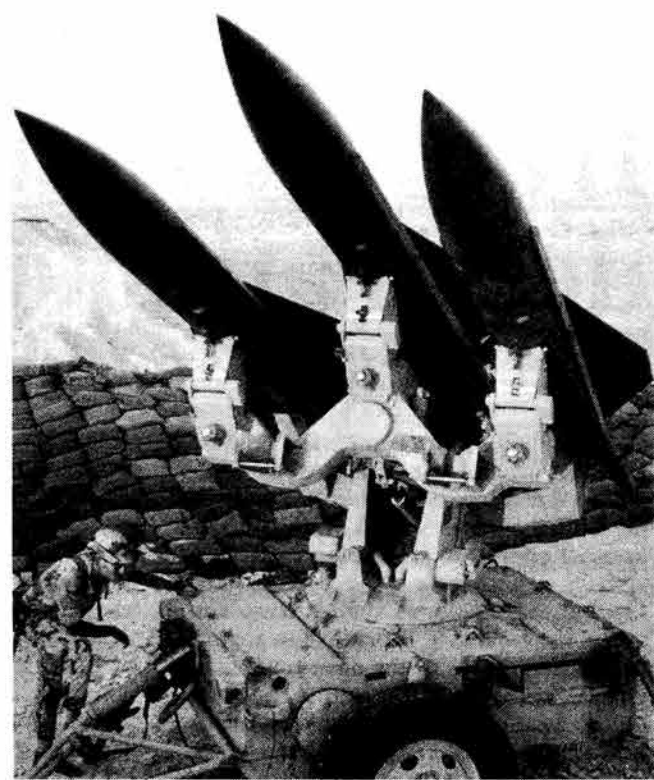
Minutes after the Yemeni delegate joined the Cubans in voting against the resolution, reported the December 2 *New York Times*, "a senior American diplomat was instructed to tell him: 'That was the most expensive no vote you ever cast' — meaning it would result in an end to America's more than \$70 million in foreign aid to Yemen."

But while some countries were being punished for their stance against the imperialist buildup in the Mideast, other countries were being rewarded.

- The Asian Development Bank, in which the United States is a principal shareholder, authorized November 30 a \$50 million loan to China.

- On November 30 the Kuwaiti ambassador to Moscow announced that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates will give the Soviet Union more than \$3 billion in loans. The loans were negotiated by a Saudi delegation that visited Moscow to discuss Soviet support for "the campaign to drive Iraqi troops from Kuwait." In October Saudi Arabia established diplomatic relations with Moscow.

- The Saudi government also canceled Egypt's \$4 billion debt. The U.S. government



Hawk missiles in Saudi Arabia. The number of U.S. troops in or on their way to the Mideast has reached 400,000.

has forgiven Egypt \$7 billion debt for military equipment and other Gulf governments have forgiven debts of about \$3 billion in return for Egypt's commitment of 27,000 soldiers to the imperialist-led forces in the Mideast.

- Washington is working on a new aid package for Zaire. Congress had cited human rights violations to block aid earlier this year.

- On November 28 Britain and Syria restored diplomatic relations, which were severed four years ago when Britain accused Syria of sponsoring terrorism. Syria has committed nearly 20,000 troops to the military buildup in the Gulf region.

"Extra mile for peace"

Following the vote at the Security Council, U.S. President George Bush held a November 30 press conference where he announced he was going "to go the extra mile for peace" by holding direct talks with the Iraqi government. Bush invited Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to meet with him in Washington and announced Baker would be meeting with the Iraqi president in Baghdad. Both meetings are scheduled to be held before January 15. Baker made it clear the talks are simply to reiterate the demands of the UN Security Council or face the unleashing of the U.S.-led forces.

Bush emphasized that a war with Iraq "will not be another Vietnam. This will not be a protracted drawn out war." Tactical divisions have emerged within U.S. ruling circles on how to punish and defeat Iraq. Bush has, however, maintained that a direct assault by the forces amassed in the Gulf region could rapidly defeat Hussein.

"I want peace, not war," Bush claimed, "But if there must be war, we will not permit our troops to have their hands tied behind their backs, and I pledge to you there will not be any murky ending."

from Pathfinder

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by Carlos Tablada

A comprehensive look at the theoretical contributions to building socialism by Ernesto Che Guevara from 1959 to 1966, when he shouldered wide-ranging duties in the Cuban revolutionary government, with extensive citations from his writings and speeches. **\$16.95**

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

November 26—Saudi government officials say they seek the destruction of Iraq's "missiles, chemical weapons and nuclear capabilities," and to "reduce the [Iraqi] armed forces."

November 28—Britain and Syria restore diplomatic relations, severed four years ago when the British government accused Syria of sponsoring terrorism.

Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker meet at the United Nations. This is the first such meeting between representatives at this level of government of the two countries in thirty years.

November 29—The UN Security Council adopts U.S.-sponsored Resolution 678 that approves Washington unleashing its military forces against Iraq. Cuba and Yemen vote against the resolution.

November 30—President George Bush invites Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to Washington. He says he will send Secretary of State James Baker to meet with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad to demand Iraq comply with the United Nations resolutions.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates announce a loan to the Soviet Union

of more than \$3 billion.

December 1—Pentagon officials disclose Washington is sending 300 more planes to the Gulf. The buildup will include a total of about 15,000 air force personnel.

The Iraqi government announces it will accept Bush's offer of direct talks.

The Saudi government announces it has canceled Egypt's debt, estimated at \$4 billion.

December 3—The Pentagon announces an increase, by 63,000, of the maximum number of military reservists who can be ordered to active duty in the Mideast. Some 188,000 can now be called up for active duty.

The newly elected National Party government of New Zealand announces it will send the first New Zealand armed forces units to the Gulf to join the massive imperialist buildup there.

Iraq says that more than 1,400 Iraqi children have died because of a medicine shortage created by the international trade sanctions imposed on Iraq.

The United Nations General Assembly votes to condemn Iraq for human rights violations in occupied Kuwait and agrees that the United Nations should continue monitoring Iraq's behavior in Kuwait.

Jan. 26 protest set for Washington, D.C.

Continued from front page

Campus contingents could be seen everywhere along the march route from Copley Square to Boston Common. Students came from nearly every one of the many Boston-area colleges.

Rally speakers included Dessima Williams, ambassador from Grenada during the 1979-83 revolution there; Rabab Hadi, a member of the executive committee of the Palestine Solidarity Committee; Shakur Ali, a Vietnam veteran; activist Dick Gregory; and Gus Newport, former mayor of Berkeley, California.

Kicking off the rally at Copley Square was Ed Clark, international vice-president of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU).

"I am here this afternoon to bring the greetings of thousands of textile and garment workers in New England and the tens of thousands in the United States who wish to add their voices," he said, "that we do not want this war, we will not support it, we will not go."

"Thirty years ago when the United States was slipping into a war in Southeast Asia, the American labor movement and most of its leadership was nowhere to be seen," the ACTWU official said. "We paid a price for that. And we're not going to do it again."

A message from the president of striking International Union of Electronics Workers Local 239, Bill Wilder, was also received. "The same people who want us to fight a war in the Middle East are waging a war against working people here in this country," he wrote.

Daniel Ellsberg, a former government official who revealed the Pentagon Papers, was the featured speaker.

Ellsberg focused on the need to defend GIs, not view them as the enemy. "One mistake people made [during the Vietnam War] was to blame the war on the soldiers, as if they were responsible."

"That's not happening now," he said. "How many people in this crowd have a mother, father, sister, or brother in the Gulf right now or know someone who does?" he asked. Hundreds raised their hands in response.

In protests elsewhere around the world, 50 people gathered in Reykjavik, Iceland, November 17 for the annual conference of the Campaign Against Military Bases. Iceland is a founding member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and has hosted a U.S. base since 1951.

Among the topics discussed at the confer-



Protest against U.S. war buildup held in Twin Cities, Minnesota, last month.

Militant/Leah Finger

ence was the crisis in the Gulf. With one vote against, the conference passed a resolution stating, "An extensive war is being prepared in the Mideast." The statement notes the size and speed of the buildup, "led by the strongest military regime in the world, the United States," and says that the U.S. government has urged the Icelandic government to financially support the war buildup.

The statement declared, "This development is a matter of grave concern and [the conference] urges the government to emphasize in the international arena negotiations and a pullback from the war preparations."

Protests in New Zealand

An action coalition of peace, religious, trade union, and political organizations called the Committee on the Gulf Crisis held its first public meeting in Wellington, New Zealand, October 15.

Organized to oppose New Zealand military involvement in the Mideast conflict, the coalition supports a peaceful resolution of the dispute and calls for the withdrawal of U.S. and allied troops from the region.

Sixty people attended the event, addressed by veteran peace activist Owen Wilkes. The committee also called a demonstration for November 30 outside the British and U.S. embassies and the New Zealand Parliament.

In the country's capital, Auckland, a December 7 demonstration is also being planned.

Some 250 people attended a protest meet-

ing in that city November 16. Prominent defense lawyer Peter Williams told the audience, "we need an increasingly large and vocal peace movement, from New Zealand to Britain and the United States."

Others who addressed the meeting included John Morton, a well-known environmentalist; former attorney-general Martyn Finlay; Auckland Council for Civil Liberties Chairman Barry Wilson; and Richard Northey, a former member of Parliament.

The meeting called on the New Zealand government to "oppose the use of armed force in the Middle East and also oppose sending troops and military assistance, directly or indirectly."

Other U.S. protests

Some 2,000 protesters in Los Angeles demonstrated December 1 against the rapid moves toward war. To cheers from the crowd, Vietnam veteran Ron Kovic proclaimed, "Bush better get ready! We're coming and we're coming strong. We'll have tens of thousands of people in the streets against this war. We're just beginning."

In response to the passage of the most recent UN resolution authorizing a U.S. invasion of Iraq, organizers of the action pledged to build similar protests each Saturday until January 15.

A November 30 protest in the Twin Cities in Minnesota drew 700. College students made up the big majority of the demonstrators, chanting "Not for kings, not for oil; we

won't fight on Arab soil." As the march went through crowded streets, some motorists showed their support.

The antiwar protest received widespread coverage in the local media, including on the evening news and the *Star Tribune*.

In Sacramento, California, 500 demonstrators marched from City Hall to the state Capitol, chanting "One, two, three, four; we don't want another war" and "Save our soldiers; bring our troops home."

Speaking at the rally was Stan Long, a Vietnam veteran and father of a 23-year-old GI now stationed in Saudi Arabia. "The same lies used about Vietnam are being used about Saudi Arabia," he said. "At first I supported the American military and Bush's 'measured response' to Iraq's aggression, but that response is now out of control."

A teach-in, the first on the Gulf crisis in Albany, New York, was held November 28 at Cayuga Community College. The Coalition to Prevent War in the Persian Gulf, a newly formed group, cosponsored the forum with the Student Activity Center at the college. One-fourth of the 100 people in attendance were students at the campus.

A spirited Thanksgiving eve picket line, organized on one week's notice, drew 150 people in Cleveland. The demonstrators included Vietnam veterans, army and National Guard reservists, and their spouses.

Kent State University student Tom Albanese told the crowd that Washington's military buildup in the Middle East "is part of a 20-year offensive against working people around the world. It's about exploitation," he said.

"Missoula says yes to peace!" was the theme of a protest of 800 in Missoula, Montana, November 30 sponsored by the Student Coalition for Social Responsibility at the university there.

Kate Kaku from New York, Mark Zola from Boston, Gylfi Páll Hersir from Reykjavik, Michael Jarvis from Wellington, George Buchanan from Auckland, Lisa Ahlberg from Los Angeles, Irene Kilanowski from the Twin Cities, Ernie Rulli from Sacramento, Susanne Fitzsimmons from Albany, and Jon Hillson from Cleveland contributed to this article.

Bush holds off on special session of Congress

BY PETER THIERJUNG

U.S. congressional leaders met with President George Bush November 29, the day the United Nations Security Council passed a U.S.-sponsored resolution approving an invasion of Iraq. They told the president that a vote in Congress now would fall short of an overwhelming mandate for the administration's tactical course in preparing to go to war against Iraq in the near future. They urged him not to call a special session of the body.

Congress is now in recess until January 3, when it reconvenes.

Some legislators had previously urged a special session of Congress be held to discuss and approve Bush's recent steps toward war in the Mideast as a means of winning wider public backing for the war drive. Others had argued that the power to declare war resides only with Congress and a special session would be needed to consider declaration of war against Iraq.

On the day before the UN vote, Bush hinted he might consider calling such a session. Democratic and Republican leaders of both houses responded, saying a special session was not needed. They cited the lack of a consensus among the lawmakers on how to proceed against Iraq.

"There is no question that Congress is behind the president in forcing Iraq from Kuwait," House Speaker Thomas Foley said. But, about convening the Congress, he said, "I don't think it's timely... I hope the president does not call back the 101st Congress."

Sen. Richard Lugar, a senior Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told the news media that Bush had expressed interest in a session that would get Congress on record in support of his administration's

war moves. "He wants the authority to prosecute foreign policy as encompassed in the UN resolution," Lugar said.

In a meeting with Bush on November 30, Democratic leaders argued that military action against Iraq would be premature. But as a last alternative, House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt said, "I don't think anyone in that room rules out force."

Some, like Democratic senators Edward Kennedy and Samuel Nunn, pressed the administration to let the total embargo of Iraq, including of food and medicine, take hold.

Text of UN resolution authorizing force against Iraq

The following is the text of Resolution 678 (1990) passed by the United Nations Security Council on November 29. The resolution was drafted by the U.S. government.

Four of the five permanent members of the council — the United States, Soviet Union, France, and Britain — voted for the resolution, along with eight of the 10 rotating members. The fifth permanent member, China, abstained, while Cuba and Yemen voted against. Only the permanent members of the council have veto power.

The texts of resolutions referred to in paragraph one, except Resolution 667 (1990), 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 the Iraqi 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), and 677 (1990),

noting that, despite all efforts by the United Nations, Iraq refuses to comply with its obligation to implement Resolution 660 (1990) and the above subsequent relevant 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 use all necessary opportunity, as a pause of goodwill, to do so;

2. authorizes member states cooperating with the government of Kuwait, unless Iraq on or before 15 January 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 (1990) 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;

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,

5. decides to remain seized of the matter.

\$150,000 party-building fund enters final week

BY JAMES HARRIS

DETROIT — "The Socialist Workers Party is a party rooted in the ranks of the industrial working class, and we will be taking our campaign against the war drive to these same working people," said Luis Madrid, editor of

attendance contributed over \$1,200 to the fund that night.

In August, the SWP launched the fund to collect \$150,000 by December 1. We now have on hand \$132,624 of \$169,655 pledged. The final tally and scoreboard will appear in the next issue of the *Militant*

asked to join the revolutionary youth organization, the Young Socialist Alliance. She had found out about the meeting earlier in the week from a member of the YSA she heard speak at an antiwar meeting on her campus.

At the meeting of UAW members, the participants set a goal of selling at least 100 copies of the Spanish and English editions of the book *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* to coworkers across North America by February 2.

