

Washington prepares bloody ground war in Middle East

125,000 in U.S. capital say, 'Bring the troops home now!'

BY PETER THIERJUNG

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a massive outpouring of opposition to the criminal war unleashed by Washington against the people of Iraq, more than 125,000 people converged on this city January 26. It was by far the largest national demonstration against the war and followed by one week a January 19 protest of some 25,000 people here.

Simultaneous antiwar marches were held in many other U.S. cities, Canada, Britain, Germany, New Zealand, and elsewhere. The action here, and a West Coast march in San Francisco, mobilized a broad range of organizations and individuals, showing the potential of the antiwar movement to mobilize opposition in the streets to the slaughter the U.S. government has opened.

Protesters began to assemble in the mall on the west side of the U.S. Capitol, where Congress, less than two weeks earlier, had voted to go to war against Iraq.

Marchers included veterans of the Vietnam War, families of GIs stationed in Saudi



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

Lead banner in January 26 antiwar march in Washington, D.C.

Arabia, many high school and college students, members of churches, environmentalists, peace group members, and political activists. Many working people turned out and an occasional union banner dotted the grow-

ing crowd.

Called by the National Campaign for Peace in the Middle East, the action attracted people from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Montana, Minnesota, Iowa, Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, Maine, Connecticut, West Virginia, Vermont and many other states. Several local organizers reported that buses had been filled to capacity and that additional buses had to be ordered just a couple of days before the action.

By noon the assembly swelled into the tens of thousands. A group of war veterans carrying dozens of U.S. flags led off the

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U.S. troop strength nears half million in Gulf war

BY SELVA NEBBIA

Having flown 24,000 missions in the first 13 days of its criminal round-the clock bombing of Iraq and Kuwait, Washington and its allies are deepening preparations for a bloody, prolonged ground war against the people of Iraq.

Acknowledging that widespread and destructive air assaults will not force the Iraqi people to submit, U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney said the war will last for months, not weeks, and will be fought with ground troops. U.S. and allied troops would be ready to begin an offensive in several weeks, he said.

'We are going to kill it'

"The Iraqi army is for the most part sitting there, waiting to be attacked, and attacked it will be," said the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Colin Powell.

"First we are going to cut it off," he said of the Iraqi army. "Then we are going to kill it."

Washington continues to pour troops, equipment, and other war matériel into the region, in conjunction with its imperialist allies and governments in the Mideast, especially those in Syria and Egypt. They are building the size and character of the forces needed to attempt to defeat the Iraqi army, capture Iraq's capital city of Baghdad, and occupy the country.

With each escalation of U.S. aggression,

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The supplement contains two articles by Socialist Workers Party leader Jack Barnes, "Working-class campaign against the imperialist war drive: Fighting the employers' offensive at home and abroad" and "War and the communist movement."

Barnes outlines the stakes for working people in the war in the Mideast, the fight being waged by Cuba against this war, the changes in the U.S. working class that make it possible to carry out an effective campaign to mobilize unionists and other working people against imperialist war, and the prospects for building the communist movement today.

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Refugees say criminal bombing of Iraq 'annihilation of a people'

BY SETH GALINSKY

"This is not a war," Majid Mohammed, an Egyptian auto mechanic, shouted at two U.S. journalists. At a refugee camp in Jordan, after escaping the massive U.S. and allied bombing of Iraq and Kuwait, he told reporters, "This is an annihilation of a people."

The U.S.-led alliance has launched more than 2,000 sorties a day since January 16 into the two countries, about half of these bombing missions.

Round-the-clock bombing of Iraq and Kuwait is devastating both countries and has caused hundreds, perhaps thousands of casualties.

Leaders of the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iraq, a guerrilla organization opposed to President Saddam Hussein, stated January 26 that 10,000 Iraqi soldiers had been killed or wounded in eight days of aerial attacks.

"I wouldn't be surprised given the operation we've mounted against his positions in the Kuwaiti theater of operation," U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney said after hearing the report. "I would expect there would be a lot of casualties."

The Pentagon claims that the bombing

raids are designed to minimize civilian injuries, but refugees fleeing Iraq say that many factories, houses, and residential neighborhoods have been hit. This has been confirmed by journalists.

When asked about civilian casualties at a January 27 news-briefing, Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf casually replied, "You know, these things happen." He claimed civilian deaths were accidental.

The poor working-class neighborhood of Doura in the capital city of Baghdad was heavily hit by allied planes along with a power station and a nearby oil refinery. Power stations, water supplies, and telecommunications centers are key targets of the U.S., British, Italian, French, and Saudi bombing campaign. The bombing of oil refineries has caused severe air pollution.

Hiyam Naji Rashid, a young Jordanian mother who lived in Doura, said that on the first day of the attacks, "there was an air raid every two hours."

Another refugee said, "On the first morning after the raid, a bus full of people at Doura

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Friendly response to 'Militant' from GIs

BY CATHLEEN GUTEKANST
AND ALFREDO RICO

SEASIDE, California — A team of *Militant* salespeople set up a Pathfinder literature table here and distributed leaflets for the January 26 national demonstration opposing the U.S. war in the Middle East. Team members received a friendly response from most people, including GIs and their families from the nearby Ft. Ord military base.

Some GIs responded automatically: "I signed the papers. I have to go. I have no choice." But they were friendly and interested in talking to the team.

Many family members of those presently serving in Saudi Arabia held similar fatalistic attitudes. As one said, "I think it's stupid, too,

but there's nothing we can do about it now." One young woman, whose husband and two brothers are now in Saudi Arabia, remarked, "No, I think it's wrong that we're over there. But now that we're there, we should go in and get it over with."

Two young GIs, both members of the U.S. Army 7th Infantry Division (Light), had received orders to leave February 2 for the Arab-Persian Gulf. One of them was told they will be going to Saudi Arabia "to relieve people who'll be going home if there's no war. If there is a war, we'll be relieving people who are dead."

The two, who bought copies of the *Militant* to take back to the base, talked to the team about their views on the war, starting with

their frustration at the inadequate training they have received. Both had started their basic training on August 21.

"I'm scared," said one. "We don't have enough training for combat. If they draft people, those guys will have even less training than us."

While this soldier expressed support for U.S. aims in the Gulf, he also expressed anger at the military for the way the troops are treated. He said the army isn't telling them anything about where they're going or why. "My recruiter lied to me," the soldier charged. "He put a lot of pressure on me. He said, 'you like camping? You like adventure?' I went back down to the recruiting station to find him but it was moved. I was furious."

His friend talked about the lack of democratic rights in the army. He explained, "I do want to know more about what's going on in the Middle East. In the military, you know, they want you to think you don't have any rights, you can't think and you don't know anything. I'm from Los Angeles. I know better than that. I haven't even gotten any of my mail — personal letters from my girlfriend and my family — in months!"

This GI did not agree with the U.S. war moves. "What really gets me is when Bush says we're expendable, that so many thousands of us would just be expendable in this war," he said. "Well, maybe I'm expendable to him, but not to me and people who know me."

"We're in the 7th Infantry. We take the highest casualties. We're replacing the 82nd Airborne Division."

"A lot of my friends are talking about C.O. [conscientious objector] status and one guy already went AWOL from my unit," he con-

tinued. "I mean, you think about going and dying. But I'll go. Somehow, I think I'll make it back here. I just don't believe I'll die."

Concerning the January 26 demonstration, he said that he'd like to go to it, but feared that people would be hostile to him because he's a soldier: "I don't make those decisions [to send troops to the Gulf] and I'm afraid they'd blame me."

Many of the military personnel and their families, even if they didn't agree with a U.S. withdrawal of forces, were friendly and wanted to talk about what was going on. One youth who was Black said, "The U.S. government wants to weaken Iraq, if they can't overthrow [Iraqi President Saddam] Hussein. They don't want them to control all that income and get stronger."

Some people said they had no choice but to support war because they had family members over there. Others said that Hussein had to be stopped, no matter what the cost.

The team also met a number of people who were strongly opposed to the war, thought the U.S. government was lying about it, and that it is just a war for big business. Some of these people were recently laid-off workers and many were young. The team also met GIs who were familiar with the *Militant*, having seen it at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina.

Two young workers from Mexico were excited to see literature about Cuba in Spanish. They pooled their grocery money and bought a book on Cuban revolution leader Che Guevara; *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast: Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*; and a subscription to *Perspectiva Mundial*.

The team sold 22 copies of the *Militant* and a number of Pathfinder books.

S. African miners union backs Mark Curtis fight

The National Union of Mineworkers of South Africa recently affirmed its support for Mark Curtis' fight for justice.

The NUM is a non-racial union with more than 300,000 members. It is the largest affiliate of the million-member Congress of South African Trade Unions, which is centrally involved in the struggle against apartheid.

Jesse Maluleke, the NUM's campaigns coordinator, wrote on behalf of the NUM to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. The union leader is based in Johannesburg at the union's head office.

He reviewed the key facts of Curtis' frame-up. "Mark Curtis was severely beaten and framed-up on a false rape charge by the Des Moines police because of his political activism and involvement in the United Food and Commercial Workers Union," he wrote.

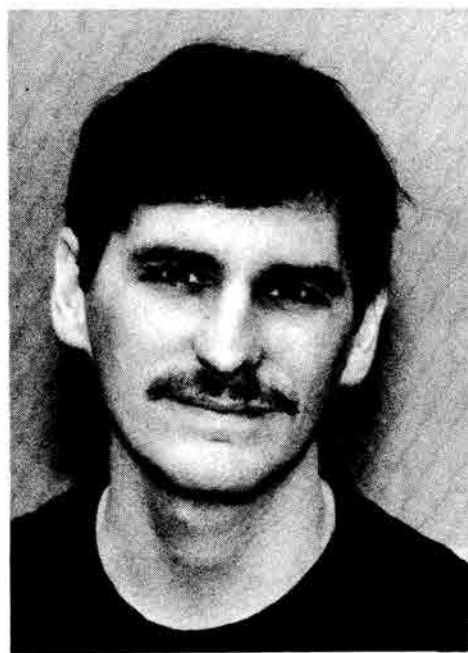
"The case is another example of police brutality against unionists and political activists. Rape charges are fabricated against political activists as part of harassment and intimidation by police."

"The young Black 'alleged' rape victim is a clear example of how the police treat Blacks and foreign migrant workers with racist contempt."

"This case is a complete miscarriage of justice by the court, which often proclaims itself to be the custodian of justice."

"The 25-year sentence passed by the court makes a mockery of justice," Maluleke concluded. "What should have been on trial is police brutality, harassment and violence against political activists, unionists, Blacks, and migrant workers."

The union leader said that NUM members supported the efforts of the defense committee and urged the defense commit-



Militant/Margaret Jayko
Mark Curtis in prison. The South African National Union of Mineworkers endorsed his fight for freedom saying, "This case is a complete miscarriage of justice."

tee to intensify its campaign.

"As victims of apartheid and state repression we express our full support to the campaign for the unconditional release and dropping of all charges against Mark Curtis," the letter says.

"The perpetrators of injustice should not be allowed to rest. All organizations believing in justice must support this campaign," he said. "The growing support for the Mark Curtis Defense Committee illustrates the justness of your cause."

ANC says 'end the war now'

Printed below is a statement released January 19 by the African National Congress Information Department in Johannesburg, South Africa, calling for an end to the war in the Middle East. The ANC is leading a broad struggle to abolish the apartheid regime and create a united, non-racial, and democratic South Africa.

End the War Now!

The ANC wishes to express very grave concern at the outbreak of war in the Gulf. Accordingly we call for the immediate cessation of hostilities and the resumption of diplomatic initiatives, in particular by the Secretary General of the United Nations, to arrive at a peaceful resolution of all relevant issues.

We believe that the following are critical to the settlement of the conflict in the Gulf:

- The withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and the resolution of the dispute between those two countries through bilateral negotiations;

- The withdrawal of the United States and other foreign forces from the Gulf;

- The convening of an International Conference to elaborate a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East question which would restore the national rights of the Palestinian people, oblige Israel to withdraw from all occupied Arab lands, and ensure the security of all countries in the region.

We further wish to express our opposition to efforts by the white minority Pretoria government to fan the flames of war in the Gulf and draw our country into this tragic conflict by encouraging some of the belligerents and offering them facilities in our country.

We further call on this government and its police force to stop harassing and persecuting those of our people who are engaged in peaceful public demonstrations to express their views about the situation in the Gulf.

The war must be brought to an end now!



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Socialist candidates take antiwar stand to farmers, strikers

BY BRUCE KIMBALL

AUSTIN, Minnesota — Supporters of Henry Zamarrón, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Minnesota State Legislature in District 32B, submitted more than 500 signatures to the Secretary of State's office January 22, placing his name on the ballot for a special election to be held here February 12.

Zamarrón works at a farm implements plant and is a member of the United Auto Workers union. He lives in rural Mower County and his district is overwhelmingly agricultural, with many grain and dairy farms. The largest town, Spring Valley, has fewer than 3,000 residents. Petitioning was conducted over a 5-day period outside of restaurants and stores, and door-to-door.

"Gathering these signatures in the first days of the U.S. war against Iraq represents a victory for working people and farmers," Zamarrón said. "My campaign is outspoken against the U.S. war in the Middle East. My party openly calls on the U.S. government and its allies to stop the bombing, end the embargo, and bring all the troops home."

"We explain that this is a predatory war — an imperialist war — designed to gain greater control over profitable oil resources and domination over the people of the Middle East," the socialist candidate said. "No working person or family farmer will gain a thing from this war."

While most people supporters talked with during the petitioning expressed support for the war, many also expressed doubt, fear, and confusion about it. "Some people were very hostile to our views," he said, "but most were open to a discussion. Many signed petitions after thinking about it — either because they liked what we said or thought an antiwar candidate should have the right to be heard."

Petitioners also found many who agreed with Zamarrón's antiwar platform. In Preston, a town of about 2,000, one young person ran home and got her draft-age brother to come downtown to sign the petition. Several petitioners remarked that young people especially were interested in discussing the war drive.

Two dozen high school students staged a walkout here on Thursday, January 17, after the bombing of Iraq began, and 60 students walked out of Ellis Middle School the following day to protest the war. Several of the Middle School students marched over two miles to the high school, chanting antiwar slogans.

"My campaign will help working people understand why they should oppose the war Washington has begun," Zamarrón said. During the petitioning several people bought issues of the *Militant* and the *International Socialist Review*. Hundreds of copies of a campaign statement featuring the slogan "Bring the troops home now!" were distributed by the petitioners.