"The most important thing that we can do is get out the facts on this war drive," said Cleve Andrew Pulley, a Detroit auto worker, in a report to the gathering of unionists.

"The simple desire for peace among workers is not enough to counteract the war moves of the imperialists. Working people need to have the facts. They need to know why this is an imperialist war, why it is not in their interest to support it, and why they must become involved in the fight against it."

Contributing to the fund makes such a working-class antiwar campaign possible. Join in the effort today by sending your donation to the Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund, 406 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

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

Where We Stand

Area	Pledged	Paid	% of Total
Atlanta	6,145	4,790	78
Austin, Minn.	1,750	1,750	100
Baltimore	3,800	1,675	44
Birmingham, Ala.	5,575	5,010	90
Boston	4,646	3,011	65
Brooklyn	7,200	5,819	81
Charleston, W.V.	3,860	2,790	72
Chicago	7,660	5,268	69
Cleveland	5,350	4,205	79
Des Moines, Iowa	1,870	955	51
Detroit	7,000	5,295	76
Greensboro, N.C.	1,622	1,733	107
Houston	4,895	3,975	81
Kansas City	2,560	2,045	80
Los Angeles	16,176	13,431	83
Miami	1,960	1,235	63
Morgantown, W.V.	3,514	2,574	73
New York	10,271	9,534	93
Newark, N.J.	7,370	6,011	82
Oakland, Calif.	10,305	9,283	90
Omaha, Neb.	2,455	1,768	72
Philadelphia	4,630	2,730	59
Phoenix	1,350	929	69
Pittsburgh	6,600	4,230	64
Price, Utah	1,750	1,750	100
Salt Lake City, Utah	4,050	3,130	77
San Francisco	5,155	5,225	101
Seattle	6,300	5,150	82
St. Louis	8,000	6,025	75
Twin Cities, Minn.	5,300	3,890	73
Washington, D.C.	3,540	2,252	64
Other U.S.	5,067	3,227	64
International	1,929	1,929	100
TOTALS	169,655	132,624	88
SHOULD BE	150,000	150,000	100

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY-BUILDING FUND



Perspectiva Mundial, the Spanish-language sister publication of the *Militant*.

"We will campaign to win workers and farmers — in and out of uniform — young people, and anyone interested to join with us in fighting against this horror facing humanity. We want to discuss this war with workers who don't agree with us and those who are confused by the intense prowar propaganda of the U.S. government," said Madrid.

Madrid was addressing a Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund meeting on the imperialist war drive in the Mideast. The 70 people in

after the last round of fund rallies are being held December 8.

Among the participants in the fund meeting here were students from campuses in the area and members of the SWP and the Communist League in Canada who are activists in the United Auto Workers union (UAW) and the Canadian Auto Workers. In the last several weeks, the SWP has called meetings of its members in the industrial trade unions to discuss their participation in the party's campaign against the war drive.

After Madrid's presentation and a discussion period that lasted late into the evening, a young woman

Curtis fight is cited at UN human rights meeting

Continued from front page

Security Council and an international press conference.

The Third Committee is a subcommittee of the General Assembly responsible for discussing resolutions and initiatives on human rights and other social, humanitarian, and cultural matters. Representatives of 158 countries participated in the committee's proceedings.

"It is an insult to the intelligence of those present here, the international community, that a government such as that of the United States tries to set itself up as a judge on matters of human rights," Cantelar said.

"On what moral basis" can the U.S. government claim to speak, the Cuban diplomat asked. Washington "has waged war in all parts of the world, has intervened militarily and politically in our countries, waged a war of genocide in Vietnam, dropped the atomic bomb unnecessarily on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, carries out covert wars against the peoples of the Third World — as in Angola, Nicaragua, and Cuba — and militarily intervened in Panama where thousands of people perished." It is a "government that for our America represents a history of exploitation and plunder," he said.

Cantelar pointed to the human rights situation in the United States, where "a society of profound injustice and racism exists, where millions of Blacks, Latinos, Native Americans, and other sections of the U.S.

population are denied their basic rights.

"The U.S. judicial system has always served as a vehicle for the government to condemn political activists and present them as delinquents, as criminals, before domestic and international public opinion," the minister counselor said. "The names of Leonard Peltier, Geronimo Pratt, Alejandrina Torres, Mark Curtis, Filiberto Ojeda, and others are examples of this crime."

Mark Curtis Defense Committee representatives met with and informed government officials and members of nongovernmental organizations about Curtis' fight. In particular, they discussed the November 20 decision by the Iowa State Board of Parole to refuse to release Curtis and the current status of a financial harassment lawsuit against the jailed political activist. The suit for massive financial damages was filed by Keith and Denise Morris, the parents of the woman Curtis was charged with assaulting in 1988. The judge is expected to render a decision in the case soon.

The Indigenous World Association gave accreditation to the delegation. The IWA is an organization that promotes the rights of immigrants and indigenous peoples. It is an accredited nongovernmental organization at the UN and has backed the effort to win UN support for Curtis since it was launched in February.

Meetings with gov't representatives

The delegation met with representatives of governments in Angola, Denmark, Ecuador, North Korea, France, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Namibia, Sweden, and Vietnam. They also met with delegates of the African National Congress, the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Organization of African Unity, and the International Red Cross.

Members of the Ghanaian, Iranian, and Libyan delegations pledged to collaborate in bringing Curtis' case before the February 1991 meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland, Studer said in an interview.

Representatives of the governments of Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, and Yemen agreed to convey packets of information prepared by the defense committee to their governments.

Kaku and Studer attended a UN reception sponsored by the International Peace Academy, where they discussed Curtis' case with Juan Somavia, chairperson of the Third Committee.



Militant/Peter Thierjung

Representatives of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee attending UN meeting, from left to right: Brigitte Grouix, Kate Kaku, and John Studer.

They also reported on the latest developments in Curtis' fight to Halima Warzazi of Morocco and Claude Heller of Mexico, two members of the UN Human Rights Commission assigned to follow Curtis' case.

Elsa Stamatopoulou-Robbins, the New York liaison of the UN Centre for Human Rights in Geneva, met with Kaku and Studer. The Centre has circulated two reports to UN members on the Human Rights Commission and the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Discrimination of Minorities since last February when the center assigned Maria Francisca Ize-Charrin, a UN human rights officer, to monitor the defense case. It has also sent inquiries about the case to the U.S. government.

Anantonia Reyes of the Human Rights Commission of Guatemala endorsed the Curtis defense committee. She pledged to join others to advance the defense effort in the UN. Activists of the commission have been among the strongest allies of Curtis' defend-

ers at the UN. Andrea Olsen, a leader of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, who attended parts of the Third Committee meeting also endorsed the defense committee.

Notimex, a major Mexican news agency, and the National Black Network, a U.S. radio network, interviewed Kaku.

"The success of the delegation and the response show the standing of Curtis' fight for justice internationally," Studer said. "What was accomplished this week was an important step in the long-term campaign to win UN action on Curtis' behalf."

The defense committee has appealed to supporters for financial contributions to help meet the costs of the UN delegation. Tax-deductible contributions can be made payable to the Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc., and should be earmarked for the UN effort. Contributions should be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

To our readers . . .

Next week's *Militant*, the final issue of 1990, will feature a special 12-page *International Socialist Review* containing a speech by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes. Given in New York December 1, the talk is titled "Working-Class Campaign Against the Imperialist War Drive."

Militant readers will want to order extra copies of the issue in order to circulate the speech as widely as possible among unionists, farmers, GIs, reservists, and others fighting the employers' war at home and the U.S. government's drive to war abroad.

Our first issue in 1991 will come off the press January 2 following a two-week staff vacation. Our offices will be closed from December 13-27.

Ballot drive for socialist candidates kicks off in Chicago

Continued from front page
porters fanned out to shopping malls, bus stations, and flea markets, reaching thousands of working people. They gathered almost 1,200 signatures.

Many of those who signed had relatives stationed in the Arab-Persian Gulf. One woman was angry that her husband was sent to Saudi Arabia and that working people had no say about whether or not troops should be sent. She encouraged others walking by to sign the socialists' petition and asked campaigners how she could become active in opposing the war drive.

A Vietnam War veteran said he had two nephews in the Mideast and thought he should support the war effort to show support for them. He decided to sign the petition when the petitioner explained that the widest discussion possible on the war is needed and the ideas put forward by the socialists are an important part of that debate.

Another man said that while he thought the U.S. troops needed to be in the Mideast to stop Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's aggression, he agreed that the U.S. people had a right to discuss and decide on the question of war. He also signed the petition.

A young Latino stopped to sign and urged his friend to do the same. "I'll be over there next week," he said, "and I want to come back."

Another Latino explained how angry he was at the U.S. government as he signed the petition. "They want to be the world cop!" he said. "It's just like what they did in Panama." When he saw the Pathfinder literature and socialist newspapers the campaign supporters had displayed, he bought a pamphlet on the U.S. invasion of Panama and a copy of the Spanish edition of *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* Later, he spoke with another petitioner and congratulated him on his "courage and integrity" for standing up against the war drive.

Many others throughout the day thanked the socialist campaign supporters for being out in the street. One woman, who had a son

stationed in the Gulf, said "I'm so glad someone is out here doing this."

Many of those who signed expressed an interest in doing more to oppose the government's war efforts. Socialist campaigners invited people to attend the December 8 antiwar action and to a campaign rally to be held after the demonstration.

Signers at political events

In addition to the signatures collected in working-class areas, 35 participants signed up at a meeting in solidarity with the people of El Salvador and 50 more at an event backing the struggle of the Palestinians.

Supporters of the Chicago socialist campaign plan to collect 20,000 signatures by Christmas. During the first week of December, they will focus on petitioning on campus before the holiday break. Campaigners who are members of industrial trade unions plan to circulate the petitions on the job, and others will take the campaign to plant gates where they usually sell the *Militant*.

Activists helping to organize the campaign are planning to hold dinners and other informal events where interested workers and young people can meet the candidates, discuss politics, and learn more about socialist ideas.

Campaign supporters were pleased with the response they found in the city during the first days of the petitioning effort. Campaign director Don Davis said, "We think the response to our campaign is a reflection of the deep sentiment against the war that the U.S. government is dragging us into. Even many who support Washington's efforts are willing to discuss it with us, and some decide to sign the petitions."

"We want to deepen this discussion among working people and win as many of them as possible to active opposition to the war drive."

Organizers of the election campaign here are encouraging more volunteers to come to Chicago and help. Anyone who can volunteer — for a weekend, a week, or longer — can call the socialist campaign headquarters at (312) 829-6815.

Workers in West Africa are hard hit by oil price hikes

The price increases are wreaking havoc on many Third World countries.

BY RONI McCANN

Working people and rural toilers in many West African countries are bearing the brunt of the rise in prices of oil and oil products that has taken place since the August invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi forces. Since the occupation of that country, capitalist governments in many oil-importing countries have sought to pass the greatest burden of the price hikes onto working people.

The price of gasoline is already high in many countries along the West African coast: a gallon costs \$2.92 in Ghana, \$2.98 in Togo, and \$5.05 in the Ivory Coast. In many semicolonial countries now squeezed by payments on the foreign debt, unequal terms of trade, and the growing capitalist economic crisis, the oil hikes are wreaking havoc.

In Sierra Leone, taxi and commercial drivers went on strike recently to protest the refusal of filling stations to sell gasoline at regulated prices and in quantities of more than two gallons at a time. Some drivers complained of waiting up to five days in gas lines and getting their car and truck parts stolen during the night. They are demanding full tank sales each day.

In late October, gasoline dealers and oil companies were selling the fuel for U.S. dollars until the government was forced to order them to desist. According to *West Africa* magazine, the gas dealers operate as a syndicate, distributing hoarded

petroleum products to unemployed workers, who then sell it for a commission. "In effect both the dealers and the senior staff members of petroleum companies exploit the now perennial situation to sell petroleum products at unaffordable black-market rates," said one industry consultant.

In Gambia, oil is sold by subsidiaries of Shell and British Petroleum (BP). Since August, aviation fuel prices have gone up nearly 100 percent, diesel by 30 percent, and kerosene by 20 percent. One supermarket owner, who imports food from Holland and Britain, said that shipping costs have risen 13 percent since August and his shelf prices would have to go up soon.

The managing director of the state-owned Gambia Utilities Corporation said that under its "performance contract," the company is required to "pass on any price rise to the consumer." He said the future will be bleak "and we expect the public to face up to that."

A recent meeting of officials from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank did not agree on any concrete aid assistance for Africa, dashing prospects that Ghana's government, for example, can procure an extra \$50 million to \$60 million to meet its oil bill for the remainder of 1990. An energy adviser at the government Ministry of Fuel and Power and the National Energy Board reported that state boards, corporations, and some ministries are now required to pay their own electricity bills to force them to conserve. For the past five months, a 50 percent savings has been achieved at the Ministry of Fuel and Power by fining workers in the building who forget to turn off the lights or air conditioning at night.



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky
Mayoral candidate James Mac Warren is heading Chicago socialist ticket. Estelle DeBates is running for city clerk.



Militant/Margrethe Siem

HANDS OFF THE MIDEAST!

Campaigning worldwide against the imperialist war drive

Working people — in uniform and out — 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.

ST. LOUIS — Mary Zins, a supporter of the *Militant* and a member of the United Mine Workers of America, works at the Monterey Mine #2, owned by Exxon, in Albers, Illinois. In late October, a member of the mine union support group, Daughters of Mother Jones, gave Zins a button she had picked up at the October 20 New York antiwar march, which read, "Are you willing to die for Exxon?" Zins began wearing it at work and it was a hit — many of her coworkers asked how they could get one. "Some like it because of what the company is doing to us here, and some like it because they're also against the U.S.-led war drive in the Mideast," she said. At a recent event attended by union miners in Pinkneyville, Illinois, one UMW member purchased a subscription to the *Militant* after discussing the war drive and agreeing with the button Zins wore.

SAN FRANCISCO — More than 300 people picketed the national headquarters of Chevron Oil on November 21 chanting "No war for Big Oil!" and "Bring the troops home!" Speakers at the event came from the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1225 representing Greyhound strikers, United Bay Area Veterans Against War in the Middle East, National Organization for Women, and others. The action was sponsored by the Emergency Committee Against U.S. War in the Middle East. After picketing, many participants marched to the Greyhound Terminal and joined the strikers' picket line there.

Beginning December 3, upcoming antiwar protests planned in the Bay Area include a week of campus actions initiated by students from more than a dozen universities. A student antiwar coalition planning meeting on December 2 will begin organizing a February 15-17 conference at San Francisco State University.

On December 7 at the University of California at Berkeley, The Coalition

Against a Vietnam War in the Middle East is hosting a meeting to coincide with the court-martial of Marine Corporal Jeffrey Paterson, who refused to serve in the Gulf.

OMAHA, Nebraska — On November 11 a newly-formed coalition, Concerned Citizens Against War in the Middle East, sponsored a picket line on a busy thoroughfare here. Some 150 people participated and 60 of those later attended a planning meeting for future activities. The following week, 150 people attended another picket line. At the event, the father of a soldier stationed in the Arab-Persian Gulf read letters from GIs.

BONN, Germany — "No Blood for Oil!" and "Stop the war preparations in the Gulf" were the slogans at a November 24 antiwar march of 6,500 here. Speakers included U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Lance Corporal Erik Larson, who refused to serve in the Gulf, and Patricia Hundsdoerf of the Contact Committee of the hostages' relatives.

PHOENIX — An Emergency Committee to Stop the War in the Gulf has been organized here and held its first protest action November 19. Some 100 people gathered for a speak-out in front of the state capital at a memorial to the more than 800 soldiers from Arizona who died in the Vietnam War. Speakers stressed the theme "No Blood for Oil!" and urged Washington to withdraw its troops from the Middle East. A meeting to plan more activities was set for November 27.

MINNEAPOLIS — "Rich men start wars that poor men have to fight and finish," said Vietnam veteran Jerry Rau at an antiwar demonstration of 600 outside the Old Federal Building downtown here on November 19. He was joined by speakers including Noha Ismail, a Palestinian, who declared that people in the United States and Iraq share common blood because "neither were consulted about the possibility of war." Students from several colleges attended the action including Vaddey Mom, a Cambodian refugee who is active in an antiwar group at nearby Carlton College. "I've been through a war and I know what it's like," said Mom, "I don't want anyone else to have to go through it."

The day after the action 100 people protested the presence of a Mobil Oil recruiter at the University of Minnesota. Upcoming events include a tour of resister Erik Larson. For more information about the tour call (612) 827-5364.

Omari Musa from Oakland; Lüko Willms from Frankfurt am Main, Germany; Harvey McArthur from Phoenix; and Leah Finger from Minneapolis contributed to this week's column.

Socialists in Machinists union discuss Eastern fight, war at home and abroad

BY JAMES HARRIS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "The growing threat of a massive war by Washington and its allies in the Mideast is the central question facing working people today. It is workers, and the sons and daughters of workers, who will die and have their lives destroyed by war," said Nancy Brown.

Brown is a leader of the Socialist Workers Party and member of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) on strike against Eastern Airlines. She was presenting a report, entitled "The Current State of the U.S. Labor Movement and Advancing the Party Campaign in Support of the Eastern Airlines Strikers," to a meeting here November 17 of members and supporters of the SWP who belong to the IAM. Also participating in the meeting were members of the IAM who belong to the Communist League in Canada. Some 85 workers attended the two-day discussion.

Similar meetings of unionists in the mining, garment, textile, electrical, oil and chemical, meat-packing, rail, auto, and steel industries are being held through early December. At the gatherings, socialist workers are discussing how they can deepen their resistance to the employers' 10-year offensive on the unions and working people by reaching out broadly among workers and farmers — in and out of uniform — to campaign against the impending U.S.-led war in the Middle East.

"We are going to be taking the party's campaign against the war drive to working people and union members who have gone through some important experiences in the past few years. This includes strikers at Eastern, Greyhound, and the *Daily News* and other unionists supporting them," Brown said. "We will be talking both to workers who have fought and won some victories and those who have suffered setbacks in the employers' war against working people here at home. These workers will be the people who are the most open to discussion on the war we are being dragged into in the Middle East."

"Workers we will especially want to reach out to are the Eastern strikers — members of our union — who are going through a fight and have learned a lot about this government and the employers offensive here at home," said Brown.

21-month strike at Eastern

Turning to the 21-month strike against Eastern by members of the IAM, Brown said that Eastern workers were forced to strike in

order to defend their union from the assault waged by Frank Lorenzo, the airline's former head.

"IAM members on strike at Eastern accomplished things that most people thought could not be done. Even with union officials telling us each step of the way to rely on emergency boards, blue-ribbon panels, and the bankruptcy court to win the strike for us, we were able to forge a rank-and-file leadership that relied on union power," she said.

"IAM members led a strike that not only forced Frank Lorenzo out of the airline business, but has taken Continental Airlines to the brink of bankruptcy. The victory of the strikers has not only ensured that there will be no scab Eastern, but has slowed down the bosses' drive to do the same thing at other airlines and in other industries. Even though this won't stop their union-busting attempts, the employers must now think twice" before launching such an assault, Brown said.

A massive response of solidarity and active support from working people, both in the United States and around the world, enabled the strikers to win this victory, despite only being able to shut most of Eastern down for a brief time at the beginning of the strike.

Brown compared Eastern's almost empty or half-full flights with the development in the battle at the New York newspaper, the *Daily News*. In that strike the production of the paper continues with managerial personnel and other scabs, but the papers are not being bought in the city.

Both of these fights would be impossible without wide support among working people. The battle at Eastern has set an example for thousands of workers, Brown said, giving them confidence that they too can wage an effective fight.

Brown noted that an important stage of the Eastern battle was in the summer and fall of 1989 when strikers were able to link up with members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) who were engaged in a strike against the Pittston Coal Group.

"Eastern strikers viewed the Pittston strike as their strike. The Pittston strikers were workers who also had their backs against the wall," Brown said.

"Pittston miners had worked 14 months without a contract. The company wanted unlimited overtime — including Sundays — the elimination of 600 jobs, and to cut out health and safety benefits," she explained.

"Members of the IAM and UMWA began to understand that we were stronger by supporting each other," Brown said, noting how IAM and UMWA members participated in

numerous common strike activities.

Eastern Airlines has long passed the point of ever becoming a profitable airline, the SWP leader said. The government is now buying time, through its court-appointed trustee Martin Shugrue, to find a way to dispose of the airline that serves the interests of the airline industry as a whole. The bankruptcy court's function is to make judgments that preserve the social capital and profits of the employers as a whole, not primarily the direct needs of the creditors of the failing airline.

"Through the Eastern battle many rank-and-file strikers have gotten jobs in other industries," Brown said. "Many remain involved in the strike while working other jobs. Some strikers have been able to do strike solidarity work in the unions they are now also members of."

"This development is positive for the Eastern strike and the labor movement as a whole, since the strikers can take the lessons they have learned in their struggle to other unionists, jobs, and workers," said Brown.

"The strike, though, has not been able to transform the labor movement or even the IAM," said Brown. "But the struggle we are going through has taught us, and those who supported us, how to be better working-class fighters."

"There are no other strikes like the Eastern strike taking place now that have been able to develop a structured rank-and-file leadership," she said. "But there is resistance to the bosses' attacks and workers are waging fights against the employers' continuing offensive."

"The struggles over the past two years have been defensive battles," Brown said, "fights where the workers are desperate and have their backs to the wall, such as at Eastern, Pittston, Greyhound, and the *Daily News*."

GM and 'New York Post'

"Many workers have taken beatings at the hands of the bosses over the last decade," the SWP leader said, pointing to recent agreements by labor officials with General Motors and the *New York Post*. Both were setbacks for the labor movement in which union officials claimed they were pursuing "job security."

"According to these labor tops, if the workers made concessions for 'our company and our industry, thus making jobs more secure,' it would make the company more competitive," she said.

"At GM, before the pact was signed, the company announced plans to close more plants and lay off 60,000 workers. At the *New York Post*, the owner threatened to close down and the unions agreed to \$20 million in concessions and a reduced workweek," she pointed out.

"The union officials claimed that these were model contracts — or the best that they could get under the circumstances. Both are steps backward and point in the wrong direction for working people," she said.

"Eastern workers learned that it is better to fight than watch our standard of living and work conditions decline. Concessions — especially concessions given without a fight — only lead to more concessions," she said.

Brown pointed out that even while there are setbacks being dealt to the unions, there continues to be resistance. The bosses sometimes get a surprise, even in well-planned assaults on the unions.

'Daily News' battle

At the *Daily News*, the workers were willing to take massive concessions demanded by the company. They already had agreed to takeback contracts in 1982 and 1987. Many strikers on the picket lines today say they would settle for a contract similar to that at the *Post*.

"But this wasn't enough for the bosses at the *News*," Brown said. "They wanted even more from the workers. Executing a well-laid plan that cost them millions of dollars, the company locked out 60 workers October 25. They replaced the workers with scabs within an hour and brought in strikebreaking goons in black hoods to patrol the streets of New York. The company refused to negotiate and workers were forced to go on strike," said Brown.

"It seemed to the company that they had



Militant Nancy Brown staffing an Eastern strike literature table.

thought of everything. They had locked the union out and were producing the paper. The workers at the *News* were unprepared for a strike.

"But the company miscalculated. They can get the paper printed, but they cannot sell it. They can't find many newsstands that will carry it. This is not because of union goons, as the big-business press states, but because union people in New York are policing the newsstands," she said.

"They tell their newsstand not to carry it and the vast majority don't. This is something no one could have predicted — least of all the *Daily News* bosses who, like bosses everywhere, always underestimate working people."

"Now the other capitalists are pulling their ads out of the *News* because they know putting them in there is a waste of money," Brown said.

"The bosses at the *Daily News* unexpectedly hit resistance in the working class of New York, as the bosses have in other parts of the country at different times. This resistance is broader than the workers at the paper, who were disgusted with management's tactics and fought back against the company's blatant attacks," said Brown.

Working-class antiwar campaign

Following discussion on Brown's report, a public forum was held in the evening that featured SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes. Barnes outlined Washington's accelerated drive toward a massive and bloody war against Iraq and how working-class fighters can build opposition to this through the battles against the employers' offensive at home.

The next day Ernie Mailhot, a national leader of the SWP and a leader of the strike against Eastern Airlines from New York, gave a report entitled "The Organization of the Working-Class Vanguard as Part of the Party Campaign Against the Imperialist War Drive."

"With the beginning of the U.S. war drive in August, all of our lives changed and will change even more," said Mailhot.

"The SWP and the world movement we are a part of must organize to put the fight against the imperialist war at the center of all of our work," he said. "The impending war is a truly monstrous horror being prepared by Washington against all the world's working people."

"No group that claims to be communist can take any other course but to begin a campaign in the working class and among soldiers, farmers, sailors, and reservists to oppose this impending butchery," said Mailhot.

"From the outset of the war drive, there has been opposition to Washington's course," Mailhot said. "Many working people remember the Vietnam War and don't wish to see a repeat of it."

Moreover, Mailhot explained, opposition to an imperialist war of conquest in the Middle East will also be intertwined with struggles by working people against the em-

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Eastern strikers, unionists picket Lorenzo in Bay Area



Militant/Craig Landberg

Some 100 chanting pickets greeted former Eastern Airlines boss Frank Lorenzo outside the Hilton Hotel in downtown San Francisco November 19. He had been invited to address a luncheon of the Commonwealth Club. The title of his talk was "Room to Maneuver."

Representatives of more than a dozen local unions joined Eastern strikers and other members of the International Association of Machinists. Lorenzo approached the group and asked if they were from Eastern. "No," said former Eastern shop steward Mike Fitzpatrick. "I'm an Eastern striker and proud of it."

Because of the success of the picket, strikers decided to call two expanded picket lines at the San Francisco airport.

Canada's role in Korea and Mideast

Communist League leader condemns Ottawa's dispatch of combat forces

BY ROBERT SIMMS

MONTREAL — "The Canadian government is determined to go to war against Iraq in company with Washington and its allies. This will be the second time since World War II that Canada has sent combat forces to participate in an imperialist war against a Third World people," said Steve Penner, executive secretary of the Communist League of Canada, at a forum held here November 24.

The Militant Labor/Lutte Ouvrière Forum was held to discuss the accelerating drive toward imperialist war and the challenge before working people to build an international campaign against it.

"The rapidity and scope of the military mobilization is greater than it was in either Korean or Vietnam wars," said Penner. "It is not meant as a negotiating ploy or bluff. Ottawa has already put in a purchase order for 800 body bags."

"This war will be waged not in defense of democracy and freedom as is claimed, but in defense of the imperialists' self-proclaimed right to dominate the world, including the Middle East. It will be waged to defend the wealth and power of the tiny handful of super-rich ruling families in the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Germany, Japan, and other imperialist countries," he said.

The last time Canada went to war was in Korea forty years ago, from 1950-53. Then, as they are doing today, Canada's rulers began by sending three destroyers. But the force grew to 27,000 troops, Penner said.

UN cover in Korea

"Then, as today, these military forces were deployed under the cover of the United Nations in order to disguise the fact that this was not a fight for peace, but a bloody war of conquest waged to impose an imperialist protectorate on a Third World country," he said. "And that is what the South Korean government became. It has never had the support of the people of Korea."

Some 45,000 troops, mainly from the United States but with the symbolic presence of Washington's allies, including two Canadian officers, continue as a massive and oppressive force in the southern part of Korea, he said. The UN flag still flies over these occupying forces, "which have been used on more than one occasion to crush uprisings of South Korea's workers, peasants, and students."

Penner explained that an imperialist protectorate is the goal in Iraq as well, not just the removal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. He warned that the war being prepared against Iraq by Washington would have devastating consequences for working people in the Middle East and around the world.

"During the Korean War most of the country was turned into rubble and nearly four million people, including 118,000 soldiers from the imperialist armies of the United States, Canada, Britain, and France, were killed."

"In Vietnam, the other major imperialist war against a Third World country since 1945, more than 2 million were killed, with millions more maimed. More bombs were dropped on this small country than were dropped in all of World War II," Penner said.

"This is what we are fighting to prevent the imperialists from carrying out in Iraq and the Mideast," he declared.

Pretense of defending democracy

The Communist League leader blasted the pretension of Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and External Affairs Minister Joseph Clark that Canadian troops would be defending democracy. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have been two of the most reactionary and repressive countries on the face of the earth, he said. Slavery was legal in Saudi Arabia until 1962 and today women have few rights.

But Canada is also a country where the government has launched attacks on democratic rights, he said. "Ottawa claims it is sending troops to defend Kuwaiti sovereignty — but it just concluded an assault, using thousands of troops, on Mohawk Indians near Montréal. The Natives were defending their land and their right to national self-determination. Racist police shootings of Blacks and Natives have also occurred, he said."



Canadian CF-18 Hornet jet fighters now in Mideast can be used for air-to-air combat and bombing. In Korean War, initial Canadian deployment of three destroyers grew to 27,000 troops. As today, troops were sent under cover of UN.

Penner said that the drive to war is linked to the deepening economic crisis in the capitalist world. This crisis has hit semicolonial countries especially hard, and "the imperialists have used every means to force repayment of these country's massive and oppressive foreign debts. Canada's imperialist bankers are demanding repayment on some \$25 billion in loans plus accumulated interest."

"As resistance to the devastating effects of the depression-like conditions mount, the imperialists must go to war in order to reassert their economic, military, and political interests and attempt to stabilize bourgeois rule in the semicolonial world," Penner said.

"The last war authorized by the UN Security Council was the Korean War," he said. "Understanding that war will help us see the stakes in the war being prepared in the Mideast. It also helps put to rest the blatant lie that Canada is not an imperialist country and that its armed forces exist to act as peacekeepers rather than to defend the imperialist system of exploitation," he said.