The campaign has also received extensive press coverage in the area. A January 13 news conference was covered by the TV stations and daily newspapers in both Rochester and Austin. Front-page stories on the campaign also appeared in two weekly area papers.

In a later interview, Zamarrón said that the campaign "was able to explain why the war against the Iraqi people is part of a war that is being waged against working people here."

"You have the Featherlite company here in this district, a company where the union was busted a few years ago. Many family farmers have been forced off the land, and now the 1990 Farm Bill will hurt many more — both grain and dairy farmers," he said.

"Capitalism is in a crisis, and the rich aim to maintain their profits by squeezing us, the working people, more. It will get tougher as the recession gets deeper," Zamarrón said. He encouraged working people and youth to "join an organization of fighters — the Young Socialist Alliance and the Socialist Workers Party."

BY PATRICIA HUNT

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate John Hawkins took his campaign to workers on strike

against Sloss Industries last week and pledged to champion their struggle as part of his campaign. Hawkins is an underground coal miner and member of the United Mine Workers of America.

"Your strike deserves the support of working people throughout the area," he said to the strikers. "Like workers in many industries you have been forced to accept deep concessions since 1977. And despite all you have given back, the company still wants more."

"Their demands for a steep reduction in benefits and elimination of medical insurance for an entire layer of pensioners are a slap in the face to you — the men and women who have made the owners of this operation rich."

Pointing to other employers that have pressed the workforce for huge concessions, such as Eastern Airlines, Greyhound, Pittston Coal, and the New York *Daily News*, Hawkins said, "the owners of Sloss aim to reverse their fortunes by making deep inroads against the union."

"Just as important, it is fights such as these that unionists are waging that help develop the kind of labor movement that can lead the fight to defend the interests of the entire working class and all the oppressed," the socialist said.

In discussions with the strikers, Hawkins pointed to the open admission by Bush administration officials and others that the U.S. economy is in a recession.

"The capitalist assault on our unions will only deepen as more and more of their outfits are driven to the wall," he said. "Increasingly they will demand that we quietly accept layoffs, a freeze or a cut in wages and benefits, as our 'patriotic' contribution to their war in the Middle East."

Hawkins said that "working people and our unions must oppose their war and demand the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of U.S. forces from the region. Moreover, while redoubling our resistance to their attacks on our unions, working people need to launch a fight to insure that no section of our class is made to bear the brunt of their economic downturn." He advocated measures such as shortening the workweek to thirty hours with no cut in pay; a fight for affirmative action quotas in employment; and a massive public works program.

He also spoke with the strikers about why "workers here must strive for unity with our brothers and sisters around the world to effectively defend ourselves against a common capitalist enemy."

"Championing the demand to cancel the debt of the Third World countries and abolish all restrictions on immigrant workers are two key planks of our campaign platform that point in this direction," he said.

BY ERIC HUFF AND KATHY RETTIG

NEWARK, New Jersey — Reaching out to GIs and their families at Fort Dix and McGuire Air Force base, the campaign against the U.S. war in the Mideast was the focus of New Jersey Socialist Workers Party candidates Don Mackle and Karen Kopperud January 19. Mackle and Kopperud are running for the New Jersey State Assembly.

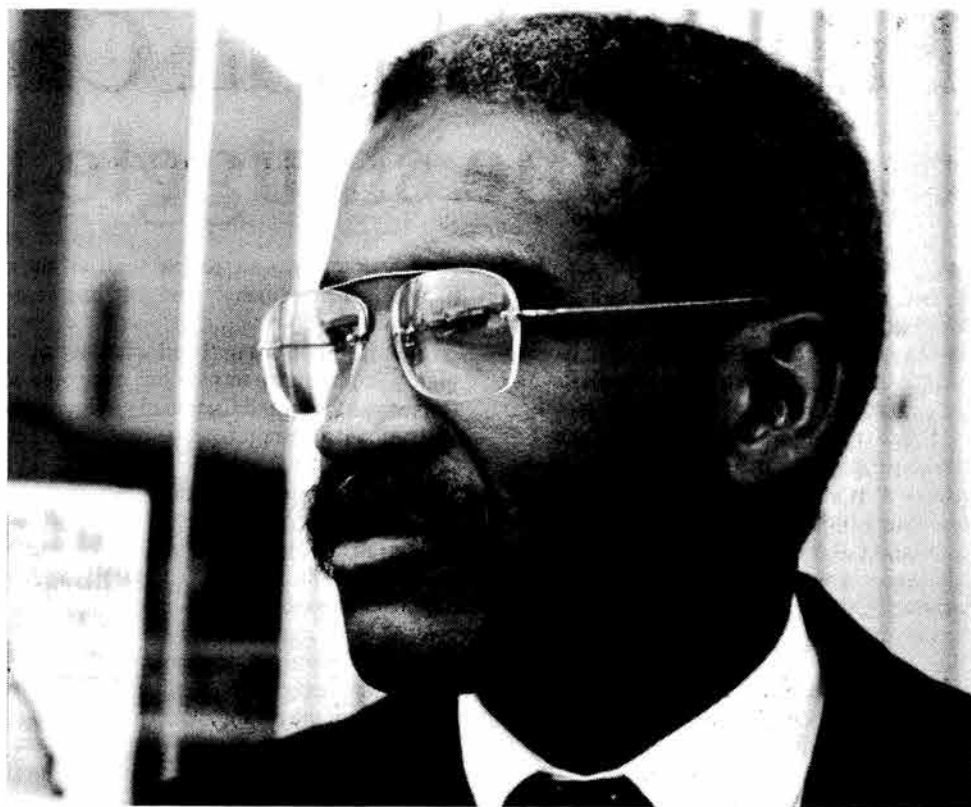
At a mall near the two bases the candidates and their supporters sold 13 copies of the *International Socialist Review*, 15 copies of the *Militant*, and one of the Pathfinder book, *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!*

While there was no enthusiasm for the war among those who talked to the team, most said they supported the war, including the majority of those who bought the antiwar literature.

Several soldiers expressed disgust with the war, but said it was "My duty to serve my country." Many said that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein "has to be stopped."

One newly called-up reservist said he and his friends were opposed to the war. Just a few weeks ago they had all been attending college.

A young woman bought the *Militant* and came back later with the money for the *International Socialist Review*. She said when she had more money she would get a



Militant
John Hawkins, socialist candidate for mayor of Birmingham and member of the United Mine Workers of America.

subscription to the paper.

The wife of a soldier asked her teenage son to pick out a book from a table socialist campaigners had set up that included a number of titles by Pathfinder. He picked out the *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* book.

Campaigners also met a young worker

who said he and several friends wanted to start up an antiwar group. He took leaflets for the January 26 antiwar march in Washington, D.C.

Supporters of the two socialist candidates plan to return to Fort Dix several times in the coming weeks.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS IN ACTION

The Young Socialist Alliance is a revolutionary organization of students and young workers across the United States. YSA members seek to organize other young people in the fight against the wars, economic devastation, racism, and sexism bred by the capitalist system.

At the center of YSA members' political activity today is the fight against the bloody war opened against Iraq by Washington and its imperialist allies. They are engaging in the debates and discussions taking place on college campuses, in factories, and among GIs on the war in the Mideast. They are active in coalitions building street protests and other actions against the U.S.-led war.

The YSA seeks to advance the worldwide fight against apartheid in South Africa, defend the Cuban revolution, and back the struggle to reunify Korea.

We encourage members of the YSA, and members of the Young Socialists in Canada and New Zealand, to contribute items for this column.

A team of young socialists arrived in New Orleans, January 22, their first stop on a two-week sales effort through the South.

Young Socialist Alliance members from Birmingham, Alabama; Houston; and New York, and a Young Socialist member from New Zealand are campaigning against the U.S.-led war against Iraq by reaching out to students and GIs through discussions and sales of the *Militant*, the *International Socialist Review*, and two newly released Pathfinder books: *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* *Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* and *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*.

Young socialists spent the first day and a half at Tulane and Xavier universities. Students there were eager to discuss the war and more than 50 bought copies of the *Militant* and *International Socialist Review*.

Not all who bought the paper were decidedly opposed to the U.S. intervention in the Mideast. Although they had been against the war before the bombing started, many students said, they now felt there was no alternative but to go along with it.

At Xavier University of Louisiana, a predominantly Black, Catholic school, a high number of those who stopped to talk actually had relatives sent to the Mideast. "My brother joined the marines to get an education — not to fight a war," said one student. He also complained that his phone conversations and correspondence with his brother were monitored by military

censors. Any mention of what the troops are doing in Saudi Arabia, he explained, or discussion of news reports here could lead to the line being disconnected.

Several debates and rallies on the war have been organized at campuses in New Orleans and many students planned to attend antiwar actions slated for January 26 in Baton Rouge.

The YSA members are shooting to sell 250 *International Socialist Reviews*, 25 *Militant* subscriptions, and 40 copies each of the two Pathfinder books during the two-week team. So far 39 students picked up copies of the antiwar supplement and 28 bought the *Militant*. One each of *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* *Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* and *Malcolm X Talks to Young People* have been sold.

The Young Socialist Alliance has launched an emergency, four-week fund drive to raise \$1,765 by March 3. Chapters and local areas are adopting goals and making plans on how to raise the money.

The funds are needed so the YSA can respond to the new opportunities and responsibilities it has in the fight against Washington's Mideast war. YSA leaders just returned from an international youth antiwar conference in Paris; the YSA antiwar team is traveling to campuses in the South; the YSA sponsored open houses after the January 19 and 26 antiwar marches; and the organization is producing new antiwar T-shirts and buttons.

To make their campaign a success, YSA members will be making pledges and planning fundraising events.

The Young Socialists in Canada have produced a new antiwar button demanding "Canada, U.S. out of the Middle East."

Canada's capitalist rulers have openly campaigned for, and committed troops to the war in the Mideast. Young Socialists in Canada are campaigning to expose and condemn the bloodthirsty course that Ottawa is following — from Iraq to the Mohawk Kahnawake reserve at home.

The new button is bilingual in French and English. Hundreds have already been sold to participants in demonstrations across the country. To order, send \$1 each to Young Socialists, C.P. 340 Succ. R., Montréal, Québec, H2S 3M2, Canada.

Dan Furman in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Simone Berg from Montréal contributed to this week's column.

Native leaders in Canada meet, discuss the struggle for rights

BY JIM UPTON

MONTREAL — "If the Canadian or Québec governments are going to walk over the Mohawk people, they're going to have to walk over all of us," explained Frank Rivers, who spoke on behalf of the Squamish Nation of British Columbia at a conference on indigenous peoples in Canada, held at the Mohawk community of Kahnawake, near here.

"Every First Nation stood up in some way in support of the Mohawk people" when the Canadian army tore down the barricades erected by the Mohawks last summer in order to prevent the seizure of sacred Native lands. The armed confrontation at the Kahnawake and Kanesatake reserves near Montréal came close to provoking "a modern-day Canada-Indian war," Rivers' pointed out.

Rivers' comments were strongly echoed at the January 13-14 conference by other Native leaders who have been in the forefront of recent struggles for aboriginal rights across the country.

Four members of the European Parliament participated in the conference, attended by 300 people, as part of a fact-finding trip to gather information on the deepening conflict between Native people and the provincial and federal governments in Canada.

Last September, the European Parliament passed a resolution calling on the Canadian government to guarantee the fundamental human rights of the Mohawk people and expressing concern about the confiscation of Mohawk land.

In two days of testimony before the European parliamentarians, representatives of Indian and Metis groups stressed their support for the struggle of the Mohawk people for land and political sovereignty.

Native leaders explained their fight for land, hunting, fishing, and trapping rights; their opposition to the destruction of the environment on their territories; and the widespread poverty, racist treatment, and repression they suffer at the hands of governments and their police forces. They also described a series of cop frame-ups from one end of Canada to the other against those who have stood up in defense of Native rights.

Conditions of Natives

Larry House, representing the Grand Council of the Crees from northern Québec, explained "We are sovereign peoples... who have been made effectively wards of the state. We did not put ourselves voluntarily into this condition. We are the only peoples in Canada under the direct protection of Parliament. Yet we are the poorest, most disadvantaged peoples in Canada," the Native leader explained.

"We have the lowest life expectancy of any group in Canada; the highest infant mortality; the highest unemployment; the lowest income; the poorest, most deficient housing; and the poorest education. Our lands have been alienated, our peoples have suffered privation, adverse discrimination, and prejudice."

Chief Bernard Ominayak, who spoke on behalf of the Lubicon Lake Cree of Northern Alberta, explained in an interview, "Our people were behind the Mohawk people all the way. There was no need to tell us why the

fight took place. Our people realized these people had had enough and just had to do something."

The Lubicon have been conducting a highly publicized international campaign to force the Alberta and Canadian governments to negotiate a comprehensive land claim settlement.

"There's a lot of intimidation and harassment by the police taking place against our people," Ominayak explained. "The same strategies are being used in the Mohawk and Lubicon situations." Thirteen Lubicons face frame-up charges including arson and mischief. The police have threatened to charge Ominayak as well. He defiantly responded that "They'll have to hang me if they want to stop me."

"To stand in full support of the Mohawks was our first priority because they were standing for a sovereign right too, which was to protect a burial ground," Terri John, a leader of the Lil'wat People's Movement in British Columbia said in an interview.

The day after the police attacked the Mohawk barricade at Kanesatake, the Lil'wat set up their own barricade in support of the Mohawks and to publicize their opposition to the construction of a road on their own land. They explained how logging on their territory, accompanied by the spraying of pesticides and herbicides, was destroying the environment, and demanded the removal of a PCB station built without their consent.

After 116 days, the British Columbia government, armed with a court injunction, removed the barricade and brutally arrested and charged 63 people. Those arrested spent 24 days in jail before being released. John and four others are being sued by the government for their role in erecting the roadblock.

'Our enemy is the same'

"What the Québec and federal governments have done to the Mohawks is the same thing the Alberta and federal governments are doing to the Blackfoot Nation," Milton Born With A Tooth told the conference. "It's no different. Our enemy is the same and our adversary uses the same tactics."

Born With A Tooth spoke on behalf of the Loneriders Society based among the Peigan people of the Blackfoot Nation in southwestern Alberta. He had just been released after spending three and a half months in jail. He still faces charges for his role in opposing construction of a dam on the Oldman River. The dam will cause extensive environmental damage and destroy historic sites of the Peigan people, including sacred burial grounds.

Rowena General, from the Mohawk community of Akwesasne, which straddles the borders of Ontario, Québec, and New York State, explained to the conference that 200 police occupy Akwesasne today. The occupation comes in the wake of several police raids and invasions over the past three years, some involving hundreds of cops in paramilitary operations.