Backdrop to Korean War

Penner explained that the Korean War was fought to prevent the spread of anti-imperialist revolution in Asia. In 1949, the world-shaking revolution in China ended imperialist control of that country. In addition, the postwar division of Korea and revolution in its northern half were creating strong pressures among the Korean people for reunification.

A U.S.-installed puppet regime in the South, led by Syngman Rhee, had no popular support and was defeated in elections in the spring of 1950. Certain of U.S. backing, Rhee provoked war with North Korea. Within a few weeks, North Korean troops and popular committees and militia in the South had routed Rhee's forces and the U.S. troops backing him.

It was at that point that the UN got into the picture. With the Soviet Union's representative absent from its sessions and China excluded, the Security Council voted to act as cover for an invasion of Korea by the U.S. and its allies. "These were the circumstances under which Ottawa sent 27,000 troops to participate in one of this century's bloodiest and cruellest imperialist wars," said Penner.

The armies of the United States, Canada, Britain, Australia, South Africa's apartheid regime, and others invaded Korea and pushed the North Korean army back to Korea's border with China. At that point, China, threatened with invasion, sent army divisions into the war.

"Although the imperialists occupied the North for only two months, they carried out massive destruction and systematically slaughtered hundreds of thousands of Koreans, mostly civilians. The dead and wounded included massive numbers of women and children as a means to terrorize the population into submission," Penner explained.

Today, imperialist troops continue to occupy South Korea under the UN flag and prop up a deeply hated regime, he said. "They are there to maintain and defend the division of the Korean nation, one of the most explo-

sive unresolved national questions from World War II."

"We should unconditionally support the Korean people in their fight for reunification. We should demand that Ottawa end its formal state of war with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the North and its participation in the occupation of the South."

"The Canadian government singles out North Korea as one of the very few governments in the world they refuse to recognize or have diplomatic relations with," he said. "Instead, they continue to prop up the hated South Korean regime and keep Korea divided. South Korea is Canada's second-largest trading partner in Asia."

"This is the sorry legacy of imperialist Canada's involvement in the so-called UN war in Korea. A UN-approved war by the imperialists in the Middle East would be just as tragic for humanity."

"Canada is more identified with so-called UN peacekeeping than any other country," noted Penner. "Canada has served in every major UN operation. Some 80,000 Canadian troops have been a part of the 500,000 soldiers used from around the world in UN missions."

"In the Middle East, after the 1956 Suez invasion of Egypt by Israel, Britain, and France, UN forces spent many years, under Canadian leadership, defending Israel's war gains from that invasion against the Palestinian people."

Canada's role in Congo

UN forces, including from Canada, played one of their most treacherous roles in the early 1960s in the Congo, said Penner. Patrice Lumumba, one of Africa's great revolutionary freedom fighters, had led the fight for the Congo's independence from Belgium. When the Belgian colonialists tried to regain a foothold by sponsoring forces hostile to Lumumba and reinvading the country, Lumumba asked for UN help. Instead, the UN forces helped proimperialist forces topple the Lumumba government, capture him, and turn him over to his executors, said Penner.

And in Vietnam, Canadian "peacekeepers" spied for the U.S. government, provided diplomatic cover, and continually tried to justify the U.S. invasion of that country, he added.

The drive to war by Canada's rulers is aimed at working people of the semicolonial world, "but it's aimed at us as well," Penner said. "The employers and their government will increasingly try to restrict the democratic rights and political space of working people, trade unionists, farmers, and those fighting the oppression of Natives, Blacks, and Québécois," he explained.

"They tell us to defend our way of life by defending our companies and our country. But it's not our company or our country or our war — it's theirs," he said.

"Our interests lie with those of our fellow workers, from the Mohawks in Canada to the toilers of Iraq and Korea."

'Need wide discussion on war'

"We should demand that working people be allowed to vote on the war. It's working people who will fight and die in this war, not the ruling rich and capitalist politicians. But we do not have a voice in these decisions. We should be able to debate and discuss this as broadly as possible and decide whether Canadian forces are thrown into

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Books for working-class campaign against war drive

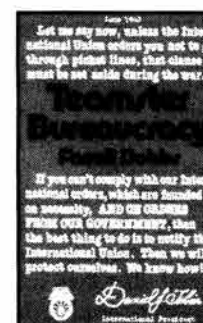
Pathfinder publishes a number of books and pamphlets that are valuable weapons for working people opposed to the imperialists' march toward war in the Mideast. Below is a selection of titles documenting earlier opposition to imperialist war, and assaults on the unions and democratic rights at home since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



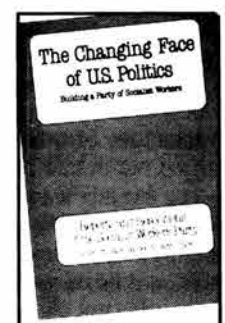
Panama: The truth about the U.S. invasion
by Cindy Jaquith et al., 44 pp., \$2.50



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



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

Also from Pathfinder:

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

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

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.

How residents of Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast responded to early FSLN errors

BY CINDY JAQUITH

(Second of a series)

PUERTO CABEZAS, Nicaragua — The growing conflict on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast in the early 1980s, while it had its own particular features, also developed in the context of increasing class polarization in Nicaragua as a whole.

As the workers' and farmers' government led by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) deepened its course of confiscating big landowners, nationalizing some factories, and organizing and arming the toilers, it met increased resistance from capitalist farmers and businessmen, as well as church hierarchies, and, of course, the U.S. government.

In April 1980 two members of the government junta, Alfonso Robelo and Violeta Chamorro, resigned in protest. Robelo, a wealthy cotton farmer, went on to launch a bourgeois political party, the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement (MDN), to challenge the FSLN.

Meanwhile, ex-members of ousted dictator Anastasio Somoza's National Guard had begun to stage murderous raids on the countryside from their camps in Honduras. They targeted Cuban and Nicaraguan literacy workers, Sandinista soldiers, and peasant organizers. It became increasingly clear that

their attacks were receiving the backing of capitalist forces within the country, as well as the U.S. government.

The ex-National Guardsmen eventually organized as a U.S.-financed mercenary army, called the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN). The FDN set up the "September 15" radio station, which could be heard on the North Atlantic.

The counterrevolutionaries' propaganda got a hearing in the newly founded organization, Miskitos, Sumus, Ramas, Sandinistas Working Together (Misurasata). From its inception, Misurasata had accepted financing not only from the Nicaraguan government but from the U.S. government Agency for International Development (AID). Several Misurasata leaders — including Steadman Fagoth, the organization's representative to the Nicaraguan Council of State — had relations with Robelo's MDN.

Sharpening class tensions

By November 1980 class tensions had sharpened further in Nicaragua. Jorge Salazar, vice-president of the Superior Council of Private Enterprise and suspected of ties to the counterrevolutionary terror attacks, was killed in a shoot-out with Sandinista forces. Fagoth spoke out in Salazar's defense. Fagoth and other Misurasata leaders also



Miskito shoe repairman in Puerto Cabezas. Most residents of the North Atlantic region were neither trying to provoke the Sandinistas nor to separate from Nicaragua.

began drawing up a platform of new demands to present to the central government.

Misurasata called for one of its members to be named to the central government junta, all of the members of which were from the Pacific Coast, and for Indians to be integrated into government positions on the Atlantic Coast.

It also called for unions, women's groups, and youth organizations on the Atlantic Coast to be under Misurasata control.

Dropping the demand for title to Indian communal land, the Misurasata leaders decided to demand indigenous control of 80

percent of the Atlantic Coast, including those areas populated by Mestizos, most of whom were poor peasants driven off their farms further west by capitalist landowners. Fagoth began to call for "all Spaniards" to leave the coast.

Sandinista authorities concluded that the organization as a whole was about to separate the coast from the rest of the country, in league with the *Somocistas* and Washington, which by now had begun an extensive military buildup in Honduras just north of the river dividing the two countries, the Río Coco.

Dynamic of ethnic rights struggle

The FSLNers were unable either to distinguish among the various political forces within Misurasata or to recognize the revolutionary dynamic of the ethnic rights struggle that was unfolding, albeit with sharply contradictory features.

As William Ramírez, the FSLN leader who headed the early Atlantic Coast government, later explained, in the eyes of the FSLN, "ethnic consciousness" was viewed as "counterposed to national consciousness and revolutionary consciousness."

Some Misurasata leaders, and those they were working with, undoubtedly calculated that their new demands would be rejected by the Nicaraguan government, which would provoke a confrontation with the Miskito community. Should an uprising occur on the North Atlantic, it could provide the opportunity U.S. imperialism had been waiting for: the chance to establish a "provisional government" of opponents of the revolution, who in this case would declare a separate "Indian nation."

Most residents of the North Atlantic, however, were neither trying to provoke the Sandinistas nor to separate from Nicaragua. "Indians weren't thinking about independence, but about their struggle," recalled Amalia Dixon. "It was Fagoth who called for independence."

Nor did Miskitos generally identify with the *Somocistas*. Arquelio Benjamín — who took up arms against the Sandinistas and today is a member of the city council of Waspám, the main commercial center on the Río Coco — said, "The contras on the Pacific who took up arms were *Somocistas*, although many were also peasants. We were not *Somocistas*. We knew who [FDN commander] Enrique Bermúdez was. He was a colonel in Somoza's National Guard and he was against our rights."

Arrest of Misurasata leaders

The Nicaraguan government, nevertheless, decided to make a preemptive move against Misurasata in February 1981. This was right before the group planned to hold a mass rally to celebrate the victory of the literacy drive, at which the new platform of demands would be announced. State Security troops arrested Fagoth, Lau, and Rivera in Managua, and dozens of other Misurasata leaders on the Atlantic Coast. They were charged with "separatism."

Lau and Rivera were released after two weeks and the charges dropped. But State Security kept Fagoth in jail and released documents they said proved he had been an

Miskitos along the Río Coco recall the forced evacuation by Sandinista gov't

BY SUSAN APSTEIN

KISALAYA, Río Coco, Nicaragua — For thousands of Miskito Indians who live on the Río Coco, the river dividing Nicaragua and Honduras, the most important event in their lives was the forced evacuation of their villages by the Nicaraguan government.

The evacuation took place during early 1982 in the midst of the U.S.-sponsored contra war.

By late 1981 a majority of the 40,000 Miskitos who live on the river had crossed over into Honduras as a result of conflicts with Nicaragua's revolutionary government over their rights as Indians. Thousands had taken up arms against the government, aided by many other villagers in the region.

The Nicaraguan government decided to evacuate residents of villages along the Río Coco. It said the measure was necessary because the contras were planning to attack the entire area.

The evacuation of 8,500 Miskitos from 39 communities began in January 1982. Further evacuations of other Miskito villages were carried out in late 1982 and in 1983.

The exodus was forced, with no advance warning. Villagers could not take their belongings, and their houses, churches, animals, and boats were burned after they left. They were not allowed to return until 1985.

The Río Coco is the center of the Indians' way of life, from the transport and communication it provides between isolated villages, to the fish that complement their diet, to the belief among many that the river provides spiritual protection.

Kisalaya is the first village upriver from Waspám, the principal river town. The 900 Miskitos in Kisalaya live by farming, fishing, and hunting. They farm across the river in Honduras, using machetes and digging sticks. They travel in boats called *pipantes* — hollowed-out tree trunks that can hold up to 30 passengers.

Small wood-frame houses dot the village, which has no roads, potable water, or electricity. Many tools are handmade.

Zamora and Francisca Wilson are an elderly couple in Kisalaya whose memory of the 1982 evacuation is vivid.

Zamora Wilson described how the troops removed the villagers. "The Sandinistas

came, shooting their guns in the air, saying the contras were coming, everyone must leave. We were terrified."

The Miskitos made the journey to Waspám by foot, leaving all of their possessions behind. "They said we would be coming back the next day," Wilson recalled. "But that night from Waspám we saw the smoke rising over Kisalaya. They had set fire to the village."

"We wept when we realized we had been deceived," he said. "Our sadness was unspeakable."

The villagers were resettled in Wasminona, part of the Tasba Pri community built by the government 40 miles south of the Río Coco.

Francisca Wilson said that in Wasminona they received a house, clothing, medicine, and food, including meat. As well, they had potable water and electricity.

"We need these things here, too," she said. "We were promised potable water and electricity for when we returned, but this wasn't done."

Despite the improved conditions in Wasminona, Wilson said many people, especially the elderly, became ill from the trauma they suffered. "Many of the old people died in Tasba Pri."

'We won't forget'

Martín Chow is a leader of the village. "I think this was one of the worst places, the way the evacuation was done," he said. "What the people tell me is: perhaps we can forgive, but we won't forget."

There are different opinions in the North Atlantic region about the evacuation of the river villages.

Arquelio Benjamín, a current member of the Waspám city council, said, "Although the central government claimed the *somocistas* were going to attack, the real goal of the evacuation was to prevent us from aiding those who had taken up arms."

Cayetano Web, a schoolteacher from Waspám, maintains the problem was the danger of military attacks. "This was clearly going to be a big war zone, and people had to be removed," he said.

César Paez, head of the Río Coco-Puerto Cabezas department of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), believes the effect of the evacuation will be long-lasting.

"It wasn't just the destruction of the evacuation itself," he said, "but the destruction in historic terms. The wounds will take generations to heal."

But Paez believes the resettlement was unavoidable. "We could not allow a situation of civil war to develop there," he says. "Too many people supported the contras."

William Watler is the FSLN coordinator for the Río Coco. He says the FSLN made a mistake in lying to the villagers. "We said, 'Leave your stuff here, you'll be back in three days.' We did this to get people to go."

"We carried out mock combat in some places," he continued, to convince people a contra attack was imminent. "When we left, we burned everything, including the cattle."

Watler said, however, that the villagers were protecting those who had taken up arms. "We would enter a village looking for contras and they 'weren't there.' The next day we would be ambushed by these same contras."

Return to Río Coco

In May 1985 the Nicaraguan government decided to allow the Miskitos to return to the Río Coco. The decision grew out of a major political change in position by the government, to support the autonomous rule of the Atlantic Coast by the ethnic groups living here.

FSLN leader Alta Hooker, a member of the current regional autonomous council, said the return to the river was part of recognizing what autonomy meant. "When we asked people, 'What is autonomy?' they said, 'To return to the Río Coco.'"

By March 1986, 16,500 people had returned.

In Kisalaya, as elsewhere, the entire village had to be rebuilt when the residents returned. "There wasn't but one house left standing," said Zamora Wilson. "All of the animals were gone. Some families once had a cow. A few had more."

Rafael Dixon described his trip back to Waspám in June 1985, one of the first ones organized. "Some people ran right up to the river and jumped in, filling jars with water and drinking it. They said, 'If you're sick, this water will cure you.' Our people really had the blues for the river."



Militant photos by Cindy Jaquith

Atlantic Coast village of Kisalaya

informer for the Somoza regime, which Fagoth later acknowledged.

The informer file had little impact on Miskitos on the Atlantic Coast, however, who had not experienced the assassinations, torture, and imprisonment resulting from informers' operations on the Pacific. Most Miskitos were outraged that the government had jailed the most prominent leader of their organization.