"The Mohawk Warriors Society and any movements of the indigenous people have been targeted by both the U.S. and Canadian governments for massive counter-intelligence operations. These operations are de-

signed to destroy individuals and organizations that are considered to be politically objectionable," she stated.

"Thousands of charges have been filed against the Mohawks of Akwesasne, Kahnawake, and Kanesatake by New York State, Ontario, and Québec during the past year alone," General said. "Hundreds of our people have been brutally beaten, charged, and imprisoned."

The trials of almost 100 Mohawks arrested this summer at Kahnawake and Kanesatake are now beginning. Faced with charges ranging from obstruction of justice and illegal participation in a riot to possession of firearms, they could receive sentences of from 2 to 10 years in jail.

Kahnawake Band Council Chief Joe Norton explained to the European MP's, "When the barricades came down there was a lot of talk about working together, about listening to our legitimate arguments, making a sincere effort to resolve outstanding issues. But the only thing they did was to send in their troops," he stated. "Hundreds of police patrolled the roads bordering and running through parts of the community of 6,000 carrying out a campaign of intimidation, provocation, and harassment," Norton said.



Militant/Cheryl Pruitt

Picket line in defense of the Mohawks

Detroit mayor requests troops

BY SETH GALINSKY

Detroit Mayor Coleman Young announced January 19 that he had requested the governor of Michigan send National Guard troops to Detroit to protect the city from "potential terrorist activity."

The troops, Young said, would be stationed at the airport and at the Ambassador Bridge and the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel, two heavily traveled highways between Canada and the United States.

Many people frequently travel between Detroit and Windsor, Canada, for work, shopping, and leisure.

Seeking to justify the call for troops, the mayor claimed concern for Arab-Americans who have been the victims of racist violence since the start of the U.S. war against the people of Iraq. Young said he had ordered police to increase patrols in some areas of the city. Detroit is home to the largest Arab-American community in the United States.

But the main point of the request for troops was made clear by Young's opening comments at the press conference.

"Whatever our feelings prior to the beginning of American bombardment," Young stated, "our unified concern now is that the

conflict be ended as quickly as possible with the fewest possible casualties to our men and women who are serving in the Gulf."

Young criticized the news media for "focusing attention on Detroiters of Middle Eastern descent who are the most vociferous in condemning President Bush and his actions in the Persian Gulf."

The mayor declared a state of emergency to bolster his call for troops. Gov. John Engler later denied the request for the National Guard although he promised to "continue to monitor the situation."

National Guard troops were last sent to Detroit in the summer of 1967 to quash a rebellion in the Black community. Forty-three people were killed in five days. More than 4,000 were arrested.

Socialist Workers Party candidate for Detroit City Council, Cleve Andrew Pulley, said that Young's call for deployment of the National Guard "should be condemned and opposed."

"Far from combating any supposed threat of terrorism from Arab residents of this area or anyone else, the mayor's actions only encourage racist assaults on Arabs and endanger the rights of all," Pulley added.

Special offer to GIs

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The *Militant* is offering GIs a special introductory subscription offer of \$5 for 12 weeks. Each new subscriber will also receive a complimentary copy of the *International Socialist Review* supplement featuring the article "Working-class campaign against imperialist war drive: Fighting the employers' offensive at home and abroad."

Men and women in the armed forces — whether stationed in the United States or in other countries, particularly Saudi Arabia — have a special stake in getting clear, working-class explanations of Washington's reactionary assault on Iraq.

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Men and women in uniform have the constitutional right to read and discuss the same newspapers, books, pamphlets, and other literature that all citizens do. If soldier-subscribers find they are not receiving their papers, they should notify the *Militant* Business Office right away.

The reduced rate — one-half our normal introductory offer — recognizes that working people in uniform don't have much money. In order to help make up the difference, we ask that as many of our other readers as possible contribute to help defray the costs.

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'Militant' readers plan renewal effort

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

The *Militant* has announced a special drive to get readers of the weekly publication and the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial* to renew their subscriptions. From February 15-26, supporters of the *Militant* will be contacting those who subscribed to the paper over the past few months.

During a 10-week circulation drive last fall, 3,732 *Militant* subscriptions and 821 to *Perspectiva Mundial* were purchased by unionists, farmers, farmworkers, and students and other youth. Many of these subscriptions are now expiring or will expire soon.

"With the continued escalation of Washington's war against Iraq," explained Doug Jenness, *Militant* business manager, "readers will not want to miss one issue of the paper. The *Militant* provides vital information and analysis that is essential to working people campaigning against imperialism's brutal war in the Middle East," he said.

As part of this undertaking, the *Militant* is offering those who renew their subscription for six months or longer, or *Perspectiva Mundial* for one year or longer, \$2 off the cover price of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*; *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!*; *Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*, which are published by Pathfinder Press; or the next issue of *New Internationalist*.

For subscribers, the business office sends out a series of form letters asking readers to renew. During the two-week renewal drive, *Militant* supporters in U.S. cities and other countries will follow up by calling and visiting subscribers.

"The *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* are among the best tools for a working-class perspective to fight the employers' war at home and abroad. That's why it is important for supporters of the *Militant* to make it a priority to talk to readers, find out what they think about the paper, and encourage them to renew," Jenness said.

Huge antiwar march held in U.S. capital

Continued from front page

march down Pennsylvania Avenue for a rally in the park on the Ellipse behind the White House. It took more than three and a half hours for the massive march, sometimes 30 abreast, to arrive at the rally site.

Many protesters carried hand-lettered picket signs and banners. Some of them said: "No blood for oil"; "Rich man's oil, poor man's blood"; "This is not Nintendo, real people are dying"; "Health care, not warfare"; and "Bush's new world order, no thanks." "We support our troops, bring them home now," was a theme repeated on many placards.

A Black family from the west side of Chicago marched and chanted "Bring them home." A woman in the group pushed a baby stroller and carried a picture of her husband, a GI deployed in the Gulf.

A group of young people from Ann Arbor, Michigan, were very encouraged by the turnout, but expressed some frustration. One of them, a young Palestinian worker named Mustafa, said that many of his friends and coworkers were opposed to the war until the U.S. began bombing Iraq January 16. But now they support the war effort, he said. He felt that coming to Washington was an important way to show his opposition to the war.

Chris, a first-year college student from Wooster, Ohio, explained that the war "is not about the invasion of Kuwait. It's about oil and years of imperialism in that region of the world." She and fellow students said they were angered by Washington's bombing of Iraq, which would result in many civilian deaths.

A high school teacher from Philadelphia carrying a "Support our troops" sign said the injustice of the U.S. war would become more evident when large numbers of body bags begin to be shipped home. While he opposed the war, he thought a draft might be needed so that the "rich would have to die, as well as the poor." The issue of the draft stirred some discussion among the draft-age students marching with him. Some supported his view and others said they opposed a draft under any circumstances.

Groups of students from various campuses were spread throughout the march. Palestinians waving their black, red, white, and green

national flag, various organizations of African-Americans, and Koreans for the reunification of their divided country, also formed spirited contingents in the demonstration.

Many bouyed by turnout

"This shows a lot of people are opposed to the war," a young woman from Grinnell College in Iowa said about the demonstration. The issue "is bigger than oil. It's not the place of the U.S. to be the policeman of the world. The war is a diversion from our problems here at home."

More than a hundred prowar demonstrators waited in the streets at the White House in an attempt to provoke the oncoming antiwar protesters. They held up signs that read "Support our troops" and chanted "Go George Bush!" The size of the antiwar action, however, dampened their spirits and the march security monitors peacefully moved them from the street.

Several speakers addressed the massive crowd at the rally on the White House Ellipse, including Jesse Jackson, Congressman Charles Rangel, actress Susan Sarandon, and Molly Yard, president of the National Organization for Women.

Adaleda Medina, the mother of a 21-year-old sailor in the Gulf and a member of Military Families Support Network, spoke. The U.S. is at war because of the "greedy avaricious warmongers" in Washington "who rushed us into it," she said. "No amount of oil will replace the life of a single loved one."

"I do not know the emir of Kuwait," actor Tim Robbins told the crowd, "but I do know that he was not elected. He was installed. I am unwilling to have one American's blood spilled to protect Western business interests."

"This war was wrong from day one," said David Cline, a Vietnam veteran and a leader of Veterans Task Force on the Middle East. "It was wrong when the troops were sent. It was wrong when the United Nations authorized it and when Congress voted for it. The problems today are not in Kuwait or the Middle East, but here at home." He encouraged everyone to step up their activity in defense of social justice.

Gus Newport, the former mayor of Berkeley, California, and Angela Sanbrano of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador chaired the rally.



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

Part of the crowd of 125,000 at January 26 antiwar march.

BY NED WEBSTER

SAN FRANCISCO — More than 80,000 people marched and rallied here against the U.S. war in the Mideast on January 26. Hundreds of people carried signs saying "Stop the war. Labor says support the troops, bring them home." Chants of "Peace now!" and "No war, no way," chorused throughout the march.

Many marchers were young. Banners identified the Portland Students for Peace, the Seattle University U.S. Out Coalition, City College of San Francisco Students Against War, and other student groups.

Roots Against War, a San Francisco State University student group, carried two large banners. One said "People of color for peace and justice." Another had a quote from Malcolm X — "I'm not an American, I'm a victim of Americanism" along with his portrait.

The Montanans for Peace contingent of 90 people was led by Students for Social Responsibility from the University of Montana in Missoula. Six members of the Wyoming Coalition for Peace in the Gulf from the University of Wyoming in Laramie marched with their own banner. The majority of the 120 people from Salt Lake City, Utah, were students from Brigham Young University.

Some 2,000 unionists marched in organized union contingents, reported Walter Johnson, secretary-treasurer of the San Francisco Central Labor Council.

Members of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 34 marched behind a banner that said "No blood for oil. Union jobs, not war." Other unions that participated were the National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Service Employees' International Union, Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union, California Federation of Teachers, United Auto Workers District 65, and San Francisco school bus drivers organized in the United Transportation Union.

Some 250 Palestinian students marched carrying scores of Palestinian flags. Following them was the International Jewish Peace Union.

The banner of the Young Koreans United demanded "U.S. out of Korea." A Filipino contingent demanded "Jobs, not war. U.S. bases out of the Philippines." Another banner read "Asians and Pacific Islanders say no to war." Groups of Chicanos, Mexicanos, Native Americans, and Vietnam War veterans also marched.

Many signs expressed outrage at the big-business media for falling in line behind Washington's lies and censorship. "Where's the free press?" one sign asked.

Some signs encouraged negotiations. Others called for a cease-fire or United Nations intervention to stop the war.

The main banner at the rally site read "January 26 mobilization to bring our troops home now! Stop the bombing now!"

Many signs carried by demonstrators focused on the devastation caused in Iraq by the U.S. bombing. "How many Iraqis dead? Stop the killing," said one placard. "We are destroying the cradle of civilization," said another. One marcher's sign asked, "Why

has the liberation of Kuwait turned into the annihilation of Iraq?" "Half the residents of Baghdad are children," pointed out another sign.

The rally heard more than 25 speakers, including clergy, union officials, military reservists refusing to serve, and others.

A small prowar demonstration of 20 people took place nearby. The media also gave wide coverage to 900 motorcyclists who rode 20 miles from Fremont to Pleasanton after a prowar rally.

LOS ANGELES — Some 10,000 people participated in a January 26 march and rally here against the war. It was the largest antiwar protest in the city since the beginning of the U.S. war drive in August.

Demonstrators marched through downtown Los Angeles. Speakers at the rally included Sam Weinstein, a vice-president of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor; Herb Bradley, an Eastern Airlines striker who has a son stationed in the Gulf; and Cheryl Wosunu, a Black woman with a son serving in the U.S. armed forces in the Gulf and a daughter who is also in the military.

ST. LOUIS — A protest sponsored by the St. Louis Student Forum for Peace in the Mideast attracted more than 1,000 people January 26. Students came from as far away as Cape Girardeau in southeast Missouri.

Young feminists to meet at conference in Ohio February 1

BY MARGIE HUSK

CLEVELAND — More than 700 young women and other supporters of women's rights are expected to attend the "1991 Young Feminist Conference" sponsored by the National Organization for Women (NOW). The three-day conference, to be held at the Quaker Square Hilton in Akron, Ohio, will begin the evening of February 1.

The conference, according to the *National NOW Times*, "will help generate ideas for a national plan of action for young feminists which can be brought before the next National NOW Conference," set for July in New York City.

Plenary sessions and workshops will address topics such as defending abortion rights, campus and high school organizing, pay equity, sexual harassment, and the Equal Rights Amendment. Billed as a forum for discussion of the U.S. intervention in the Arab-Persian Gulf, one workshop will take up discrimination against women and against lesbians in the military.

National speakers to address the gathering include: Molly Yard, NOW president; Rep. Patsy Mink, member of Congress; Suzanne Denevan, University of Minnesota student body president; and Bridgetta Bourne, one of the organizers of a successful campaign for the rights of students at Gallaudet College, a school for the deaf.

Registration for the event is \$25, which includes membership in NOW.

Thousands march in Canada

BY MONICA JONES

MONTREAL — Demonstrators numbering 30,000 in cities across Canada expressed their opposition to the murderous U.S.-led war against Iraq at protest actions on January 26.

Some 15,000 people turned out here, making it the largest of the protests. Many participants carried hand written signs calling for "Troops out!", "No blood for oil," and "CSIS hands off Arab-Canadians," referring to the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

The Canadian government has dispatched war planes and 1,700 troops as part of the U.S.-led aggression in the Mideast.

A contingent of Arabs was prominent in the march. Two of the banners participants carried bore the black, red, white, and green colors of the Palestinian flag and marked the third anniversary of the *intifada*, the Palestinian uprising against Israeli government repression.

Unionists marching behind their banners included International Association of Machinists members, United Food and Commercial Workers, Canadian Autoworkers, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union members, Québec Nurses Federation members, and the Confederation of National Trade Unions.

Contingents of students participated in the action from the University of Québec in Montréal, the University of Montréal, Concordia University, and students from the McGill University Troops Out Coalition.

Hundreds of high school students marched in the action. After the bombing of Iraq began January 16, several thousand students walked out of their high schools and marched on Canadian and U.S. government buildings. Following their actions former minister of education Claude Ryan declared that if he

were still in charge he would have barred the doors.

In Toronto, 2,500 people held a march and rally. One of the speakers was Canadian Auto Workers President Robert White who described the dehumanizing media coverage of the war that fails to report the deaths of people in Iraq.