Demonstrations of several thousand demanding Fagoth's release took place in both Puerto Cabezas and Waspám. "Miskito farmers refused to bring food to Puerto Cabezas," said Dixon, "and in Waspám they would only sell to Miskitos and Sumus."

Finally, in April, the central government decided it had no choice but to free Fagoth. He returned to the Río Coco and immediately led a substantial number of Miskito youth across the river into Honduras.

"Then on May 12, Fagoth was on the FDN's September 15 radio station, calling for war against the Sandinistas," recalled Hazel Lau, a Miskito rights activist at the time and today a member of the FSLN.

"With so many young people across the river in Honduras, it was natural that people on the Nicaraguan side were helping them with food and things," explained Dixon. Army and State Security patrols began arresting people at night in Waspám and other villages and taking them to Puerto Cabezas.

"You never knew when they might come for you," Dixon said.

"After Fagoth went to Honduras, every Miskito was considered CIA or contra," recalled Lau.

Brooklyn Rivera, Lau, and other Misurasata leaders remaining in Nicaragua issued a statement appealing to those who had gone to Honduras. "Imperialism is openly manipulating the situation of the Indian brothers who are refugees in Honduras," the statement said, "in order to use them in its interventionist plans against our country."

But by September, Rivera crossed over to Honduras too, joining Fagoth and those who had taken up arms with him in a bloc with the FDN. Rivera would later split from Fagoth and form an alliance with contras operating in Costa Rica led by Edén Pastora.

In late 1981, Washington began openly preparing to use U.S. troops to halt the deepening Nicaraguan revolution, the mounting liberation struggle in El Salvador, and the support both struggles were receiving from Cuba. The U.S. escalation coincided with an increase in armed attacks on the Río Coco.

Clashes along river

In November and December 1981, a string of villages along the Río Coco were hit by military conflict between Sandinista troops, armed Miskito youth now based in Honduras, and the local population. More than 60 people died.

Most people on the Río Coco remember two clashes the best: San Carlos and Leimus, two villages on the western end of the river. Both clashes occurred in December, although memories differ as to which took place first.

In San Carlos, a group of armed Miskitos ambushed a helicopter bearing Sandinista troops, killing between a dozen and 35 soldiers.

Around the same time, a group of 35 Miskito men returning from Las Minas were traveling through Leimus by boat. They were stopped by Sandinista authorities, who suspected they might be contras. The Miskitos were lined up and shot before they could establish their innocence. One escaped, and lived to tell what had happened. "The word spread up and down the river like wildfire," said Dixon.

FSLN leader William Watler said the Leimus killings were "an error."

"There was a lot of tension in the air because of the attacks from Honduras. A lieutenant was jailed for what happened in Leimus."

Evacuation of Río Coco

Shortly thereafter, the government decided to evacuate all Miskitos from the Río Coco, except those in the town of Waspám. Residents of some 40 villages were forcibly removed and most transported to settlements in the interior of the region. After they left, their houses, boats, cattle, churches, and other buildings were burned to the ground, partly to prevent their use by Miskito armed groups based in Honduras. (See story below.)

About 8,500 Miskitos were affected by the evacuation. This was perhaps a quarter of the original population on the river. Many more had already gone to Honduras, voluntarily or under coercion, or had

left the region altogether.

The Río Coco evacuation was immediately seized on by the U.S. government as a potent propaganda tool in its battle to turn public opinion against the Sandinistas and in favor of military intervention against the revolution.

The then secretary of state Alexander Haig declared the Nicaraguan government was committing "the most atrocious genocidal actions" against Indians. The *Wall Street Journal* charged the FSLN had herded Miskitos "into concentration camps."

The FDN's September 15 radio station stepped up special broadcasts in Miskito to the North Atlantic: "Remember our 35 brothers assassinated in Leimus! Pick up your guns and aim them at the communists!" the station said on April 26, 1982.

The radio warned that the Nicaraguan literacy drive was a Cuban plot to "collectively impose the Marxist-Leninist doctrine on In-

dians." It told Miskitos to reject polio vaccine, which it claimed was being administered by Cuban doctors to kill children.

Fagoth became the most prominent Miskito defending the contra line, which he presented around the world and especially before U.S. audiences. One of his speeches, titled "A Witness to Genocide," was printed in the March 1982 *Free Trade Union News*, published by the AFL-CIO.

In the speech Fagoth declared, "Miskito Indians are being murdered, burned, buried alive, and forced into concentration camps."

He denounced "the presence of Cuban teachers, with their Marxist-Leninist dogma" who he said were "interfering with our traditional educational system."

The Sandinistas' goal, he continued, was to turn "our community property into state property" and use the North Atlantic for a military buildup.

A constant theme of Fagoth's arguments was that the struggle of Indians had nothing to do with the struggle of the working class and poor peasantry, as expressed in Marxism and the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions. As he wrote in a book published in 1987, *La Mosquitia: Autonomía Regional* (The Miskito Territory: Regional Autonomy), "The cultural identity of the Atlantic Coast... is incompatible with the methods and ideology of Marxism."

"The FSLN," Fagoth charged, "saw the Atlantic Coast as a place to colonize and plunder, covering up their actions with a supposedly progressive ideology that was actually nothing but racism and colonialism."

(To be continued)

Hundreds in Detroit area protest the U.S. war drive

BY CLEVE ANDREW PULLEY

DETROIT — Since the George Bush administration announced plans to deploy more than 200,000 additional troops to the Mideast to give U.S. forces an "offensive option," there has been a ground swell of antiwar actions, meetings, and discussions here.

The largest antiwar event was a teach-in of some 1,600 held November 18 at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, the site of the first teach-in during the Vietnam War in the 1960s. An overflow crowd of students jammed four auditoriums to hear talks transmitted over closed-circuit TV from the original meeting site.

A variety of speakers led workshops, including the former U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia. Supporting everything short of a U.S. military offensive against Iraq, he said, "We are quite clearly headed toward war." The U.S. had given Iraq "a green light to invade" Kuwait as a pretext to send U.S. troops, he said.

Osama Siblani, publisher of the *Arab-American News*, a national newspaper based in Dearborn, Michigan, said, "This country is making a major mistake again. Like all people, Arabs desire freedom, democracy, and human rights."

Other speakers explained that war would be fought to restore a monarchy in Kuwait and that most U.S. soldiers killed would be oppressed minorities and working-class men and women.

"War in the Gulf," said Elizabeth Allen, a nursing professor who served in Vietnam, "is an African-American issue, a Native American issue, an Appalachian-American issue." Another antiwar teach-in is scheduled for November 29.

On November 17 in Ann Arbor, 200 people marched in a biweekly antiwar action at the farmers market sponsored by the Coalition of Community and University Groups for Peace. Another 130 rallied in Detroit Novem-

ber 19, organized by church groups.

Numerous protests are occurring in the Arab community here, the largest in the United States. More than 700 Arab-Americans gathered November 4 for an antiwar forum, and the following week, 400 Palestinian-Americans met to celebrate the declaration of Palestinian statehood.

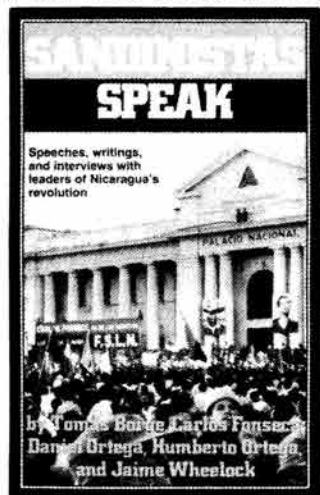
Antiwar activities have been held on college campuses across the state. The Out Now group at Michigan State University in East Lansing held a protest of 400 in early November; students had to be turned away after 300 crammed into the largest room allowed them by the administration November 20.

The Coalition for a Peaceful Solution in the Gulf, the Detroit metropolitan area group, is hosting a Vietnam veterans tour December 12-13. A picket line is planned at the Federal Building December 12, followed by a rally featuring Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, who has called on soldiers to refuse to go to the Gulf on moral and religious grounds. Students from Ann Arbor and Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, along with Detroit activists, are organizing cars and buses to participate in a December 8 antiwar march in Chicago.

Socialists and unionists here who oppose the war moves report that discussions with coworkers reveal increasing antiwar sentiment. Much of the prowar talk heard in the days immediately following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has given way to skepticism and opposition to the continual U.S. buildup.

Efforts by the company and some union officials who are veterans at the General Motors Orion assembly plant to start a collection of packages for Operation Desert Shield failed miserably. Bins were set up at entrances and near the union office in the plant and flyers left on tables requesting donations. After several days only trash had been deposited.

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CALIFORNIA

Berkeley

Evening of Solidarity with members of Pico Korea Workers Union. Speakers: Yoo Jum Soon, president; Lee Yeun Ree, research coordinator; and Kang Young Hyo, member. Video. Wed., Dec. 12, 7 p.m. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Pico Workers Solidarity Committee.

Los Angeles

Revolutionary Cuba Today. Speaker: Clinton Adlum, first secretary Cuban Interests Section, Washington, D.C. Sat., Dec. 15, 6 p.m. First Unitarian Church, 2936 W 8 St. Sponsor: Coalition in Solidarity with Cuba. For more information call (213)383-9283.

Oakland

The Working-Class Campaign Against Imperialist War. Speaker: Kate Kaku, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. 3702 Telegraph Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (415) 420-1165.

U.S. Hands Off the Mideast. Panel discussion of students, workers, and veterans. Sat., Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m. 3702 Telegraph Ave., Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (415) 420-1165.

San Francisco

Cuba and the Middle East Crisis. Speaker: Clinton Adlum, first secretary, Cuban Interests Section, Washington, D.C. Thurs., Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m. Western Addition Cultural Center, 762 Fulton, 3rd Floor. Donation: \$5-\$15. Sponsors: Venceremos Brigade, Socialist Workers Party, Workers World Party. For information call (415) 436-7682.

FLORIDA

Miami

No War in the Arab East! Bring the Troops Home Now! Panel discussion. Sat., Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Korea: Support the Fight for Reunification. U.S. Troops Out. Speaker: Maceo Dixon, Socialist Workers Party, member, International Association of Machinists Local 2665. Sat., Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Act Now to Stop the War! No Blood for Oil! Demonstration. Sat., Dec. 8, 12:30 p.m. Daley Plaza. Sponsor: Emergency Coalition for Peace in the Middle East.

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The Korean War: Prelude to Vietnam. Video and discussion. Sat., Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Speak-Out Against War in Mideast. Speakers: Sean Brown, St. Patrick's High School; Darren Feder, Student Mobilization Committee, William Paterson College; Sue Lancelotti, Advocates for Political Awareness, Rutgers University; Olga Rodríguez, Socialist Workers Party; Wantu Zenzile, African National Congress. Sat., Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

The International Fight to Reunify Korea. Eyewitness Report. Speaker: Margaret Jayko, Socialist Workers Party National Committee, member International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 101, recently returned from Korea. Sat., Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

Protest U.S. President George Bush and Gen. Colin Powell Sun., Dec. 9, 6 p.m. Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Sponsor: Coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention in the Middle East.

OHIO

Cleveland

A New Stage in the Fight Against U.S. War Moves. Panel discussion of student activists, unionists. Sat., Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Forum. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

UTAH

Price

Capitalism in Crisis: War Against Working People at Home and Abroad. Speaker: Tony Dutrow, Socialist Workers Party, member United Mineworkers Local 1190. Sat., Dec. 16, 5 p.m. 253 E Main. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (801) 637-6294.

Salt Lake City

Cuba and the Fights Against Washington's War Drive. Speaker: Greg Rosenberg, Socialist Workers Party National Committee, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 2-931. Sat., Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Out Now! The Movement Against the Vietnam War: Lessons for Today's Antiwar Fighters. Speaker: Lee Walkington, Communist League. Fri., Dec. 14, 7 p.m. 19 Terry St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: 02-281-3297.

BRITAIN

Cardiff

Fighting Imperialism's War in the Gulf. Sat., Dec. 8, 7 p.m. 9 Moira Terrace, Adamsdown. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 222-484677.

Fund-raising Social. Help the Militant get out the truth about the Gulf war. Sat., Dec. 15, 8 p.m. 3 Kelvin Rd, Roath.

London

Class Series: "Fighting Imperialism's War in the Gulf." Fri., Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m. "Cuba's Part in the Fight Against Apartheid." Wed., Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Tel: 71-401-2409.

Manchester

Class: "Cuba's Part in the Fight Against Apartheid." Mon., Dec. 10, 7 p.m. 60 Shudehill. Tel: 061-839 1766.

Sheffield

Class: "Cuba's Part in the Fight Against Apartheid." Fri., Dec. 14, 7:30p.m. 2A Waverley House, 10 Joiner St. Tel: 0742-729469.

CANADA

Montréal

Defend Mark Curtis. Speaker: Brigitte Groulx, recently returned from UN Human Rights Commission hearing. Sun. Dec. 9, 2 p.m.

Confederation of National Trade Unions headquarters, 1601 de Lorimier. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Friends of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Tel: (514) 273-2503, 274-2572

Fund-raiser for Lutte ouvrière Antiwar Supplement. Sat., Dec. 15, 6 p.m. 7674 Drolet, south of Villeray. Donation: \$5-\$10. Sponsor: Communist League. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

Toronto

The Middle East War and the Coming Depression. Speaker: Steve Penner, executive secretary, Communist League. Sat., Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (416) 861-1399.

Vancouver

The Middle East War and the Coming Depression. Speaker: Steve Penner, executive secretary, Communist League. Sat., Dec. 15, 7:30p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

Socialist unionists meet

Continued from Page 8

ployer-government assault at home and the mounting effects of a capitalist economic downturn.

"We are being asked to fight, sacrifice, and die for the same wealthy ruling families that are breaking our strikes and busting our unions here," he said.

In its march toward war, "the ruling class is attempting to divide and confuse working people. They know that wars are never popular," Mailhot said. "Their aim is to win a layer of workers to the war effort — to get them to identify with the interests of the bosses. They want the rest of us to resign ourselves to the inevitability of war. They will attempt to clamp down on those that don't and speak out."

"Some workers will become confused by the government's propaganda, especially in the initial stages of a war," he said. "Some of the first reactions to the war drive will be patriotic, and the desire to get it over and done with.

"This is why we need to get out the truth about what the imperialists are really doing and to explain thoroughly the consequences of such a war for all humanity. We can explain why working people should oppose the slaughter being planned and organize a fight against it."

Such an antiwar campaign will reach out to "working people and farmers, those in and out of uniform." Through these discussions, the SWP leader said, socialist members of the IAM and other unions can "explain why working people can only rely on their own collective strength, not on Democratic and Republican party politicians who claim to stand for the interests of our class. They are supporting the moves toward war and will support war if it comes about."

"We have the necessary tools to begin our campaign in the working class against the war drive," Mailhot said. "We have the socialist publications — the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial* in Spanish, and *Lutte ouvrière* in French — that will campaign in every issue to get out the facts. We also have the new books from Pathfinder, *U.S. Hands Off The Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United*

Nations in Spanish and English, that document Cuba's fight against Washington's drive to war. With these tools we can arm working people with the information that they need so that they can join in campaigning against the U.S. government's war," said Mailhot.

"We will also participate in and help build protest actions against the war," he said, pointing to the numerous picket lines, demonstrations, and teach-ins taking place across North America.

"The SWP is in an excellent position to enter this crucial fight today. We are a party that is rooted in the industrial unions and the working class. We have gone through the labor battles in the coalfields and the airline industry. We are in the best position to reach out to fellow workers with our campaign against the war drive and deepen the working-class resistance to the employers' war at home."

Canadian imperialists back war drive in the Arab-Persian Gulf

Continued from Page 9

this war," Penner argued.

"The debate, public discussion, and anti-war rallies that can result from this proposal point in the direction of working people having our own foreign policy independent of that of the rulers."

Noting that none of the parties or politicians in Canada's Parliament call for the withdrawal of Canadian and U.S. troops from the Middle East, Penner proposed that workers and their unions should fight for the construction of a labor party that could mobilize working people in the streets against the bloody fate Canada's rulers have in store for them both at home and abroad.

"All working-class fighters can start today by placing the campaign against the imperialist war drive at the center of their activities in the unions, among farmers, and on the campuses. It should also be central in all international solidarity activities with Cuba, the anti-apartheid struggle, and the fight for the reunification of Korea," the Communist League leader explained.

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MICHIGAN: Detroit: 5019½ Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA: Austin: 407½ N. Main. Zip: 55912. Tel: (507) 433-3461. **Twin Cities:** 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI: St. Louis: 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Zip: 63113. Tel: (314) 361-0250.

NEBRASKA: Omaha: 140 S. 40th St. Zip: 68131. Tel: (402) 553-0245.

NEW JERSEY: Newark: 141 Halsey. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK: Brooklyn: 464 Bergen St. Zip: 11217. Tel: (718) 398-6983. **New York:** 191 7th Ave. Zip: 10011. Tel: (212) 727-8421.

NORTH CAROLINA: Greensboro: 2219 E Market. Zip 27401. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

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(412) 362-6767.

TEXAS: Houston: 4806 Almeda. Zip: 77004. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

UTAH: Price: 253 E. Main St. Mailing address: P.O. Box 758. Zip: 84501. Tel: (801) 637-6294. **Salt Lake City:** 147 E 900 South. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 523 8th St. SE. Zip: 20003. Tel: (202) 547-7557.

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 1405 E. Madison. Zip: 98122. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

WEST VIRGINIA: Charleston: 1586 E. Washington St. Mailing address: P.O. Box 5398. Zip: 25311. Tel: (304) 345-3040. **Morgantown:** 221 Pleasant St. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 19 Terry St., Surry Hills, Sydney NSW 2010. Tel: 02-281-3297.

BRITAIN

Cardiff: 9 Moira Terrace, Adamsdown. Postal code: CF2 1EJ. Tel: 0222-484677.

London: 47 The Cut. Postal code: SE1 8LL. Tel: 71-401 2293.

Manchester: Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Postal code: M4 4AA. Tel: 061-839 1766.

Sheffield: 2A Waverley House, 10 Joiner St.,

Tell it to Bush — Drinking beer or dancing is illegal in Saudi Arabia, and neighboring Gulf countries aren't looking for GI business; so



Harry Ring

the Pentagon wants to rent some big cruise ships as floating rest-and-recreation centers. So far, the industry has responded cautiously to the idea of parking its boats in a war zone. A spokesperson observed,

"There could be some risks."

Compassionate — The strike-bound New York *Daily News* bounced its unionized maintenance contractor and is using homeless people from a Salvation Army shelter to clean the building. They haven't said how much they're paying them.

Japan's "paternal" capitalism — Some 40 percent of Japanese salaried employees are afraid their jobs will drive them to an early death. An interested insurance company did the survey, which showed a strong fear of *karoshi* — death from overwork. Apparently there was no similar survey of assembly line workers.

Antistress program — Job-related stress is a rising U.S. health problem, warns the medical director at Citicorp banking system. He said that at the Citibank unit, where 2,000 jobs are to be axed, two people have killed themselves so far this year. Apparently as a trial run, the bank is planning to install blood-pressure monitors at seven sites.

Serving the prince of peace — In Greensboro, North Carolina, a "Spiritual warfare" gathering featured Dr. Mickey Bonner, who proclaimed, "All prayer is warfare."

Money talks? — Henry Herman, a Texas retiree, writes to members of Congress and encloses a

dollar in each letter. It's the "only way to get their attention," he explains. His letters venture the opinion that the legislators are, among other things, "obsequious jackals for an oligarchy of wealthy parasites."

Fair question — When Congress members send Henry Herman his dollar back, he writes another letter and adds another dollar. When one solon sent back \$3, Herman respond with a note inquiring, "How many more dollars will it take before I become eligible for the same consideration the wealthy parasites are now enjoying?"

Preach, bro — "The greed of the rich is often the root cause of serious

pollution problems. In such cases we can only pray, 'God, do not forgive them, for they know what they do.'" — Monko Swaminathan, president of the World Conservation Union.

Thought for the week — "The American health-care system does not work well because there is no American health-care system. Instead there is a health-care marketplace. . . . The United States is, after all, one of only two western industrialized nations without some form of national health insurance or health-care system. The nation with which we share this dubious distinction? South Africa." — Health writer B.D. Colen.

Claudia Roberson, 20 years of communist work

BY JOHN COX

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sixty people gathered here November 18 to celebrate the life and the contributions to the workers' movement of Claudia Roberson. Roberson, a 20-year member of the Socialist Workers Party, died of leukemia October 31.

A member of the Washington, D.C., branch of the party, Roberson worked at United Airlines and belong to the International Association of Machinists (IAM).

Ike Nahem, the SWP chairperson here, welcomed Roberson's coworkers, comrades, and friends. He said the meeting was held "to celebrate Claudia's life and what she consciously *did* with it. Tonight we want to underline and celebrate the choice she made just out of high school and to which she remained committed to the end to lead a life of uncompromising revolutionary struggle against the capitalist system of exploitation and oppression."

SWP National Committee member Nancy Brown, who is a rank-and-file leader of the IAM strike against Eastern Airlines, recalled that Roberson joined her first protest action against Washington's war in Vietnam as a high school student following the May 1970 U.S. invasion of Cambodia.

"More than anything," Brown said, "it was the fight against imperialist war, along with the rising women's liberation movement and the fight for abortion rights, that had an impact on Claudia as a young person. The first thing she did when she began school at the University of Missouri in Kansas City was to join the Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam."

Soon after, Roberson met members of the Young Socialist Alliance who introduced her to the *Militant*. Through reading the paper, she found an explanation for the war and the

sources of women's oppression that made sense. She was also inspired by the Cuban revolution and saw it as an example of what working people needed to do around the world.

"Claudia became a convinced Marxist and joined the YSA," Brown said, which was "a decision which she never regretted."

In the early 1970s Roberson was a staff organizer for the Illinois Woman's National Abortion Action Coalition. Just prior to becoming ill, she was involved in organizing the physical defense of abortion clinics in the Washington, D.C., area that were under attack by antiabortion forces.

In the late 1970s, when the party decided to get a big majority of its members into factories organized by the industrial unions, Roberson responded enthusiastically.

While working in the garment, steel, and airline industries for the past 12 years, Roberson joined in working-class struggles against the employers' assault on the unions and working people. As a laborer at the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Rail-

road, she fought the notoriously sexist hiring and promotion practices of the company to win a job as a brakeman.

"Right now," Brown continued, "the U.S. government is stepping up its plans to go to war in the Middle East. The SWP is making the campaign against the imperialist war drive the center of all of its work. The best way we can carry on the work Claudia was committed to is to join in campaigning against this war."

Ellen Whitt, a leader of the SWP here who worked with Roberson at United Airlines, also spoke. Whitt collaborated closely with Roberson during the last period of her life. She described how Roberson remained a political person under the most difficult conditions in the hospital as she underwent chemotherapy.

"Part of that time, the party was involved in a preconvention discussion. In addition to reading the *Militant* every week, Claudia made sure I never forgot to bring her the latest discussion bulletins."

Whitt related that two weeks before her

death, Roberson was advising a *Militant* subscription team on its way out to the eastern shore of Virginia on how to meet migrant farm workers, the best places to visit in the area, and on organizational details.

Messages sent to the memorial meeting by Boston unionist Mark Emanation and framed-up SWP member Mark Curtis, writing from his jail cell in Iowa, recalled their experiences with Roberson on regional teams, selling the socialist publications and petitioning to get SWP candidates on the ballot.

A message was also received from Don Rojas, a leader of the 1979-83 Grenadian revolution and current executive editor of the New York-based *Amsterdam News*. Recognition was given at the meeting to Roberson's husband and comrade, SWP member Joe Walters.

Curtis closed his message by stating, "As we are thrust into the challenges ahead, many more working people will come to the conclusions in life that Claudia did and will follow her communist example."

Pathfinder announces new Readers Club

BY RICH STUART

Working people, farmers, GIs, and others who are resisting the employers' assault at home and want to learn more about and oppose Washington's coming war in the Middle East will want to become members of the new Pathfinder Readers Club.

Members of the Readers Club will be able to purchase Pathfinder books and pamphlets at 15 percent off the cover price at participating Pathfinder bookstores in the United States. Similar discounts will also be available at Pathfinder bookstores around the world. Membership cards will be available soon for a \$10 annual membership fee.

As Washington heads toward a massive war in the Mideast, the new Pathfinder book *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* provides an irreplaceable tool for workers in and out of uniform to get out the truth about, and mobilize opposition to, the coming slaughter.

The intensification and acceleration of politics in wartime mean that more and more working men and women around the world will want to read and study books, pamphlets, and newspapers that can satisfy their thirst for political ideas and offer a historical overview of the line of march of the working class.

Pathfinder books describe the conquests of 150 years of struggle by the workers' movement and enable working people today to study the lessons and history, available in nearly 200 Pathfinder titles.

For example, among the books published by Pathfinder is *Teamster Bureaucracy* by Farrell Dobbs, one of a four-part series on the fight to build a revolutionary union movement in the United States in the 1930s. In *Teamster Bureaucracy*, Dobbs tells of the working-class campaign against Washington's preparations to enter World War II.

Letters From Prison by James P. Cannon was written during World War II. It explains how the Socialist Workers Party, as a revolutionary workers' party, stood up to intense pressures during the war, including the jailing of its central leaders, government banning of the *Militant* from the mail,

and on-the-job harassment of members of the party in industrial unions.

Pathfinder also publishes speeches by Malcolm X. Known primarily as a militant fighter for Black rights in the United States, Malcolm X spoke forcefully against imperialist wars, explaining that Black people are made to fight and die in wars for big business "to suppress the masses of dark-skinned people all over the world and exploit them of their natural resources."

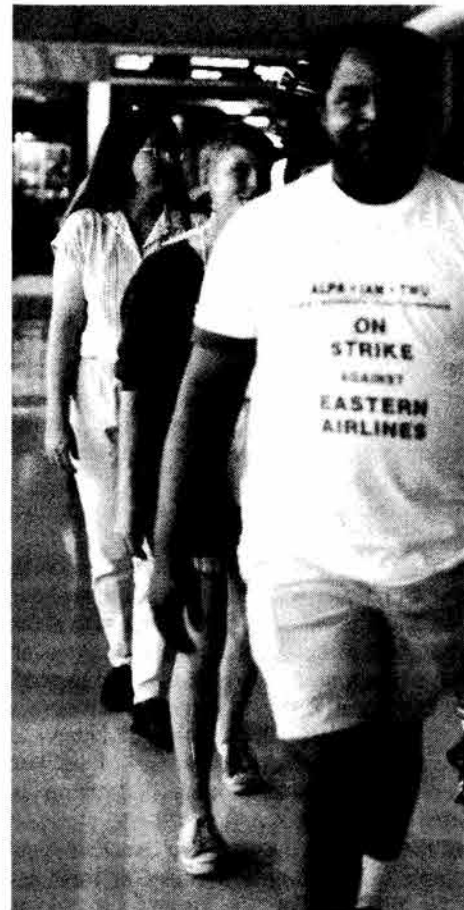
Out Now: A Participant's Account of the Movement in the U.S. Against the Vietnam War by Fred Halstead is a vivid look at the political challenges faced by antiwar fighters organizing against the Vietnam War.

Pathfinder's *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics*, edited by Jack Barnes, explains that deep-going political and economic changes

since the 1970s have had a tremendous impact on the thinking of the working class in the United States, the construction of a party of communist workers, and the proletarian party's work in the industrial unions.

Pathfinder will periodically offer special 25 percent discounts to Readers Club members. These will be featured in the *Militant*.

Local Pathfinder bookstores will also have special offers for Readers Club members in their area. The holiday season is a good time to take advantage of the Readers Club savings. To join, contact the Pathfinder bookstore nearest you (see directory on page 12). If you live in an area where there is no Pathfinder Bookstore, you can join by sending \$10 to Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.



Claudia Roberson, far left, walking the picket line with Eastern Airlines strikers in Washington, D.C.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

Dec. 12, 1980

Iraqi president Saddam Hussein's invasion of Iran is bogged down in the oil producing province of Khuzestan. Iranian forces have not yet been able to expel the invaders, but the Iraqi regime has failed to win control of Iran's oil fields and pipelines, much less bring about the fall of the Khomeini government.

Revolutionary Guards and local defense units, along with guerrilla forces that sprang up after the invasion, have blocked any significant new advances by Iraqi forces since the capture of most of the port city of Khorramshahr in October.

Within Iraq, the war has deepened opposition to Hussein's dictatorship.

The Iraqi rulers have tried to meet this hostile mood with repression. "Hundreds of pro-Iranians have been arrested," reported Youssef Ibrahim in the November 30 *New York Times*, "and, according to diplomatic sources, many have been executed."

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

Dec. 13, 1965

In the wake of a heavy propaganda drive built around allegations of North Vietnamese infiltration of South Vietnam, the United States has all but admitted that it intends to expand the war in Vietnam to the size of the Korean war. On the basis of official leaks during Defense Secretary McNamara's visit to Saigon, the *New York Times* reported December 8 that the Pentagon is considering a "force level" of from 350,000 to 400,000 men.

The troop increase will mean a continuation of the present heavy draft call (32,000 for January, the second highest since the Korean war), and digging into the ranks of the Reserves and the National Guard. In addition, it may mean the extension of air strikes into Laos and Cambodia and the probable bombing in the near future of Hanoi and Haiphong.

All out for 'Daily News' strikers

Stepped-up solidarity with striking New York *Daily News* workers can now help win the battle against the newspaper's union-busting drive.

The tremendous outpouring of support that greeted the *Daily News* workers when they were locked out by management at the end of October has already turned the tables in the fight.

For months the owners of the *Daily News* prepared with almost military precision to bust the newspaper unions. They thought locking out the workers, herding scabs, violence-baiting the unions, and threatening the strikers with goons and thugs would quickly allow them to run the newspaper as a nonunion operation.