More than 10,000 marched in Vancouver behind a banner demanding "End the arms race." The action was sponsored by the Vancouver and District Labour Council and other organizations with the theme "Social needs, not war." Union fishermen, carpenters, and machinists attended, as well as members of Health Care Workers for Peace.

Joining the march were hundreds of students from colleges, universities, and high schools. Four protesters were later arrested by police at a march of 500 youth chanting, "No blood for oil," and "Troops out of the gulf," that took place after the demonstration.

Braving sub-zero weather in Québec City, 1,000 protesters gathered to show their opposition to the war. One demonstrator carried a sign asking, "How many children were under your bombs, George?" A young Québécois noted that "[Canadian Prime Minister Brian] Mulroney was hypocritical when he said he wouldn't treat Iraqis in Canada like they treated the Japanese during World War II." Some 20,000 Japanese-Canadians, as well as Canadians of German and Italian origin, were interned during the war.

"They are already kicking Iraqis out of Canada," he said.

In Halifax, a departing point for Canadian ships and sailors destined for Iraq, 350 people demonstrated calling for the troops to be sent home.

January 26 protests also took place in Ottawa, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Victoria, Calgary, St. John's, and other cities and towns.

Jobs, social services target of cities' cuts

BY SETH GALINSKY

On January 16, New York Mayor David Dinkins presented a budget that called for massive layoffs, cutbacks in social services, and tax increases.

The proposals come on top of previous cutbacks over the last year, which included closing fire stations and cutting back on bridge maintenance.

Closed libraries, more closed firehouses, and sharply scaled-back street cleaning and garbage pickups will be among the results, if the proposals are approved. But even this will not solve the financial crisis. Budget Director Philip Michael warned: "The problem's going to get worse."

The crisis is not just in New York. Twenty-nine of the 50 largest cities in the United States are planning to raise taxes or cut services in an effort to force working people to pay for the economic recession.

The city of Philadelphia is on the verge of bankruptcy. The governments of Washington, D.C., and Detroit are considering massive layoffs. Newark Mayor Sharpe James plans to raise property taxes to make up for a \$50 million shortfall.

Many state governments are doing the same. "I think you would have to go back to

the Great Depression to find similar anguish in terms of the number of states that are facing an unprecedented cutback in service or significant increases in taxes," stated Henry Aaron, director of economic studies at the Brookings Institution.

New York City's cutbacks are the worst since 1975, when 50,000 municipal jobs were eliminated and the state government created agencies to oversee and enforce austerity programs.

Mayor Dinkins' preliminary budget calls for eliminating nearly 25,000 full- and part-time city jobs and \$580 million in higher taxes, in addition to widespread service cuts. He proposed reducing contracts for family planning services by 70 percent, increasing caseloads for social workers assigned to AIDS patients, cutting scholarships, and eliminating city hospital pharmacy services for outpatients. The plan also calls for laying off more than 800 sanitation workers.

Schools would be especially hard hit. Some 6,000 teachers and other school employees would be laid off. Deputy Schools Chancellor Stanley Litow said, "We are talking about increased class size, fewer guidance services, and closed school libraries."

While slashing social services, education, and public transportation, Dinkins is pouring money into the city's cop and court systems. He wants to spend \$1.8 billion over the next four years to finance 3,000 new jail beds, hire thousands of additional cops, and train prosecutors.

It's "terrific," said Alan Proctor, executive director of the New York State Financial Control Board, when informed of the proposed layoffs and cutbacks.

What is "terrific" for representatives of the capitalist class, like Proctor, is a disaster for working people.

Massive homelessness has become institutionalized. The night of December 27, 1990, saw 22,000 homeless adults and children staying in city-financed shelters and hotels.

The transit system is deteriorating. Cuts in fire stations have caused deaths.

'War on the unions'

The idea of budget cuts was first floated in October, during negotiations between the city government and unions representing more than 150,000 municipal workers.

"The mayor has declared war on the unions, and we are prepared to fight that war on every battlefield," declared Barry Feinstein, president of Local 237 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, which represents 12,000 city workers. "We will meet, we will demonstrate, we will be in the streets," he declared in October.

But union officials ended up giving in without a fight. On January 2, the city government and the two main unions reached an agreement.

"We cannot give what we do not have. It's just that simple," claimed Mayor Dinkins.

"There was nothing left for us to take from the table," agreed Feinstein.

The agreement calls for a 3.5 percent wage increase this year and a 1 percent increase next year. But this is done mainly by reducing the city contribution to the workers' pension fund. It does nothing to protect jobs or social services.

'Substantial layoffs' ahead

"This wage settlement," said New York Comptroller Elizabeth Holtzman, "will have to be paid for by substantial layoffs and severe reductions in city services."

Real Estate Board of New York President Steven Spinola noted that the agreement "is a signal to the business community that [Dinkins] is going to be tough" with the unions.

Although teachers won a 5.5 percent wage increase last fall, on January 25 union delegates voted to defer \$40 million in wages until 1995 and 1996. The city had threatened to lay off thousands of teachers or cut the school year if the wages were not deferred.

Officials of Local 372 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, accepted a plan to temporarily save 1,010 jobs — by loaning the Board of Education \$5 million.



Militant/Judy Stranahan

New York City Mayor David Dinkins' budget calls for massive cuts, bringing more misery for working people. At right, people sleeping at Grand Central Station.



HANDS OFF THE MIDEAST!

Campaigning worldwide against the imperialist war

Working people — in and out of uniform — are discussing and debating the imperialist war in the Mideast led by the governments of the United States, Britain, Canada, France and Australia. In factories, mines, and mills; on warships; and among those now stationed in Saudi Arabia, workers and farmers have discussed and expressed opposition to the war against the Iraqi people.

Rallies, marches, and conferences are being held with broad participation, especially from youth; action coalitions have been formed in cities around the world; veterans, GIs, and reservists have been speaking out; antiwar buttons are being worn at work; and planning for more antiwar actions is under way.

We encourage readers to contribute items to this column that will help campaign against and build visible opposition to the war.

Several members of the United Steelworkers of America in the Salt Lake City area who work at Magnesium Corp. of America (Magcorp) have been active opponents of Washington's war in the Middle East. David Salner, a USWA member at Magcorp, has been distributing the antiwar supplement *International Socialist Review* to coworkers and reports his efforts have netted several new subscribers to the *Militant* as well.

John Langford, another union member at Magcorp, spoke at a protest of 1,500 people in Salt Lake City on January 19. "Again the working person is being asked to bear the burden of a rich man's war," Langford said. "My 18-year-old son, the son of a working man, has an excellent chance of ending up over there. Mr. Bush, read my lips, 'No money for arms. No blood for oil.'"

Salner said that Langford's speech at the protest action, reported in the *Salt Lake Tribune*, was a hot topic at work.

On the eve of the U.S. imperialist-led war against Iraq, thousands of people took to the streets in New Zealand. On January 15, there were demonstrations of 3,000 people in Auckland, 2,000 in Wellington, and several hundred in Christchurch and Dunedin. Many of the participants were high school and college students.

After the U.S. bombing of the Iraqi people began, 500 protested outside parliament in Wellington, blocking the street and then marching to the U.S. embassy there. This was followed up by another action in Wellington on January 22.

Shelton McCrainey, a member of United Automobile Workers Local 1200 at General Dynamic's truck plant in Detroit, writes: "When I returned from a

two-week layoff in December, I noticed that a picture of an Arab person with a target over his face had been put up in the window of the union office. I asked some union officers in the local why they would allow anyone to do this. I explained that it was racist, against Arab people, and prowar and suggested it be taken down.

"All that week the picture stayed up, so I decided to raise it at the next union meeting. A number of members present at the meeting agreed with me, so a union officer said it would be taken down, which it was, the following day.

"My union local has brought solidarity to other unionists on strike, including airline workers, meat-packers, and miners. Our local has done a lot we can be proud of. Unionism is all about standing up against racism, sexism, and other divisions among workers. Getting rid of that racist, prowar picture in the union office was a step forward for our local."

Adding his voice in opposition to the war drive, Peter Heathfield, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers in Britain, spoke at a rally in Manchester on January 14. "Presently in the deserts of Saudi Arabia are many young men and women driven into the armed forces as a source of employment as coalfield and other regions decline," Heathfield said. "Now they're the first line in cannon fodder for a system that doesn't give a damn about their welfare.

"I've heard some say this is good for the coal industry. We want nothing to do with this idea. We have fought long and hard to be internationalist. We should place the same value on the lives of all people — Saudi Arabians, Iraqis, British, Kuwaitis, Americans," Heathfield said.

On January 15, some 300 trade unionists from the New York City area met to form New York Labor for Peace. Held just hours before the United States began bombing Iraq, the meeting was called in response to the escalating war drive in the Middle East.

Cleveland Robinson, secretary-treasurer of United Automobile Workers, District 65; Juan González, a leader in the strike against the *Daily News*; Dennis Rivera, president of Hospital and Health Care Employees, Local 1199; and Stanley Hill, executive director, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, District 37, were among the speakers. Jan Pierce, vice-president of the Communications Workers of America, chaired.

George Buchanan from Auckland, New Zealand; Pete Kennedy from Britain; and Ernie Mailhot from New York contributed to this week's column.

Union president asks rail workers not to disrupt the 'war effort'

BY ROBBIE SCHERR

SEATTLE, Washington — "As a patriotic gesture, we're not going to strike and disrupt the war effort," announced Dick Kilroy, president of the 80,000-member Transport Communications Union, on January 17. Kilroy is a spokesperson for the 11 unions in contract negotiations covering 200,000 workers at major railroads in the United States.

"There's a lot we don't like about the whole thing and we didn't get everything we wanted, but I think we need to get down to brass tacks and get an agreement," said Kilroy in Washington, D.C.

He urged workers to accept contract recommendations made by a presidential emergency board on January 16.

"I guess I'm not that patriotic," one worker at Burlington Northern's Interbay Roundhouse here said after reading the board's major concession demands. These include, for the first time, a proposal that workers make contributions to the cost of health and welfare insurance premiums.

Under the board's recommendations, workers would get a \$2,000 signing bonus; followed by 3 percent lump-sum payments in 1992, 1993, and 1994; and a 2 percent lump-sum payment in 1995. But the lump sum would be available to pay for up to 25 percent of any annual increase in the cost of the railroad's health plan.

Workers would receive a 3 percent general wage increase in July 1991 and 1993, and 4 percent in 1994. Another concession aimed at workers on the road, most of whom are members of the United Transportation Union or the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, would erode the wage increase by increasing the distance they are required to travel each day before earning a day's basic pay.

This concession follows on the heels of a concession won by the railroads in 1985 when the basic day was raised from 100 to 108 miles. If the current recommendations are signed, the figure will immediately jump to 116 miles.

Despite the flag-waving of rail union officials, the terms of this proposed contract do not sit well with many of the railroad workers who have been working under an expired contract since June 1988.

"Disrupt the war effort? What about the disruption to our livelihoods that the railroads have been causing?" a locomotive operator asked.

"I guess we're finding out what this war is really about," remarked another.

Robbie Scherr is a member of United Transportation Union Local 1024.

Strike at Eastern scores gains for labor

Continued from Page 16

away millions of dollars in an attempt to avert such a sale, Martin Shugrue announced that Eastern would be closed. A few days later the IAM announced that on January 24, the 692nd day of the Eastern Airlines strike, we would take down our picket lines and mark the official end of the strike.

The main series of victories over union-busting at Eastern, though, had been achieved some months before. All that remained to be seen was in what way our accomplishments would finally be registered. It is fitting that Eastern, and its several-year-long crusade against unionism and workers' rights, had to go out of business once and for all.

Interests of workers everywhere

The fighting Machinists and our supporters accomplished huge things that go far beyond the jobs that we had at Eastern. We showed that unlike the Lorenzos and the rest of the boss class in this country, who are motivated by greed for profits, workers will step forward and put themselves on the line in the interests of workers everywhere. This also came through in thousands of examples

of other unionists pitching in to support our strike — not only here, but in New Zealand, Britain, Bermuda, and other countries.

The employers' war against working people in this country continues. Our brothers and sisters on strike against the *Daily News* are saying, as we did, that they will defend the unions as the first line of defense against attacks on our rights and living standards.

Many of us who walked the picket lines at Eastern for more than 22 months continue to walk picket lines at the *Daily News* in New York and with other strikers in their fights around the country and even internationally.

Thousands of us are now working in other IAM-organized jobs, as packinghouse workers, or in other industries. We take the lessons of the strike with us, and one we will never forget is, "An injury to one is an injury to all."

Today George Bush and the big business class that rules this country have begun another war. This one is a shooting war that has already killed thousands of innocent people in Iraq and will soon lead to the death of thousands upon thousands of U.S. workers in uniform and other workers and farmers in

and out of uniform from many other countries.

Working people need to educate ourselves and fight against this U.S.-led war in the Middle East, just as we are beginning to fight against the attacks on us here at home.

It is important to remember that our fight against Eastern and others like it not only improves the relationship of forces for other unionists, but also creates a more encouraging environment to all those who fight against unjust wars, racism, and other social injustices.

Because of our fight at Eastern, and others such as the one at the *Daily News*, a boss who is considering forcing his workers on strike so that he can break their union and lower their wages and benefits will think a little longer before making a move.

As important as that is, more important is the impact we have had on the thinking of working people who are inspired by our fight and will come to follow our example.

As Eddie Camargo, an Eastern striker from La Guardia Airport, said the day after Eastern closed, "I'm very happy this day came up. It's been a long 22 months, but fighting is

the only way. If others follow our example, we'll have strong unions."

We will. In the process we will change the unions into fighting instruments of the rank and file — the engine of a social movement that can transform this country.

Ernie Mailhot, a member of the International Association of Machinists, was the Eastern Airlines strike staff coordinator for IAM Local Lodge 1018 at La Guardia Airport from December 1989 to December 1990.

Chronology of the Eastern Airlines strike

1987 — October 19. Contract talks start between Eastern, owned by Frank Lorenzo's Texas Air Corp., and the International Association of Machinists. The company demands \$150 million in concessions from the union. In 1983 Lorenzo spearheaded union-busting at Continental Airlines, also owned by Texas Air.

December. The IAM's contract expires. Workers remain on the job.

1989 — February 2. The National Mediation Board announces that talks are at an impasse. A thirty-day "cooling-off" period begins.

March 4. IAM members — ramp service workers, mechanics, aircraft cleaners, stock clerks, and facility cleaners — strike Eastern Airlines. Honoring the picket line are 5,900 flight attendants from the Transport Workers Union (TWU) and 3,400 members of the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA). Eastern's operations come to a virtual standstill.