But just as Frank Lorenzo, the union-buster at Eastern Airlines who did not count on the tenacious resistance of the striking Machinists and the broad solidarity they won, the *Daily News* owners have had a shock.

They ran into a force that had not been factored into their calculations — the determination of the strikers and the solidarity of working people across New York City. Tens of thousands have been inspired by the fight of the *Daily News* workers and have refused to buy the paper, convinced their coworkers and neighbors not to pick it up, and encouraged vendors not to sell it.

Today it is rare to find even a single copy of the *Daily*

News on the stands. Circulation of the paper has dropped 80 percent. More and more companies, including some of the largest advertisers, have scuttled their *Daily News* advertising accounts. The company's losses, which amounted to \$2 million a month before the strike, now total some \$17 million a month.

The company's weakness is most apparent in its desperate attempt to get 1,000 homeless and unemployed workers to peddle the paper and their attempts to begin selling the *Daily News* in the city subways.

But these measures will not be enough for the paper to again see the light of day if solidarity remains strong and is stepped up. The cause of the *Daily News* strikers can become the cause of every unionist and all working people. Everyone can join the fight by explaining to coworkers why they should not buy the paper, discouraging newsstands from carrying it, joining picket lines, and wearing buttons supporting the strike. Holiday funds and efforts to help the strikers through the coming weeks will be of special importance.

By pressing this course, unionists and other working people can stop the owners of the *Daily News* from achieving their goal of breaking the unions. A victory will send a clear signal and give pause to every employer with similar union-busting plans, not just in New York, but across the country.

Build national antiwar action!

With the diplomatic green light given by the United Nations Security Council to Washington to begin a massive, widespread, destructive, and bloody slaughter of the Iraqi people after January 15, it is crucial for all working people — unionists fighting the employers' offensive, GIs and reservists, working farmers, and others — to act now to widen the debate and discussion and join in campaigning against the U.S. government's coming war in the Middle East. The just-announced January 26 march in Washington is an important part of this effort.

Since the November 29 UN vote, the U.S. government has expanded its mighty military force in the Arab-Persian Gulf region. Moreover, the UN act called on all states to support the actions undertaken against the Iraqi people by the imperialists and their allies, thus inviting other governments to join in the war drive — which the ruling party in New Zealand promptly did.

By citing the objective to "restore international peace and security in the area," the UN resolution gives the imperialists a carte blanche for Washington's goal of smashing Baghdad's army, crushing any resistance by the Iraqi people, and setting up a protectorate government on the ashes of war.

Washington's real aim of dragging workers and farmers the world over into a bloody war of imperial conquest is clear.

This underscores the importance of campaigning to widen the discussions and debates that are already taking place among working people and acting to oppose the imperialist march toward war.

The national demonstration slated for January 26 in

Washington, D.C., — as well as local and regional actions already on the drawing board — are important opportunities for workers, farmers, GIs and reservists, young people, and other opponents of the coming war to mobilize and show their opposition.

Workers who have fought over the past decade to use union power to defend their interests in the face of the employers' war at home — Eastern Airlines strikers, union coal miners, transportation and communications workers, and others — can help deepen the discussions taking place among fellow workers and urge others to join them in voicing public opposition to the employers' war abroad.

These actions are important because they help expand the debate about the government's war aims among working people in the streets, the factories, and the mines; on family farms and in rural communities; on the warships and military bases; and in the Saudi desert itself.

Working people have a right to discuss and debate the coming war — a debate the government seeks to limit to the representatives of the twin parties of war inside the halls of Congress. But for all the tactical disagreements and unanimous protestations of a desire for peace, these parties have already dragged working people into four massive wars in this century.

By campaigning against the war on the job and among fellow workers, and urging opponents of Washington's war drive to participate in the national action on January 26, the opposition to the coming war can be widened.

Bring the troops home now! End the criminal embargo of food and medicine to Iraq and Kuwait! All foreign troops out of the Mideast!

Union rights and political cops

The fight being waged by the International Association of Machinists (IAM) against harassment of its members by Canada's political police deserves the support of all working people. The IAM represents 15,000 aircraft mechanics, cleaners, ramp workers, and other workers at Canada's airports.

In collaboration with the federal government agency Transport Canada, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) spies on, interrogates, and violates the rights of airport workers. The political police use "security clearance" provisions in the federal government's Airport Restricted Area Access Clearance Program to justify its assault on the union and violation of democratic rights.

Since 1987 most airport workers have been subject to a "security reliability investigation" by CSIS to determine whether or not the applicant can be considered "a threat to the security of Canada." A permanent security pass is required for most airport workers.

Questions on the political views, affiliations, and activities, sexual orientation, and other subjects are routine. Neighbors, friends, and former employers of the Machinists have also been questioned by the cops.

With the accelerated drive to war in the Middle East by Washington, Ottawa, and their allies, the fight against cop interference in the labor movement takes on added significance. As they prosecute a war, the employers and their governments will move to impose further restrictions on the right to organize, strike, protest, and express dissent. This would aid their attempts to intimidate and stifle resistance to their war against working people at home and their drive to war abroad.

Pressing the fight to demand an end to the investigations of IAM members by the government's political police will strengthen the labor movement and the fight for democratic rights.

Lenin on the origins of World War II

BY DOUG JENNESS

The outcome of World War I wasn't quite what the imperialists had anticipated. They had not counted on the workers and peasants of tsarist Russia tearing their country out of the world capitalist system, setting an inspiring example for workers and oppressed peoples throughout the world, and laying the basis for a renewal of the communist movement.

The same thing could have happened in other countries, especially Germany and Italy, if it hadn't been for the treachery of the leaders of mass Social-Democratic parties who sided with the employers and their governments in the war and opposed revolutionary struggles of working people.

As a result, capitalism remained intact in most of the world and the expansionist drive that impelled the imperialist plunderers into a war between 1914 and 1918 to redive the world continued to exist. Unless working people could overturn capitalist rule, another war over markets,

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

raw materials, arenas to invest capital, and spheres of political influence was posed again.

In a speech on Dec. 6, 1920, V.I. Lenin, the principal leader of the revolutionary government in Soviet Russia and of the Communist International, pointed out, "A vast literature exists on the future Japanese-American war. It is beyond doubt that war is brewing, that it is inevitable. . . . Japan has seized China, which has a population of 400 million and the richest coal reserves in the world. How can this plum be kept?"

The Japanese and U.S. imperialists, Lenin continued, "want to fight and will fight for world supremacy, for the right to loot. Japan will fight so as to continue to plunder Korea, which she is doing with unprecedented brutality, combining all the latest technical inventions with purely Asiatic tortures. . . . But the Americans would like to grab this Korean titbit. Of course, defense of country in such a war would be a heinous crime, a betrayal of socialism."

The graves of millions of workers who had served as cannon fodder for the imperialists in World War I were still moist with blood. Yet, the capitalist looters were already preparing another world slaughter.

It wasn't only in the Pacific that the drive to war was moving ahead. In Europe, too, the contradictions of capitalism, as well as the consequences of the Versailles Treaty that had codified the spoils of World War I for the victors, were pushing the imperialist powers to another war.

A resolution approved in 1934 by the leadership of the International Communist League, which was continuing to fight for the Leninist perspectives of the Communist International that had been destroyed by Stalinism, described this development and projected a working-class orientation to it. Drafted by Leon Trotsky, one of the foremost leaders of the Russian revolution and of the Communist International during its early years, the document stated, "The main work of diplomacy . . . consists in the search for military allies, that is, in a feverish preparation for a new slaughter. Parallel with it goes the constant growth of armaments to which fascist Germany has lent a new and gigantic impulsion."

"U.S. capitalism," the theses explained, "is up against the same problems that pushed Germany in 1914 on the path of war. The world is divided? It must be redivided. For Germany it was a question of 'organizing Europe.' The United States must 'organize' the world."

The 1934 document also pointed out that any big imperialist war "must pose squarely the question of military intervention against the USSR in order to transfuse fresh blood into the sclerotic veins of capitalism."

Moreover, "a special and important place is occupied by the question of colonial and semicolonial countries of the East, which are even now fighting for the independent national state."

Supporters of the resolution foresaw that the new war would be "crueler, more destructive than its predecessor." The full-steam-ahead preparation for the war made it the "pivotal question" for working people and its political vanguard, they stated.

In response to the notion that a war between democracy and fascism was being prepared, the resolution explained that if a capitalist government can't be counted on to defend workers' meetings and picket lines from armed thugs and fascists, how can it be counted on to defend working people from fascism internationally. The "struggle for democracy" in time of war, the resolution stated, will signify, above all, "the preservation of the workers' press and of workers' organizations against unbridled military censorship and military authority."

The principal theme of the theses is that the chief enemy of working people is the capitalist rulers in their own country. And far from putting the struggle against the exploiters on the shelf during wartime, it should be intensified, with the goal of overturning them.

The full resolution is well worth reading and can be found in *Writings of Leon Trotsky, 1933-34* (pp. 299-329).

Video explains Cuban role in S. Africa defeat

Cuba/South Africa: After the Battle. Directed by Estela Bravo. Video, 55 minutes, 1989. A Granma/Nexus production in association with Channel 4 Television, Britain. Available from the Cinema Guild, 1697 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10019. Tel.: (212) 246-5522.

BY DOUG COOPER

South Africa's 1975 invasion of Angola opened one of this century's longest and most brutal imperialist wars. The conflict lasted 14 years, claimed 200,000 lives, and cost the newly independent country at least \$10 billion in damages.

Unlike the U.S. government's response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August, this time there were no instant

IN REVIEW

UN Security Council resolutions, no naval blockades, no food and medicine embargoes, and no rhetoric from the U.S. government or its allies about sovereignty and self-determination.

The white-minority apartheid regime, at Washington's behest, invaded to prevent Angola's people from consolidating their long independence struggle against Portuguese colonial rule. Washington and Pretoria viewed the establishment of a sovereign Angolan government led by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), the main liberation organization, as a destabilizing threat to their domination of southern Africa, South African colonial rule in neighboring Namibia, and the apartheid system itself.

The new Angolan government asked for help to defend itself, as South African forces pushed far into Angola. The revolutionary government and people of Cuba immediately responded. Their unconditional internationalist aid proved decisive time and again over the next 14 years.

This effort, by 300,000 Cuban volunteer soldiers, doctors, teachers, and others, turned out to be the most sustained political and military commitment by a revolutionary government in working-class history. As *Cuba/South Africa: After the Battle* shows, their fight alongside the Angolans and the liberation fighters of Namibia's South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), did more than just block the imperialists' aim to overthrow the Angolan government and establish a protectorate led by Angolan rightists grouped in UNITA.

Thanks to South Africa's defeat — the first in its history — Namibian independence became a reality in 1990. The anti-apartheid movement led by the African National Con-

gress moved forward, gaining much needed political space in the fight to overthrow the hated apartheid system in South Africa.

The video doesn't try to tell the whole history of the war. It gives viewers needed background to understand events in the region after South Africa's definitive defeat in the battles of Cuito Cuanavale and Calueque, Angola, in early and mid-1988.

Viewing *After the Battle* through the prism of Washington's impending imperialist war in the Middle East will give today's new generation of antiwar fighters much food for thought. They will gain confidence in their own capacity to reach those forces who can mobilize the widest possible working-class opposition to this new war.

The video eloquently describes the impact of South Africa's war against Angola in the words of the men and women on both sides of the conflict.

Scenes show antidraft protesters at Witwatersrand University in South Africa; a mass funeral for David Webster, an ANC activist murdered on May 1, 1989, by a death squad tied to the South African military; and a rally by the ultrarightist Afrikaaner Resistance Front.

The apartheid rulers hoped to create an image of victorious troops returning from the war. But many of those interviewed, including those who actually fought, knew this was a lie. As David Kimber, an ex-soldier in South Africa's white conscript army, said, "Fidel Castro said the history books in southern Africa would be looked at before Cuito Cuanavale and after Cuito Cuanavale. I think it's true. It was a massive defeat." Kimber served in South African-occupied Namibia and saw the deep support for SWAPO everywhere the South African army went.

Another young veteran, Mark Patrick, explained: "White people were starting to die up there. And with that there came a lot of pressure for the South African troops to withdraw."

Steyn Heckroodt changed his mind about the war after having fought in it. Why was he in Angola? "At the time I believed what I got told about the enemy," he said. "But now I do not believe that anymore. I think that we were there for other reasons, which the higher politicians might know of. So it all began to become a meaningless, empty thing for me to do."

The full number of South Africans who died in the war has never been revealed. Some who died, like Noah Tucker, were opponents of apartheid before being drafted. Standing in his son's room, unchanged since his death, Tucker's father said his son would have been glad about the changes unfolding in South Africa. "He once said to me, 'Dad, we're

living in exciting times. What South Africa was, and what it becomes — we will have been part of that change.'"

Others refused to serve in the regime's army because of their opposition to apartheid. Many left the country or were jailed.

Of course, many white South Africans still buy the regime's war propaganda. "Most of the Cubans... are Russians. They want our land," said the father of one 19-year-old draftee killed at Calueque. But his wife, when asked why the regime invaded Angola, could only say, "I don't know, they can't give us any reason."

In contrast, the Cuban revolution was strengthened by its 14-year internationalist commitment. The video gives us a glimpse of the 300,000 men and women who have returned to Cuba over the years — more communist and revolutionary — fresh with confidence in their capacity to help change the world and deepen the fight for socialism in Cuba itself.

Unlike their South African counterparts, the Cubans know exactly what their 2,200 internationalists killed in the war died for. As one 20 year old explains, "We Cubans here in Angola will always be proud, because after years of fighting Angola is free and Namibia is independent. If one day our African brothers need us again we will gladly return."

A minority of Cubans did not support their country's efforts in the region. In a remarkable street scene, a debate erupts between an opponent of the revolution and two supporters. The dozens of youthful bystanders leave no doubt as to which side they're on.

By interviewing the same kinds of people and showing funerals, ceremonies, and rallies in Cuba and Angola as she did in South Africa, the director skillfully plays form and content off against each other. How different is the Valladares family, standing in their son's room, unchanged since his death, from the Tucker family? The common interests of working people — in uniform and out — in fighting for peace couldn't be more graphic.

But what makes the Cubans different is their deep understanding that imperialism can and must be fought. Said one Cuban who lost a son: "What helps me cope with the pain is knowing that my son did something for others, and especially for Africa."

Scenes like these help explain why the Cubans are fighting so hard today against imperialism's accelerating war drive against Iraq; they know full well the consequences of the coming conflict for all of humanity.

See *After the Battle*. Tell your coworkers and friends about it. And get your local antiwar coalition to show it. Soon.

LETTERS

Veterans

We at the Veterans Information Project would like to introduce you to our "No war" buttons. We hope they will be useful to you, both as a way to express your opposition to the use of military force in the Gulf and as a fund-raising device for your organization. We hope, too, that the symbol it carries can serve as a rallying point for the growing ranks of Americans opposing a pointless war in the Middle East.