March 5. Injunctions are issued to prevent Machinists from setting up secondary picket lines at commuter railroads in New York, northern New Jersey, Philadelphia, and elsewhere, which had been set to go up March 6. The IAM announces it will abide by the injunctions.

March 9. Eastern files for bankruptcy in the federal bankruptcy court in New York. Proceedings are overseen by Judge Burton Lifland.

March 10-19. Unionists mobilize at airports to back strikers: 2,000 in Chicago; 4,000 in Atlanta; 2,000 in Cleveland, and hundreds in other cities.

April 5. After working without a contract for more than 14 months, 1,700 coal miners belonging to the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) walk off the job at the Pittston Coal Group's mines in Virginia and West Virginia.

April 6. A group of investors headed by Peter Ueberroth agree to buy Eastern for \$464 million. Union officials agree to five-year contracts and \$210 million in concessions to make the sale possible. On April 11, the sale collapses.

May 25. The bankruptcy court approves the sale of Eastern's Northeast shuttle to Donald Trump.

June 2. Union officials announce their willingness to give concessions up to \$400 million in one year to make a buyout deal by Chicago commodities speculator Joseph Ritchie possible. The AFL-CIO officialdom offers an additional \$50 million. But three days later, the bankruptcy court decides the deal isn't viable.

June 11. Hundreds of Eastern strikers attend a Charleston, West Virginia, rally of up to 12,000 in support of the Pittston miners. The action is the biggest labor demonstration in West Virginia in 15 years.

June. Walkouts by UMWA miners begin in southern West Virginia in solidarity with the Pittston strike. Over the next six weeks, these spread rapidly throughout the coal fields, involving 44,000 miners.

July 2. Rallies and expanded picket lines in many cities protest Eastern's increase of daily flights to 226, up from 80. Eastern

slashes fares to attract passengers.

Early August. At the urging of ALPA officers, more than 200 pilots cross the picket line, along with hundreds of flight attendants. Eastern pilots vote to continue backing the strike.

August 21. Machinists at New York's La Guardia Airport begin picketing Hudson General, one of several IAM-organized subcontracting companies hired to do ramp and other work for Eastern.

September 4-6. Eastern strikers lead Labor Day demonstrations in New York and other cities. Some 1,000 strikers and supporters rally in Washington, D.C., at end of 3,000-mile Journey for Justice strike caravan.

November 19. A Florida-wide strike support march in Miami draws 1,000, including a number of miners on strike at Pittston.

November 22. ALPA's Master Executive Council ends the pilots' sympathy strike at Eastern. The TWU leadership does the same the following day.

December 8. Machinists organize "Stand Up to Lorenzo Day" activities in New York City and other cities.

December 19. American Airlines announces it is buying Eastern's Latin American routes and other assets for \$471 million. The IAM announces that Eastern's passenger load is 48 percent of capacity.

1990 — January 19. An eight-month boycott of Eastern led by the Bermuda International Union forces Eastern to cancel its daily flight to Bermuda. Eastern soon announces cancellation of flights to nine other Caribbean destinations.

February 6. Eastern announces 1989 losses of \$852.3 million — a record for the airline industry. Texas Air as a whole lost \$885.6 million.

February 19. Striking Pittston miners vote to accept a new contract and end their walkout, which has lasted almost eleven months.

March 3-4. Backed by the AFL-CIO, strikers and strike supporters from many unions hold rallies, mass pickets, airport walk-throughs, benefits, and other activities in cities throughout the country to mark the one-year anniversary of the Eastern strike.

April 18. The bankruptcy court removes Lorenzo from management of Eastern Airlines and appoints Martin Shugrue as trustee.

June. In a move to beefup its image, Texas Air changes its name to Continental Holdings, Inc.

June 17. Eastern trustee Shugrue launches "100 days" campaign, saying "For the next 100 days Eastern is going to get a little better every day." A massive television and newspaper advertising campaign begins. The campaign ended quietly on September 12.

June 30. More than 600 Machinists and their supporters march at Miami International Airport to demand a "contract now." Other protests take place in Detroit and Boston.

July 13. Shugrue admits Eastern continues to lose \$1 million a day and will lose hundreds of millions by the end of the year. Shugrue says Eastern is carrying out discussions with Northwest on a possible buy-out deal.

July 25. U.S. Attorney Andrew Maloney

announces that Eastern and 10 of its management employees have been charged in a 60-count indictment for failing to maintain its airplanes properly.

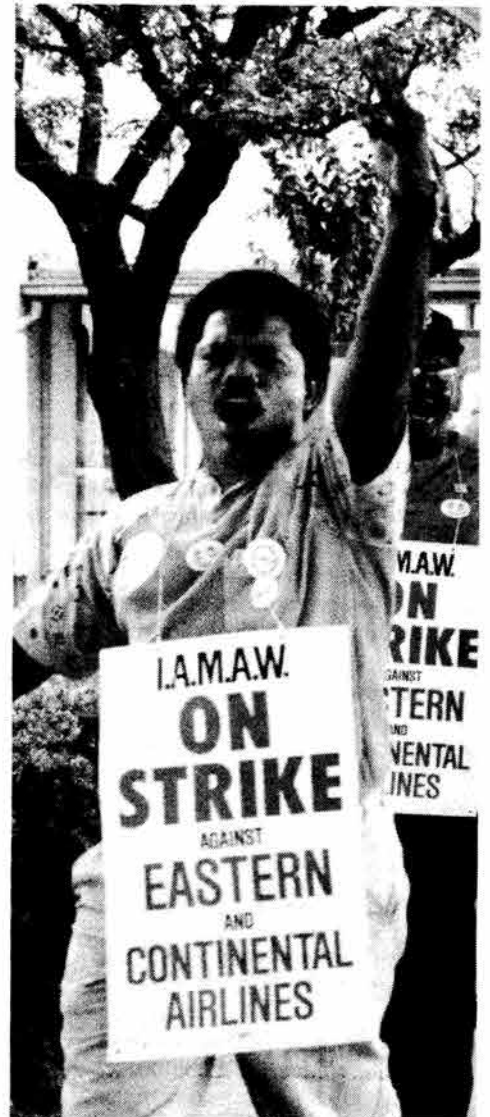
August 9. Lorenzo announces he is selling most of his stake in Continental Holdings, Inc., the parent of Continental and Eastern airlines, to Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS).

September. Eastern misses a \$95 million payment deadline to the pension fund agency. Later, an agreement is reached between the agency and Continental Holdings, Inc., which puts up \$500 million in collateral.

December 3. Continental Holdings, Inc. files for bankruptcy.

1991 — January 18. Eastern management shuts down the carrier's operations. Shugrue says the following day that the airline had "run out of time and resources." Strikers in Miami, New York, Atlanta and other cities celebrate the airline's demise.

January 22. Officials of the International Association of Machinists announce the strike is over. "The future will be brighter for all workers because of your courage," writes IAM President George Kourpias to the strikers. Strikers take down their picket lines on January 24.



Militant/Nancy Brown
Strikers picketing Eastern in August 1990, at Washington National Airport in Alexandria, Virginia.

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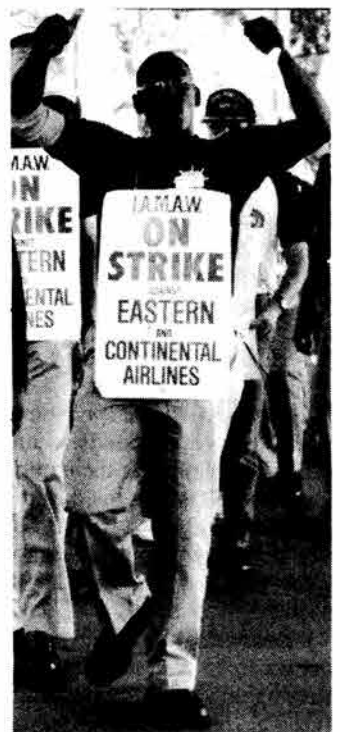
from Pathfinder:

The Eastern Airlines Strike Accomplishments of the rank-and-file Machinists and gains for the labor movement

By Ernie Mailhot, Judy Stranahan, and Jack Barnes

The story of the strike against Eastern Airlines by members of the International Association of Machinists union: the battle that brought down the notorious union-buster Frank Lorenzo. The narrative by Judy Stranahan closely follows the fight from the beginning to its conclusion 22 months later. Included is an introduction by rank-and-file strike leader Ernie Mailhot that describes the victories won over the course of the strike and the accomplishments for labor. Also contains an article by Socialist Workers Party leader Jack Barnes on the state of the labor movement as workers enter the 1990s. 96 pp., photos. \$8.95

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U.S. troop strength nears half a million in Middle East

Continued from front page

it becomes clearer to millions worldwide that Washington is not simply trying to drive Iraqi forces from Kuwait. It is seeking to deal a giant blow to the Arab peoples, secure greater direct control over the oil resources in the region, and establish a virtual U.S. protectorate in Iraq.

U.S. troop strength in the Arab-Persian Gulf now stands at 482,000. The *Washington Post* reported January 25 that Pentagon sources say the total deployment will continue to rise past 500,000 in the weeks ahead. This approaches the number of U.S. troops sent to Vietnam at the high point of Washington's war against the people of that country.

Since January 17 alone, some 55,000 additional U.S. troops have arrived in the Gulf. More than 1,800 U.S. Air Force, Navy, and Marine aircraft are operating in the region. Some 100 U.S. ships, including six aircraft carriers, two battleships, and a large amphibious force are operating in the waters of the region.

Wider public recognition of the scope of the war has prompted Bush administration spokespeople to explain the longer-term conflict.

"We need to get on kind of an even keel in terms of our public psyche," said White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, echoing Cheney's remarks that the war will last "for months."

Weekly chronology of U.S.-led imperialist war against Iraq

January 21 — Washington concedes that its earlier claims of allied forces having achieved air superiority over many areas of Iraq are unfounded. U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney says war could last "for months."

Pentagon officials say 472,000 U.S. troops are now in the Arab-Persian Gulf region.

Charging that civilians have been bombed beyond a "minimum of human standards," the Iraqi government says it will disperse captured allied airmen among possible bombing targets. The day before, Baghdad had released videotapes of several captured pilots.

U.S. President George Bush asserts he will hold Iraqi President Saddam Hussein accountable for "the brutal parading of allied pilots" because it violates prisoners' rights.

Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger says, "We have a common cause with Israel now," after meeting with Israeli government leaders following Iraqi missile attacks against Israel.

British Prime Minister John Major states that allied naval and air forces will be permanently stationed in the Mideast after the war is over.

Iraqi opposition leader Ayatollah Mohammed Taqi al-Mudaresi, of the Shi'ite Islamic Action Group, calls for the immediate halt to allied bombing raids to prevent the massacre of Iraqi civilians.

January 22 — Baghdad launches third missile attack on Israel.

Iraq's National Assembly accuses Washington and its allies of violating international law, the United Nations Charter, and human rights agreements.

Washington charges Iraqi military set oil refineries in Kuwait on fire, causing huge oil spill. Baghdad says the spill was caused by U.S. and allied bombing.

The *New York Times* reports that B-52 bombers have dropped so many tons of bombs over Iraq that the explosions set off vibrations felt across the border in Iran. The U.S. command says 10,000 bombing raids have been carried out against Iraq.

The Israeli government asks Washington for \$13 billion in new U.S. aid.

January 23 — The Japanese government announces it will contribute \$9 billion to Washington's war effort in addition to the \$4 billion already pledged.

U.S. military officials report the first

As Washington was pouring troops into Saudi Arabia in preparation for a total war against Iraq, U.S. Marines carried out an amphibious landing designed to be a mock invasion of Iraq or Kuwait. The exercise involved more U.S. troops than any operation since the Marines landed in Inchon during the Korean war more than 40 years ago. The Inchon landing involved nearly 70,000 U.S. troops.

Across northwestern Saudi Arabia hundreds of tanks, armored personnel carriers, and jeeps with heavy weapons have also been carrying out mock assaults, preparing for the ground war.

The relentless bombing attacks over Iraqi and Kuwaiti territory, military officials say, are more and more focused on bridges, roads, troop concentrations, and storage areas in the hopes of having a more advantageous position for Washington and allied troops when ground warfare is launched. While so far large scale fighting has not taken place on the land, some combat incidents have been reported along the border between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

On January 28 the largest artillery attack on Iraqi forces was launched by the 2nd Marine Division. More than 70 200-pound shells were shot six miles inside Kuwait, using 203-millimeter howitzers.

Some shells, reported the *New York Times*, contained white phosphorous, a chemical that sticks to the skin, burning deep wounds.

ground combat between Iraqi and U.S. troops took place January 22 along the Saudi border.

January 24 — The largest marine amphibious force assembled since the Korean War practices landings in the Persian Gulf.

For the first time since U.S.-led forces began bombing Iraq, French warplanes attack targets inside Iraqi territory.

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt tells Egyptian parliament that the country is obligated by its commitments to the United Nations and the Arab League to continue supporting the war against Iraq.

January 25 — The Pentagon authorizes the use of tear gas against Iraqi forces and prisoners of war.

In a statement released in London, the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iraq says its members inside Iraq report 10,000 people killed or wounded by allied air raids.

Pan American airlines announces it will reject all Iraqi nationals seeking tickets on domestic or international flights.

Peter Arnett of Cable News Network reports allied jets have bombed a residential neighborhood 100 miles north of Baghdad, killing 24 civilians.

January 26 — The British *Guardian* quotes an Associated Press dispatch saying that U.S. submarines are firing cruise missiles at Iraq from beneath the Mediterranean and the Red seas.

Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh says, "There are apprehensions that we are entering the second serious phase of the conflict, when, in addition to the task to liberate Kuwait envisioned in Security Council resolutions, there is a growing threat that Iraq is subject to very grave damages."

"There is a growing danger for the country's civilian population," he added. "Naturally this is cause for our concern."

More than 125,000 people converge on Washington, D.C., and more than 80,000 in San Francisco, to protest the U.S. war against the people of Iraq.

In Bonn, 200,000 antiwar protesters take to the streets chanting "Stop the War." In Berlin, nearly 100,000 participate in a protest demonstration. Demonstrations also take place across France.

The *New York Times* reports that since the war began 10 days ago, more than 20,000 combat and support missions have been carried out by U.S. and allied warplanes.



Above, 155-mm. howitzers. U.S.-led forces used howitzers to lob 70 200-pound shells six miles inside Kuwait. Some shells contained white phosphorous, a chemical that sticks to flesh and causes deep wounds.

Other shells used were the "Bouncing Betty," bombs that bounce up and spray an entire area with shrapnel.

Stating that they were shooting at a supply depot, one soldier said, "Jesus God, have mercy on their souls. You want to damage the enemy, you want to kill him and destroy his might. But you can't help but sometimes remember those are human beings under that firestorm."

Propaganda war

Bush has seized on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's firing of Scud missiles at Israeli population centers and his callous treatment of POWs to press Washington's justification for an all-out war to conquer Iraq.

When millions of barrels of crude oil spilled into the Gulf, Bush immediately asserted that Hussein was resorting to "enormous environmental damage in terms of turning loose a lot of oil."

Pictures of fouled waters and oil-covered birds filled TV and newspaper coverage on the war.

Iraqi officials maintain that the spill, the largest in history, is a result of a U.S. and allied air attack.

"The alliance planes bombed oil installations in the province of Kuwait and targeted oil pipes which ignited a fire and led to the flow of quantities of oil" into the Gulf, Baghdad Radio stated. It reported that Iraqi technical teams were attempting to put out the fires and stop the oil flow.

But without a shred of evidence Pentagon and administration spokespeople said the Iraqis had intentionally created the oil slick. "Saddam Hussein has shown no decency in dealing with human life. We could not expect anything but the same disregard for the environment," Marlin Fitzwater said. Pentagon spokesman Peter Williams, said the spill was an act of "environmental terrorism."

Imperialist allies join assault

As Washington escalates the war, its imperialist allies are becoming more deeply involved in the direct assault on Iraq.

Reflecting London's common interests with Washington, British Prime Minister John Major pledged January 21 that his government would help set up a permanent naval and air force in the Mideast at the end of the Gulf war.

Among allied forces involved in the bombing of Iraq, British forces have so far taken the heaviest losses. With 35,000 troops in the Gulf, or less than one tenth the number of U.S. forces in the region, Britain has lost six planes while 15 U.S. planes have been shot down or have crashed.

British Tornado aircraft have been assigned one of the most dangerous and difficult missions — flying at low levels to bomb airfields and roads in Iraq.

French warplanes joined in the bombing of Iraq after the French government reversed its policy — before the first week of bombing was over — of striking only targets in Kuwait.

On January 24 Canadian warplanes flew combat missions for the first time since World War II when four CF-18 fighters of the Canadian Defense Forces flew air cover for U.S. Air Force bombers.

Washington has also been successful in continuing to get its allies to shoulder more of the financial burden of the war. It is estimated that three months of war

will cost \$45 billion.

On January 25, warning that Tokyo risked "international isolation" and appealing for "understanding and cooperation" from Japan's working people, Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu proposed a new contribution of \$9 billion to Washington's war effort.

Washington had informed the Japanese government that it is expected to pay for 20 percent of the three month's war bill. Further protectionist measures against Japanese imports were threatened if Tokyo did not comply.

Tokyo also began preparations to send Japanese military planes to evacuate refugees from Amman, Jordan, to Egypt and Syria — the first use of operational military equipment by the Japanese in a war zone since the end of World War II.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said his government would contribute \$6.7 billion more to the \$2.2 billion it had previously pledged.

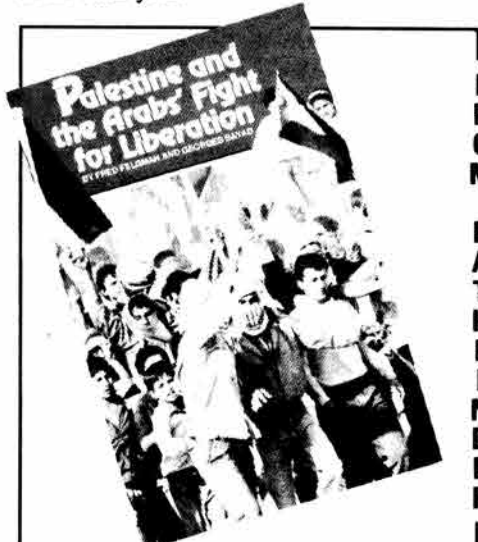
'Common cause with Israel'

Following Iraqi missile strikes against Israeli cities, relations between Washington and Jerusalem have been strengthened.

The Bush administration has a "common cause with Israel now," said U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger. While stating that Israel had a right to attack Iraq, after being hit by Iraqi missiles, Eagleburger said, "We also recognize and respect Israel's desire not to get drawn into this conflict and greatly admire Israel's restraint."

Recognizing the importance of keeping the U.S. alliance with Israel's neighbors together, Israeli Chief of Staff Major-Gen. Dan Shomron said, "We are not alone. The U.S. and the allies are fighting not only to liberate Kuwait but also to destroy the Iraq war machine. We can respond, quickly and harshly, but our restraint is from strength and in our long-term interests."

On January 22 Jerusalem asked Washington for \$13 billion in aid over and above the \$3 billion in economic and military assistance it already gets from the U.S. government each year.



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FROM PATHFINDER

Students call int'l antiwar protests

February 21 slated for coordinated local actions against U.S.-led war

BY PETER THIERJUNG

WASHINGTON, D.C. — More than 1,500 representatives from campuses and youth organizations across the United States met January 27 in twin conferences in Washington, D.C., and Berkeley, California. They issued a call for a February 21 international day of coordinated antiwar actions on high school and college campuses.

The Washington, D.C., conference adopted the following demands for the actions:

- Stop the war.
- Bring the troops home now.
- Fight racism.
- End all occupations in the Middle East.
- No legal or economic draft.
- Support a sustainable energy policy.

Organizers here noted the day of protest coincides with the anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X. A revolutionary fighter, an outspoken opponent of imperialism and its wars, and a leader of the struggle for Black rights, Malcolm X was gunned down on February 21, 1965.

The conferences followed massive marches January 26 in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco in which tens of thousands of college, high school, and junior high school students participated.

Many who attended the conferences were eager to build on these successful actions. They welcomed the opportunity to meet youth from other areas to discuss the next step forward in the fight against Washington's criminal aggression in the Middle East.

More than 1,100 activists met at Sidwell Friends School in Washington, D.C. While most were from college and university campuses, high school students from here and from New Jersey, New York, Wisconsin, and other states also participated. "Students showed up because they wanted to fight against the war," Kim Feike, a coordinator of the meeting, said.

Feike reported that representatives from Australia, Canada, France, and Japan also attended.

International potential

The effort to have students and youth in other countries call actions on February 21 is already under way. Aurielle Denis, a representative of the Appeal of the 75 in France, said she was confident that a January 31 national student and youth meeting in Paris would adopt the call. The Appeal of the 75 is an antiwar coalition that was formed by 75 well-known personalities in France. Denis attended the Washington, D.C., student conference.

After regional caucuses, participants at the conference here met in a plenary session where the call and demands for February 21 actions were adopted. Leslie Watson, from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and an organizer of the conference, explained in her opening remarks how the meeting had been organized on less than 60 days notice.

The conference was sponsored by the National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East, a coalition formed out of a student and youth meeting that took place in December after a broader planning meeting for the January 26 demonstration in Washington, D.C.

The call for the February 21 actions and the main demands calling for an end to the war and bringing the troops home now were overwhelmingly and enthusiastically adopted by the conference.

The discussion and debate expressed the wide range of concerns held by students. They also reflected the conviction held by many that the struggle against war and the fights against racism, sexism, and pollution are interrelated. Varying political strategies and tactics were also discussed.

The demand calling for an end to all occupations in the Middle East was adopted over substantial opposition. A proposal to adopt the slogan "Victory to Iraq," put forward by a small group of participants, was overwhelmingly rejected.

A clear and united message

"It's to our credit that with our diversity of political views we were able to achieve a great consensus on our demands and a strong mandate for action," Pierre Barolet, a leader of the United States Student Association, said in an interview. "The clear and united mes-

sage of the conference is that we want this war to end."

Chris Nisan, a student activist from the University of Minnesota, said he, like other participants, "was very happy with the meeting. It was a good start. The demands offer a basic focus for students to organize."

"The most important thing is that we have the February 21 date," said Todd Lakin from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. Lakin said he was returning to his campus to get activities going right away and hoped to start up a group called Students for Peace.

Sanjay Advani, a junior at the Sidwell school, said the conference "had a lot to get done and it's understandable that there wasn't agreement on everything." But he felt very good about the near unanimity on the call for February 21 and said it offered "a real hope to educate" other students.

Kate Morris, an organizer of the conference held at the University of California at Berkeley, said that some 485 students from 25 campuses participated. The meeting was called the Western Regional Student Conference for Peace in the Middle East. Activists

U.S. bombing an 'annihilation of a people'

Continued from front page

was hit, when the planes came in the day-time."

During the first three days of the war, *Christian Science Monitor* reporter Lamis Andoni wrote, only a few civilian sites in Baghdad, with a population of 4.6 million, were hit. But by the fourth day, strikes against civilian targets increased.

"People spend all night in their bunkers," said a crew member from an Iraqi Airways plane that arrived in Jordan. "If they go out it is for 20 or 30 minutes to look for food."

Cable News Network correspondent Peter Arnett saw an infant formula factory in Baghdad that had been destroyed by the bombing.

The Baghdad conference center and several restaurants were destroyed. The central post office and a mosque were damaged.

All that remains of a 15- to 20-story telecommunications building was its metal frame, reported British Broadcasting Corp.'s Eammon Matthews. "All the floors have collapsed down to the first floor, like a pack of cards."

"It was very depressing to see the scale and the magnitude and the amount of explosives falling on the city," Brent Sadler of Britain's Independent Television News said.

"It was a great shock to me, and I have seen the Americans attacking Libya and many bombardments in Beirut. But this was something completely different. It was awesome and it was frightening."

'Like a moonscape'

Basra, Iraq's second-largest city, has been a prime target of U.S. B-52 bombers. Bombing was so heavy it severely jolted buildings in Khorramshahr, 25 miles away in Iran. The B-52's are carpet bombing alleged positions of Iraq's Republican Guard near the Iraq-Kuwait border.

B-52's are the biggest combat plane flying against the people of Iraq. The planes typically unleash all their bombs at once, from altitudes of six or seven miles. The bombs weigh up to 750 pounds. One plane can blast a swath up to a half mile wide and a mile long.

"You turn the target into something that looks like a moonscape," said Maj. Richard Cole, a former B-52 crew member.

There have also been B-52 attacks on the outskirts of Baghdad.

At least 23 houses in the town of Al Dour, 100 miles north of Baghdad, were "flattened as though shaken by an earthquake" said CNN's Arnett. Residents of the town told him that no bomb shelters had been built there because the town had no military installations and was not considered a likely target. They said 24 civilians died.

Mosul, in northern Iraq, and Ramadi, west of Baghdad, have also been bombed.

The *Washington Post* reported that the U.S. forces planned an air raid to kill President Hussein, but that it was canceled due to bad weather. Maj. Gen. Robert Johnston denied the report, but a senior Pentagon official com-

came from as far away as Missoula, Montana; Provo, Utah; Boulder, Colorado; and the state of Washington.

The West Coast meeting also adopted the demands of "Stop the war"; "Bring the troops home now"; and "Stop any legal or economic draft."

"The fact that February 21 protests were called by two conferences — one on the east coast and one on the West Coast — is very powerful and gives us a good place to begin," Morris said.

"This is the first time students have organized for coordinated actions on a national day to oppose this war and it's an important achievement," said Aaron Ruby, the national chairperson of the Young Socialist Alliance and a conference organizer. "The challenge now is to take the call for February 21 to high school and college campuses everywhere, to begin building the actions, and involve everyone opposed to the war."

The Washington, D.C., conference adopted a proposal to establish a steering committee that would meet regularly to coordinate activities.

The National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East is planning a January 31 press conference to publicize the February 21 protests.

Groups participating in the coalition include the Africana Cultural Student Center at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, African-American Youth for Education, Chicago Student and Youth Network for Peace in the Middle East, D.C. Area Students Against War in the Middle East, Democratic Socialists of America — Youth Section, and General Union of Palestinian Students.

Also participating are the League of Filipino Students, Palestinian Academic Freedom Network, Progressive Student Network, South African International Student Conference, Southern Christian Leadership Conference Youth, Student Government Association at Tuskegee Institute, 21st Century Youth Leadership Project, Young Communist League, Young Koreans United, and Young Socialist Alliance.

For more information call the National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East at (202) 462-1801.



Devastation from U.S. and allied bombing in Baghdad. There are hundreds and perhaps thousands of dead and wounded. "These things happen," said U.S. Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf.

mented, "We go after command and control targets, and if he happens to be there, great."

About a million Egyptians, Pakistanis, Palestinians, Jordanians, and others still live in Iraq and Kuwait. Many have tried to flee the fighting by heading for Jordan.

Allied warplanes have been bombing the 500-mile highway that links Jordan to Baghdad. This is the only route across the desert for those seeking to flee or those who are turned back at the border.

Egyptian refugees who successfully fled the fighting, interviewed at Transit Camp T1-28 in Jordan, had been critics of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and the invasion of Kuwait.

But after living through the bombing raids, many direct their anger at the United States government.

Masbah Said, an Egyptian at the camp, said, "They [the Iraqis] have been saying that anyone who delivers a captured pilot alive gets \$20,000. But, if I am in need of even \$1, if I could see such a man, I will drink his blood."

"They should punish one man — not a whole people," he added.

Jordanian and Palestinian refugees spoke of soft-drink cans exploding in the hands of Iraqi children.

The *Los Angeles Times* correspondent who reported this, cast doubt on the charge, implying these were slanders by "Pro-Hussein" refugees.

But reports on military tactics used to take out Iraqi airfields and roads tell another story.

Army Lt. Gen. Thomas Kelly, operations director for the Joint Staff, explained that "If you blow [up] a bridge or drop a bridge, they can repair that. So you've got to return a number of times."

To slow down repair work, British Tor-

nado warplanes, after releasing parachute-dropped bomblets that explode on impact, also release metal-piercing charges that land softly and are designed to detonate when repair crews approach.

A picture of these mines appeared in the *New York Times*. They resemble soft-drink cans with a holder.

Aside from immediate casualties from bombs, missiles, and shrapnel, the raids have cut off basic utilities. Running water and power has been cut off. Bottled water is running out. Bread and milk are scarce.

Chemical warfare?

As the U.S. government deepens its imperialist assault on the Iraqi people, Pentagon planners have stated that they are preparing to use "nonlethal" gases in the war.