The Veterans Information Project is a loose collection of Vietnam veterans, which hopes to break through the wall of misunderstanding that has so long separated America's veterans and nonveterans.

As Vietnam veterans, we learned a little too late that war is a poor substitute for a wise foreign policy.

We believe that war in the Middle East is not in the best interests of Americans or the world. We also believe that the best way to prevent war is for the American people to tell our "leaders" in no uncertain terms, that though we do support Americans in uniform, we do not support a war.

We are selling these buttons for \$25 per hundred or \$200 per thou-

sand. Write P.O. Box 662, Hillsborough, N.H. 03244.

Steve Fowle
Hillsborough, New Hampshire

Hormel

I enjoy Harry Ring's "Great Society" column every week.

On the local scene, Geo. A. Hormel and Co.—infamous for its Spamproduct—is now breaking into new turf with Micro Cup. According to a report in the *Austin Daily Herald*, this line of microwaveable entrées and soups that comes in portable, recyclable plastic containers, can be prepared in 90 seconds, and is "shelf-stable," requiring no refrigeration or freezing.

What next—soylent green?

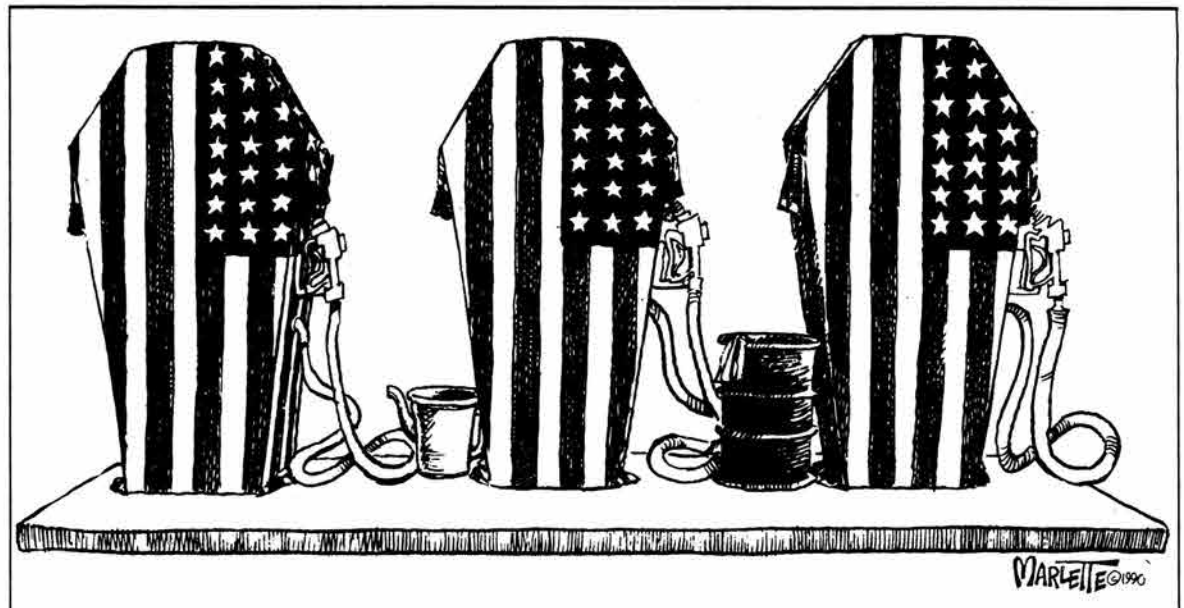
Sarah Harris
Austin, Minnesota

King holiday

I was startled to read in the November 23 *Militant* that the Socialist Workers Party candidates "urged a 'no' vote on Proposition 301, which would have provided for a paid holiday in honor of King [Martin Luther King, Jr.], but could have removed Columbus Day as a paid state holiday [in Arizona]. It was defeated by a 75 percent majority." Later the article quotes one candidate as saying, "We oppose eliminating paid holidays won by the working class." So the vote was a victory?

As a postal worker, I received Columbus Day as a paid holiday for the last seven years, but I fail to see its personal or historical importance to me as a working-class person. On the other hand, my union fought for the establishment of the Martin Luther King national holiday, which we now enjoy. Most postal workers at least understand the significance of this holiday to working-class and Black people.

So my question is: Why not trade Columbus Day for Martin Luther



King Day? Calling for a "yes" vote would have provided a great opportunity for socialist candidates to talk about the upcoming "Columbus quinquennial." The U.S. Congress has allocated \$79 million to fund this celebration of the birth of modern colonialism. Indigenous people have been organizing protests and exploring the real history of the Americas.

The working class of the Americas shouldn't trace our history to the *Nina*, *Pinta*, and *Santamaria*; put us in the same boat as Dr. King.

Sarah Ryan
Olympia, Washington

Editor's note: The same article also notes the Arizona socialists backed Proposition 302, which would have created a paid holiday in honor of King without trading off an already established holiday.

Nicaragua

I am writing to take issue with the statement in Cindy Jaquith's article "Nicaraguan unions endorse 'social pact'," which appeared in the No-

vember 23 *Militant*. She writes, "The FSLN-UNO coalition government... has been... dismantling the gains of the revolution."

It is, to say the least, common knowledge that the FSLN (Sandinista National Liberation Front) is not in coalition with UNO (National Opposition Union), or any part of UNO. UNO is in government, the FSLN is in opposition. The point of the *concertación* is, from the FSLN's point of view, to preserve as much of the gains of the revolution as is practicably possible.

Such a strategy is, of course, capable of constructive criticism. But by allowing blatant fantasy into your columns, you discredit only yourselves.

David Stead
Sheffield, England

Recommendation

I wish to recommend two books.

One is by May Sarton, entitled *The Education of Harriet Hatfield*. It deals with issues concerning women that readers of the *Militant* would be interested in.

The other is written by Barbara Kingsolver and is titled *Animal Dreams: A Novel*, in memory of Ben Linder [a U.S. internationalist volunteer in Nicaragua who was killed by contras in 1987]. The story is very moving and informative, dealing with Nicaragua and the Native American Indians. Kingsolver is also the author of *The Bean Trees*.
Ethel Fruit
Lake Worth, Florida

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.

Correction

In the article "Socialists launch international campaign against imperialist war drive in Mideast," in the November 30 issue, we incorrectly reported the date of a public forum held in New York at which Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes was the featured speaker. The meeting took place on November 10.

Newspaper strikers step up fight

'Daily News' aims to sell paper in subways; unionists call rally

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

NEW YORK — Striking *Daily News* workers and their supporters are stepping up their battle against the company's union-busting moves, seeking to keep the paper off the streets and out of the New York City transportation system.

Striking unions have called a mass "Rally for Justice at the *Daily News*" on December 10 from 4:30-7:00 p.m. in front of the News Building on 42nd Street and 2nd Avenue in Manhattan. The leaflet urges a big turnout for the rally to "ban replacement workers," "end attacks on working people," and "keep New York a union town."

On picket lines in Brooklyn, strikers call out to each other at the end of a shift, "Remember — we're winning!"

"I've always been a rebel without a cause," said one striking leader of the pressman's union. "But now I've got a cause — the labor movement."

After a midnight general meeting in Brooklyn on November 28, some 400 members of the Drivers and Mailhandlers Union held a spontaneous march around the *Daily News* plant. They chanted, "No justice, no peace!" and "Union! Union!"

Pressing to widen the circulation of the paper, *Daily News* management requested of the Metropolitan Transit Authority that hawkers of the paper be allowed to sell in the subway. The MTA agreed November 28, but quickly backed down following transit union objections.

U.S. District Court Judge Miriam Cedarbaum issued a temporary restraining order on November 30, ruling that *Daily News* hawkers must be allowed to peddle the newspaper in MTA-operated subway and railroad stations.

Transit union officials protested the decision, saying they might initiate "work-to-rule" protests and pledging to honor any picket lines set up by the Allied Printing Trades Council, the umbrella body of the nine unions on strike at the *Daily News*.

Circulation slashed

Circulation of the *Daily News* has been slashed by 80 percent since the paper locked out its unions on October 24. Working people in the city have refused to purchase the strikebreaking paper and have persuaded vendors not to sell it. In desperation, management is giving out free bundles of the paper to some 1,000 homeless and unemployed people to distribute as the only means to continue to show the paper on city streets. Hawkers are allowed to keep any proceeds from sales.

"We are not going to let a scab newspaper survive in the subways," said Barry Feinstein, president of the Teamsters Union in New York. "The strikers are going to be down in the subways with the hawkers, and if that screws up service, you can thank the *Daily News*."

Damaso Seda, secretary-treasurer of Transport Workers Union Local 100, which represents 37,000 city subway and bus employees, called the judge's decision "completely asinine... She never took into consideration the explosiveness of the situation."

Seda said that beginning with rush hour December 3, transit employees would intensify their concern over passenger safety in the subways and at Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) and Metro-North commuter stations.

The subways carry 3.7 million passengers daily. The two railroads move almost 500,000 commuters on weekdays.

James Phelan, head of the Metro-North United Transportation Union, said that his members would not cross any picket lines that *Daily News* strikers set up, and Edward Yule, head of the LIRR UTU promised his union would "do everything we can to support the strikers."

MTA attorney Susan Weiner told Cedarbaum, "We've got the mass transit sys-



The success of strikers in winning wide support from working people in New York has surprised *Daily News* management.

tem in New York City at stake," as she argued against the proposed order.

In granting the temporary restraining order, the judge said her decision was based on the First Amendment rights of the *Daily News*. Another hearing on the order is scheduled for December 7. Several big-business newspapers have also picked-up the freedom-of-speech theme as a way to attack the strike.

Advertisers defect

Meanwhile, the tide continues to turn against the *Daily News* as more companies withdraw their advertisements. Nearly three-fourths of the paper's revenue prior to the lockout came from ads. The paper's operating losses, which amounted to \$2 million a month before it began running as a scab operation, now total some \$17 million a month.

"What we are witnessing here may be the

death of a newspaper, and it makes me sick to think about it," said John Morton, a newspaper investment analyst for Lynch, Jones and Ryan, a Washington, D.C., brokerage firm.

A news-analysis piece in the November 29 *New York Times* predicted that of all "the grim options" open to the Tribune Co., which owns the *Daily News*, closing the paper down is the most likely.

Management claims that the striking unions are engaged in a "criminal conspiracy" of organized violence and intimidation took a blow at a November 26 state legislative hearing.

Daily News publisher James Hoge, during a 90-minute appearance at the hearing, claimed the paper has received 2,700 reports of harassment, assault, and other acts attributable to strikers. He said, "Such a systematic campaign of violence could not be swiftly mounted and sustained without centralized planning and direction."

British miners turn down overtime ban

BY PETE CLIFFORD

SHEFFIELD, England — A majority of members of the National Union of Mineworkers, in a mid-November vote, rejected a call for a ban on overtime as a means to press their demand on British Coal for a £50-a-week (US\$98) wage increase.

Of the 55,000 NUM members, 57 percent cast ballots; 43 percent of them voted in favor of the action.

Following the call for the vote during a special conference last October, the union leadership issued a series of leaflets and a special issue of the NUM newspaper, the *Miner*, urging a yes vote on the overtime ban.

"We must demand pay talks," the paper's headline read. An article by NUM General Secretary Peter Heathfield explained that the goal of the vote was to "persuade British Coal to meet the NUM and negotiate."

British Coal, a state-owned company, has refused to talk with the NUM over wages since the 1984-85 miners' strike against pit closures. The coal board has demanded that the union agree to allow a proemployer splinter organization, called the Union of Democratic Miners, to represent NUM members in mines where the UDM is in a majority.

Speaking to the press following the vote, NUM President Arthur Scargill said the defeat of the proposal was mainly a result of intimidation by British Coal.

Prior to the vote, British Coal sent an issue of *Coal News*, headlined "Put your family first," to every miner. The paper quoted British Coal Deputy Chairman John Northland calling on miners to "reject the voice of confrontation."

In addition to refusing to negotiate on wages, British Coal also repeated its threats to end the dues check-off system, through which union dues are deducted from miners' pay. *Coal News* said British Coal was considering an end to the £10,000 (US\$19,500) redundancy supplement that miners are currently eligible for when the mine where they work is shut down.

Prior to the balloting, many big-business newspapers speculated the measure would be decisively voted down. The *Daily Mirror*, which spearheaded a campaign charging Scargill and Heathfield with using strike funds for personal gain, said, "The vote will show the level of wheeler-dealing with funds."

Concentrating its attention on the Yorkshire-area miners, the *Financial Times* argued, "A change of mood amongst tradition-

ally militant Yorkshire miners would make it harder for the union to sustain its defiance of British Coal." Some one-third of miners in Britain work in Yorkshire. The area has led the union's four nationwide strikes since 1969.

Fifty-three percent of miners in Yorkshire voted in favor of the overtime ban. Jim Spaul, a miner at Kellingley in Yorkshire, said, "The union has been fighting attempts to impose a change in shifts at Kellingley that would lead to six-day coal production. In response British Coal has issued more threats against us. With the nationwide ballot, miners here saw a chance to turn their anger against British Coal."

Civil suit against union

Despite this conclusion by the police, the *Daily News* filed a \$150-million civil suit, charging union leaders, workers, and their advisers with engaging in a violent conspiracy to harm the newspaper.

The unions countered with a \$100-million criminal libel suit against Hoge and his associates, calling their allegations of a conspiracy "defamatory, malicious, and libelous."

Hoping to regain some ground in the battle for public opinion, *Daily News* management replaced much-hated spokesperson Lisa Robinson. Robinson's day-to-day performance had so shaken the morale of the non-union newsroom workers that editor James Willse had to give them a pep talk and announce changes were afoot.

The 2,400 strikers continue their picket lines and have opened an organizing center in midtown Manhattan at the offices of the Newspaper Guild. In Brooklyn, the roofers' union has loaned its hall, which is around the corner from the main *Daily News* printing facility, to striking pressmen and drivers.

Copies of the daily *Guild Strike News* and the strike newspaper, the *Real News* are snapped up as soon as they are dropped off. Many unions are contributing funds to help sustain the fight.

In numerous workplaces strike supporters are encouraging coworkers not to buy the scab newspaper. In one Williamsburg garment shop, for example, a strike supporter came under immediate pressure when workers thought she had a copy of the *Daily News*. When she showed them it was a copy of the *Real News*, which looks similar, the criticism turned into congratulations for backing the fight.

To volunteer for strike-support work, call the strike boycott committee at (212) 947-1944. Donations can be sent to the Allied Printing Trades Council Boycott Fund, 218 W. 40th Street, Room 204, New York, N.Y. 10018. For more information, call (212) 819-0137.

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Scargill also said following the vote that leaders of the union in South Wales and Scotland campaigned against the proposed overtime ban, a move that helped bring about its defeat.

In a 14-1 vote, South Wales-area union officials decided to urge their 2,000 members to reject the recommendation from the national conference. Since the defeat of the overtime ban proposal, Scottish NUM leader George Bolton has called for Scargill to resign.

Scargill said he would continue to refuse to accept British Coal's conditions for talks.