"We think the commander should have the authority to use tear gas in search and rescue operations," Pentagon spokesman Peter Williams said. "This is not chemical warfare on the battlefield. It is basically tear gas."

The 1925 Geneva Protocol bans the use in war time of "asphyxiating, poisonous, or other gases and of all analogous liquids." In defiance of that accord, the U.S. has maintained that tear gas and other nonlethal agents are not part of the convention.

"To this point in time, we do not intend to use chemical weapons," Maj. Gen. Martin Brandtner said during a Pentagon briefing.

Interrupting Brandtner, Williams said, "We would never commit or not commit ourselves to any future use of any kind of force."

"If the Iraqis were to use chemical or biological weapons," he threatened, "the United States would respond in the strongest way."

Media war facts nearly nonexistent

BY PETER THIERJUNG

ABC-TV *Nightline* anchor Ted Koppel opened his January 23 broadcast with a self-congratulatory commentary on the press' first week of war coverage. "The media is bombarding you with so much material and doing it so quickly that minds must be boggling [and] eyes glazing," he said.

"And yet, what we really know is surprisingly little," Koppel admitted. "We are awash in assessments and impressions, analyses and projections, but scant hard information."

Hour after hour of TV broadcasts and pages of coverage in daily newspapers portray the "war" as the shooting down of Iraqi Scud missiles over Israel and Saudi Arabia.

For the most part, the only war casualties reported are Israelis injured in the missile attacks.

The impact of the real war of daily carpet bombing of Iraqi cities by U.S. and allied planes; the boarding and seizing of cargo ships in the region; cruise missile launchings at targets in Iraq; and other aspects of the bloody assault is at best a sideshow.

Reports on the thousands of refugees fleeing the attack, the extent of civilian and troop death toll in Iraq, and the deteriorating conditions of life in the country — as housing, roads, water, and food supplies are systematically pulverized by thousands of U.S. bombing raids — are nearly nonexistent.

The scantness of hard information that Koppel complained about is in part a result of Washington's censorship of the press. On January 9, just a few days before the U.S. assault on Iraq was unleashed, the Pentagon imposed the harshest restrictions on wartime reporting since World War II.

Pentagon censorship measures limit battlefield coverage to a designated pool of reporters that must be accompanied by military officials on restricted trips in combat zones.

News reports from the Gulf are reviewed and censored by the military prior to their release. Pentagon officials have, in at least one instance, interrupted the satellite transmission of an unapproved news report.

Civil liberties lawsuit filed

Nine liberal and radical U.S. publications, three novelists — William Styron, E.L. Doctorow, and Michael Klare — and New York *Newsday* columnist Sydney Schanberg filed a lawsuit in federal court January 10. The suit asks the court to grant an injunction against the restrictions on constitutional grounds.

The suit also challenges the military's limitations without justification, including reporters' access to bases and GIs. It also charges that the Pentagon has given preferential treatment to journalists who report favorably on the war and blacklists those who do not.

The *Nation*, *Harper's Magazine*, *In These Times*, *Pacific News Service*, the *Guardian*, the *Progressive*, *Mother Jones*, the *L.A. Weekly*, and the *Village Voice* are plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

The restrictions have also drawn some fire from the big-business media. Four television network presidents — ABC's Rooney Arledge, NBC's Michael Gartner, CBS' Eric Ober, and CNN's Tom Johnson — sent a letter protesting the restrictions to Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney. Benjamin Bradlee, executive editor of the *Washington Post*, and Henry Muller, the managing editor of *Time* magazine, also sent protest notes.

"There's no reason in American combat correspondence history for this to take place," Howell Raines, the Washington Bureau chief of the *New York Times*, said. "We must stiffen our spines and raise our voices." The bureau chief said he found the military escort particularly "offensive." Reports from Saudi Arabia printed in the *Times* are now accompanied by disclaimers letting readers know the article has been reviewed by military censors.

Despite their objections to the censorship,

the big-business press has, however, played a major role in attempting to drum up jingoism and war fever. Even the pretense of objectivity has been jettisoned.

During the first days of the U.S. bombing of Iraq, fantastic claims of accomplishments by U.S. forces were passed off as news. "Iraqi troop loss is put at 150,000," blared a headline on the San Jose, California, *Mercury-News*. CNN asserted that the Iraqi Republican Guard had been "decimated."

Networks broadcast that Iraq's missile-launching capabilities had been destroyed, and quoted officials like Congressman Robert Dornan, who claimed the war would be over in two days.

No facts were provided to back up these claims. Instead, TV viewers watched the drama of journalists in the Arab-Persian Gulf area donning gas masks, scurrying to bomb shelters, and one CNN reporter ducking under a desk at the sound of an explosion nearby.

False stories exposed

The euphoric stories of military successes, repeated across the country in all the major media, of course, proved false. Robert Ingle, executive editor of the *Mercury-News*, admitted that the report on Iraqi casualties was based on an "intelligence report we got from a Pentagon source."

Military officials "were creating an image in which everything was going spectacularly well" and to "make themselves look good," Ingle said. "In hindsight, common sense says, that's not the way war goes at all."

When CNN reporter Peter Arnett, the only major U.S. network newsmen in Baghdad, reported that a factory in Iraq destroyed by U.S. bombing was a baby-milk processing plant, the White House responded angrily. Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater asserted the plant was a biological weapons factory. "We must point out once again that any reports coming out of Baghdad are coming from the Iraqi government," Fitzwater said. According to *USA Today*, Arnett toured the plant in August, 1990.

In addition to its prowar coverage, the big-business press has dutifully kept "national security" interests at the top of its list. During one broadcast, ABC's Koppel interrupted a colleague's eyewitness report from Tel Aviv on the damage caused by Iraqi Scud missiles. Koppel insisted the reporter not disclose the location hit by the missile. The information Koppel sought to suppress was available, however, on CNN and from French and British television reports.

Bob Quigley: socialist, antiwar and union activist

BY KEN MORGAN

BALTIMORE, Maryland — A meeting to celebrate the life of Bob Quigley, a longtime member of the Socialist Workers Party, was held here December 15. Some 35 comrades, friends, and relatives attended the event. Quigley, 38-years-old, died of AIDS in late November.

Having moved to Baltimore in 1987, Quigley had been a packinghouse worker and member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union and later worked at a wire company organized by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union.

Edwin Fruit, a member of the International Association of Machinists and the Socialist Workers Party branch in Baltimore, reviewed Quigley's contribution to building the working-class movement and the SWP. Some 14 messages were also sent to the meeting from socialists who had worked with Quigley in several cities around the country.

Fruit explained that Quigley joined the Young Socialist Alliance during the upsurge in the fight for Black rights and against the U.S. government's war in Vietnam.

As a revolutionary youth organization, the YSA recognized that GIs are workers and farmers in uniform. "Bob, like other YSA members, knew they should be where the majority of young workers were and that important political work needed to be done among GIs," Fruit said.

When Quigley received his draft notice, "he did not resist but agreed to go. But Bob, like other YSA members, stated that he would not give up his constitutional rights as a citizen-soldier if drafted and would continue to speak out against the war inside the armed forces," Fruit said. "Bob was then not called up."

In 1973 Quigley moved to Brooklyn and subsequently joined the SWP. Two years later Quigley moved to Newark, New Jersey, to help establish a branch of the party there.

In the mid- and late-1970s, the party responded to the growing capitalist economic crisis and initial struggles of working people against employer assaults by deciding to get a big majority of its members and leadership into industry and the industrial unions. Quigley got a job on the railroad and became a member of the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks.

Moving to Louisville, Kentucky, in 1981, he became active in struggles to defend Black rights and push back racist attacks.

Gale Shangold, who worked with Quigley in the party branch there, sent a message to the meeting that described his role in these fights.

"Bob made a big contribution to this work," she wrote. "He enjoyed and was good at working with activists and organizations. He could explain to others the importance of these fights and how they could most effectively be built. He reported on these struggles for the *Militant* and at national gatherings of the party."

Other speakers at the event, and letters from those Quigley had worked with, noted his interest in Marxist education, both for himself and for young people new to the movement. He took a keen interest in the Pathfinder bookstore, and helped to professionalize the distribution of revolutionary literature in Baltimore.

Even though in bad health, Quigley participated in picket lines of striking Machinists at Eastern Airlines, sold the *Militant* at plant gates, and won support for framed-up union activist Mark Curtis.



Militant/Peggy Kreiner

Bob Quigley, a longtime member of the Socialist Workers Party, died in late November. He was active in union, Black rights, and anti-Vietnam war struggles.

He helped organize the Baltimore leg of the Pathfinder-sponsored tour of Cuban economist and author Carlos Tablada last spring. Speakers at the meeting said Quigley saw the tour as an important opportunity for workers, students, and others to learn the truth about the Cuban revolution and discuss the struggle for socialism.

Hundreds buy socialist literature at protests

BY STEVE WARSHALL

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "So Brother X says 'No blood for oil, too?'" commented a young Puerto Rican student. "I never thought of that."

She had come here from Rhode Island to the January 19 antiwar protest. Before leaving, she bought a copy of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People* and decided to take advantage of a special offer to get a subscription to the *Militant* and a copy of the *International Socialist Review* supplement featuring the article "Working-class campaign against imperialist war drive."

This student was one of more than 26 opponents of the U.S.-led war against Iraq who bought 12-week subscriptions to the paper here January 19 as part of a special offer that included a copy of the supplement and a choice of two newly published Pathfinder books.

Supporters of the *Militant* sold 516 single issues of the *Militant* and 256 copies of the *International Socialist Review*. Hundreds of dollars worth of Pathfinder books and pamphlets were sold, including more than 40 copies of *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*.

At the January 19 protest in San Francisco, participants bought 203 *Militants*, 86 copies of the *International Socialist Review*, and 14 *Militant* subscriptions. Three demonstrators subscribed to the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial* and 5 bought single copies. In addition, 22 protesters purchased copies of *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks*

Out at the United Nations and 15 bought copies of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*.

"I'm against the war and want to do something about it," said Andrell Johnson, a young Black woman who stopped at a Pathfinder literature table staffed by members of the Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party. "Really I'm here to listen and observe," Johnson said. She decided to get a copy of the *Militant* and she and her friends signed up for a class series sponsored by the YSA.

Militant supporters in Sydney, Australia, reported that, after selling out their weekly bundle of 60 papers earlier in the week, they took the *International Socialist Review* and copies of the *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* book to the January 19 demonstration held there. Participants bought 19 copies of the special supplement and 33 books.

Toba Singer from San Francisco and Lyn Scott from Sydney, Australia, contributed to this article.



Militant/Diana Cantú

More than 200 *Militants* were sold at January 19 antiwar protest in San Francisco

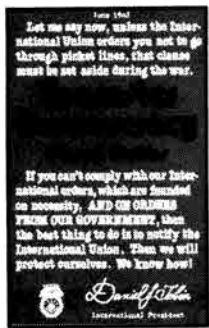
PATHFINDER

books for a
working-class campaign
against imperialism and
its war in the Middle East

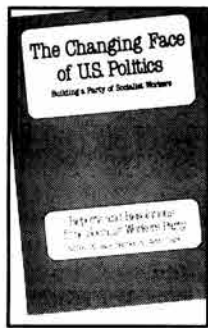
Pathfinder publishes a number of books and pamphlets that are invaluable weapons for working people and youth opposed to the imperialists' war in the Mideast. Below is a selection of titles documenting earlier opposition to imperialist war and assaults on the unions and democratic rights at home since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



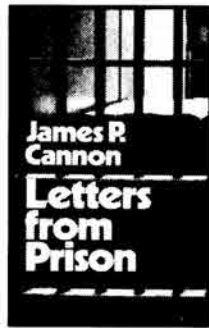
Out Now!
A participant's account of the movement in the U.S. against the Vietnam War, by Fred Halstead, 759 pp., \$29.95



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

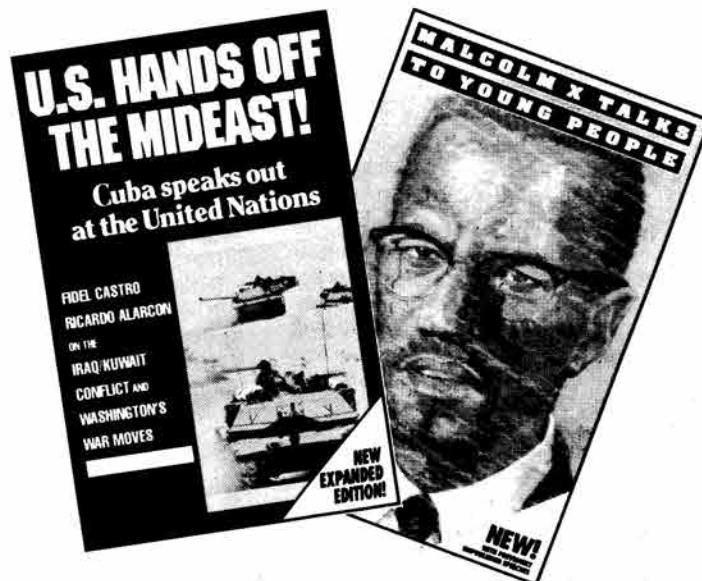


The Changing Face of U.S. Politics
The proletarian party and the trade unions, by Jack Barnes, 346 pp., \$18.95



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

BOOKS FOR WORKERS WHO WANT TO GET THE FACTS



\$9⁹⁵ each

Special discounts for bulk orders. See coupon below.

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 U.S.-led war.

Featured in the book are statements by Cuban Ambassador Ricardo Alarcón and President Fidel Castro that rebut the pretexts and arguments used by Washington to justify its unilateral acts of aggression. An introduction by Mary-Alice Waters outlines the stakes for working people in opposing the war. The book also contains a useful chronology of the U.S.-led war preparations since August 1990 and 10 UN resolutions adopted on the Gulf crisis.

Malcolm X Talks to Young People, just off the press, contains speeches and discussions by Malcolm X, most in print for the first time. In meetings with young people on three continents, he denounces U.S.-organized wars against struggles for national liberation in Vietnam and Africa: "The oppressed masses all over the world are crying out for action against the common oppressor."

Unionists, GIs, veterans, reservists, and other workers involved in struggles against the employers' offensive at home can use the facts and arguments contained in these books to arm themselves. They can help convince others to join in campaigning against the slaughter now being carried out by the same employers, through their government, in the Mideast.

Help distribute these books by getting extra copies to sell to coworkers and others.

OTHER TITLES FROM PATHFINDER . . .

U.S. POLITICS/LABOR

COINTELPRO: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom

Nelson Blackstock

The FBI's campaign of spying and disruption aimed at socialists and activists in the Black and antiwar movements. Includes FBI documents and an introduction by Noam Chomsky. 190 pp. \$14.95

Blacks in America's Wars

THE SHIFT IN ATTITUDES FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR TO VIETNAM

Robert Mullen

"Reveals many little-known facts about the role and treatment of the Black GIs" — *Publishers Weekly*. 96 pp., photos. \$7.95

CUBA

In Defense of Socialism

FOUR SPEECHES ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION
Fidel Castro

In these speeches from 1988-89, Fidel Castro argues that economic and social progress is possible without the dog-eat-dog competition of capitalism. Castro also discusses Cuba's role in Africa. 142 pp., photos. \$12.95

Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism

Carlos Tablada

Examines Guevara's contribution to building socialism, which sees the key to this process in growing political consciousness and control by working people. 286 pp., plus 16 pp. of photos. \$16.95 *

AFRICA

The Struggle Is My Life

Nelson Mandela

"My political beliefs have been explained . . . in my autobiography, *The Struggle Is My Life*" — Nelson Mandela, July 1989.

New edition includes four speeches following Mandela's release from prison in February 1990. 281 pp., plus 32 pp. of photos, includes 8 pp. of new photos. \$12.95

Nelson Mandela: Speeches 1990

'INTENSIFY THE STRUGGLE TO ABOLISH APARTHEID'

Seven speeches given following Mandela's release from prison in 1990, highlighting the new stage in the struggle against apartheid. 40,000 copies sold. 74 pp., photos. \$5 *

The Coming Revolution in South Africa

Jack Barnes

Discusses the struggle to overthrow the apartheid system and prospects for forging a socialist movement in South Africa. In *New International* 5, a special issue on southern Africa. 198 pp. \$9*

Thomas Sankara Speaks

THE BURKINA FASO REVOLUTION 1983-87

Speeches by the assassinated president of Burkina Faso tell the story of the revolution in that West African country. 260 pp., plus 32 pp. of photos. \$17.95

SOVIET UNION

The Revolution Betrayed

WHAT IS THE SOVIET UNION AND WHERE IS IT GOING?

Leon Trotsky

The classic study by a central leader of the early Soviet republic of its bureaucratic degeneration under Stalin. Describes the roots of the social and political crisis shaking the Soviet Union today. 314 pp. \$18.95

In Defense of Marxism

THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONTRADICTIONS OF THE SOVIET UNION

Leon Trotsky

The political events unfolding in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union today are put into historical perspective by these articles, written in 1939-40. 221 pp. \$17.95 *

CLASSICS OF SOCIALISM

The Communist Manifesto

Karl Marx, Frederick Engels

Introduction by Leon Trotsky. 48 pp. \$2.50 *

Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay

TRADE UNIONS: THEIR PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Leon Trotsky, Karl Marx

Two outstanding leaders of the revolutionary workers' movement discuss the tasks of trade unions and their relationship to workers' fight for economic justice and political power. 156 pp. \$13.95

The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State

Frederick Engels

Introduction by Evelyn Reed. 191 pp. \$13.95*

MALCOLM X

Malcolm X: The Last Speeches

Six never-before-published speeches and interviews from the last two years of Malcolm X's life. Also includes previously unpublished photos. 189 pp., plus 12 pp. of photos. \$15.95

Malcolm X Speaks

The classic collection of 14 speeches, statements, and interviews, now available in a new cloth edition that includes photos and an index. 233 pp., plus 8 pp. of photos. \$16.95

By Any Means Necessary

Malcolm X

Speeches and interviews spanning Malcolm X's last year. 184 pp. \$13.95

Malcolm X on Afro-American History

A new edition, with index. 93 pp., illustrations. \$7.95

The Assassination of Malcolm X

George Breitman, Herman Porter, and Baxter Smith

"Raise[s] the question of government involvement in the assassination" — *Booklist*. 190 pp., FBI documents, photos. \$13.95

*This title and many others by Pathfinder are available in Spanish. To get prices and a listing, visit your local Pathfinder bookstore (see page 12) or write to Pathfinder.

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TO GET OUT THE TRUTH

Please send: _____ copies of *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* _____ copies of the Spanish edition *¡EE. UU. fuera del Oriente Medio!* _____ copies of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*. Enclosed is \$ _____ for the book(s) plus \$ _____ shipping, total \$ _____. \$9.95 each. Bundles of 5 or more *prepaid*, 33% off (\$6.50 each). Bundles of 10 or more *prepaid*, 50% off (\$5 each). Shipping charges: \$2 for 1 - 4 books; \$3 for 5 - 9 books; \$5 for 10 or more.

Join the Pathfinder Readers Club at the bookstore nearest you. For a \$10 annual membership fee (in the United States), receive a 15% discount on all Pathfinder books. Similar fees and discounts apply at Pathfinder bookstores around the world.

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Get a membership card at a Pathfinder bookstore listed on page 12 or mail \$10 to Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. For orders of books listed on this page please add \$1 per book for shipping and handling.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

War and Attacks on Democratic Rights. Speaker: Nelson Blackstock, author, *Cointelpro: The FBI's Secret War on Political Freedom*. Sat., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

Oakland

Celebrate Black History Month — Oppose the War in the Mideast. Celebrate the publication of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*, newly released by Pathfinder. Speaker: Eva Braiman, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m. 3702 Telegraph Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (415) 420-1165.

The Attacks on Democratic Rights Today: A Panel Discussion. Sat., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. 3702 Telegraph Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (415) 420-1165.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Blacks in America's Wars. Sat., Feb. 9, 7 p.m. 545 W Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Canada at War: Its Forces Sent to the Arab-Persian Gulf; Workers and Native Peoples under Attack. Speaker: Carol Montpeltier, Communist League of Canada. Translation to Spanish, French. Sat., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

Blacks in America's Wars. Panel discussion. Sat., Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MINNESOTA

Austin

Youth Speak Out against the War. Report from participants in the January 26 antiwar march in Washington, D.C. Speakers: Evan Roberts, Young Socialist Alliance; Jesús Hermosillo, student, John Marshall High School, Rochester; Josie Beach, student, Austin High School. Sat., Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m. 407½ N Main St. Donation: \$2.50; \$1 for students. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (507) 433-3461.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Blacks in America's Wars. Panel Discussion. Sat., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (314) 361-0250.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

Malcolm X: The Fight against Imperialist War is Part of the Fight for Black Rights. Speakers: Rowena Moore, president, Malcolm X Foundation; Alonzo Smith, Rainbow Coalition; Kristin Long, director, Youth for Peace; Joan Paltrineri, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 2, 7 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (402) 553-0245.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Grand Reopening of the Pathfinder Bookstore: Malcolm X and the Fight against Imperialist War. Speakers: Burnet Moise, Young Socialist Alliance; Yvonne Hayes, Socialist

Workers Party; others. Translation to Spanish, French. Sat., Feb. 9. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m.; party to follow. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$7, \$3 program only. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Malcolm X and the Fight Against Imperialist War. Speakers: Derrick Bracey, National Executive Committee, Young Socialist Alliance; representative, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$4. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

BRITAIN

London

Working-class Campaign against Imperialist War Drive. Panel discussion. Sat., Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 71-401-2409.

Manchester

The Korean War and the Struggle for Korean Reunification. Fri., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 061-839 1766.

CANADA

Montréal

National Oppression in Canada and the Middle East War. Sat., Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m. Speaker: Michel Dugré, Communist League Central Committee,

member United Steelworkers. Sat., Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m. 6566, boul. St-Laurent. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

Vancouver

Why Are Canadian Troops in the Middle East? Stop the Bombing! Troops Out Now! Speaker: Nancy Walker, Communist League candidate in British Columbia. Sat., Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

ICELAND

Reykjavík

No Support to the War in the Gulf. Speaker: Steve Penner, executive secretary, Communist League of Canada. Sat., Feb. 9, 4:00 p.m. Klappartstígur 26, 2nd floor. Tel: (91) 17513.

Unionists in three cities top some goals

BY RONI McCANN

Members of 10 industrial trade unions are waging a campaign to get the truth out about the imperialist war against Iraq. At workplaces, factory gates, mine portals, military bases, and in the community, socialist workers are selling subscriptions to the *Militant*, copies of the December *International Socialist Review* supplement, and two Pathfinder books: *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations and *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*.

In the fourth week of the sales effort that began January 1, members of three unions — International Association of Machinists, International Union of Electronic Workers, and United Auto Workers — already topped their *International Socialist Review* goals! The aim is to sell 1,181 *International Socialist Reviews* and 1,404 *Militant* subscriptions and Mideast books by March 1.

Achievements of the Week

Members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) moved up to second place on the scoreboard this week and won two new readers: a miner in Birmingham, Alabama, and a worker in a mine-related production plant in Helper, Utah. UMWA Local 1190 member Tony Dutrow tells more:

"The blitzkrieg against Iraq bolted through our break room at Jennmar Corp., in Helper, last week touching off a nonstop discussion on the war. The war came just a few days after the company laid off 30 percent of the workforce — a bombshell in itself in a plant of only 30 workers," he writes.

"Like the war, we knew the layoffs were coming. First break, lunch break, and last break we talked about the war and its implications for our fight even though not all workers saw a connection. A worker from Mexico said the debates reminded him of the debates that we had during the union organizing drive."

At the Plant Gate

A United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) member in Omaha wrote in to report on a plant gate sale at the Beef America slaughterhouse. Two meat-packers picked up a copy of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Just off the Fax

Mike Shur from Phoenix writes: "Militant supporters here sold 11 *International Socialist Reviews* on the job, a subscription, and a

U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! book. One United Steelworkers of America (USWA) member bought one of each at the January 26 protest against the war."

Gary Boyers writes: "The Detroit members of the UFCW have met or surpassed our goals for the *International Socialist Review* and subscriptions, and will now be pushing to meet our target of *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* books."

From our Mailbag

Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union member Marty Pettit posted this report: "At Joseph & Feiss garment shop in Cleveland, supporters of our campaign have sold four subscriptions, four copies of *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!*, and eight *International Socialist Reviews*."

SCOREBOARD				
Union	Total %Sold	Militant* Sold (Goal)	Mideast Book Sold (Goal)	ISR Sold (Goal)
IUE	85%	4 (23)	32 (41)	80 (72)
UMWA	60%	2 (22)	14 (28)	41 (45)
UAW	60%	11 (75)	37 (75)	101 (100)
IAM	54%	23 (170)	48 (170)	235 (225)
ACTWU	47%	6 (38)	14 (41)	49 (67)
UTU	47%	13 (77)	40 (105)	93 (127)
USWA	43%	2 (90)	45 (77)	99 (171)
ILGWU	41%	5 (22)	18 (45)	29 (61)
OCAW	33%	7 (50)	43 (100)	50 (150)
UFCW	32%	10 (85)	12 (70)	79 (163)
Total	48%	83 (652)	303 (752)	856 (1181)
Should be	61%	290	334	945

Unions listed are ACTWU, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; IAM, International Association of Machinists; ILGWU, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; IUE, International Union of Electronic Workers; OCAW, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; UAW, United Auto Workers; UFCW, United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA, United Mine Workers of America; USWA, United Steelworkers of America; and UTU, United Transportation Union.
*Also includes subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* and *L'Internationale*.

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find Pathfinder books and distributors of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *New International*, *Nouvelle Internationale*, and *Lutte ouvrière*.

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA: Birmingham: 111 21st St. South. Zip: 35233. Tel: (205) 323-3079, 328-3314.

ARIZONA: Phoenix: 1809 W. Indian School Rd. Zip: 85015. Tel: (602) 279-5850.

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 2546 W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460. **Oakland:** 3702 Telegraph Ave. Zip: 94609. Tel: (415) 420-1165. **San Francisco:** 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

CONNECTICUT: New Haven: Mailing address: P.O. Box 16751, Baybrook Station, West Haven. Zip: 06516.

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MARYLAND: Baltimore: 2913 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

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

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

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

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

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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., Sheffield S3 8GW. Tel: 0742-729469.

CANADA

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Toronto: 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400. Postal code: M5V 1S8. Tel: (416) 861-1399.

Vancouver: 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Postal code: V5V 3C7. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

ICELAND

Reykjavík: Klappartstíg 26. Mailing address: P. Box 233, 121 Reykjavík. Tel: (91) 17513.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: 157a Symonds St. Postal Address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 793-075.

Christchurch: 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 656-055.

Wellington: 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Postal address: P.O. Box 9092. Tel: (4) 844-205.

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Vikingagatan 10. Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

The peaceseekers — Two weeks before the opening of the war, the Pentagon shipped 21,000 Purple Hearts (awarded to wounded GIs)



Harry Ring

and other military awards to the Gulf.

One for our side — In heavily Catholic Corpus Christi, Texas, voters defeated an antiabortion amendment to the city charter by 62% to 38%. A principal backer of the anti-rights proposition was Bishop René

Graciada. His previous scorecard includes excommunicating two abortion clinic employees and a doctor who performs abortions.

One more for our side — The Los Angeles board of education joined the Oakland board in ending its practice of selling military recruiters the names, addresses, and phone numbers of high school students. John Gúzman, student representative to the L.A. board, said that for the past two years he has been barraged with mail from the military enclosed in envelopes bearing such exhortations as, "\$40,000 Scholarship. Open Immediately."

Taking no chances — BBC Radio advised its stations not to play such hit tunes as John Lennon's "Give Peace a Chance."

The Golden Years — Partially paralyzed and living on a government pittance, William Hart, 70, rolled his wheelchair into a San Diego bank and allegedly successfully extracted from a teller the \$70 he needed for a prescription. Captured at a nearby drug store, he faces a possible 20 years and a \$250,000 fine.

Like, "It's alright, we're trading blood for oil" — Presidential spouse Barbara Bush advises parents to monitor their children's viewing of Gulf war footage and make sure they are "understanding what they're seeing so they're not getting terrible nightmares."

Takes a junk mind to create junk mail — As the outbreak of the war neared, junk mail exec Katie

Muldoon advised clients to delay their mailings because in such times people watch TV and don't read their mail. However, she added, marketers would have to put off their mailings for only two to four weeks "because the American people don't have too much of an attention span."

Sober second thought? — California Gov. Peter Wilson said he meant no offense when he said his proposed 9% cut in Aid to Dependent Children would merely mean that impoverished mothers would have less "for a six-pack of beer."

How about a volunteer governor? — The California gov also conceded that his proposed cuts in the education budget would mean schools would be unable to hire the

teachers they need. He suggested the slack could be taken up by enlisting volunteers.

They steal bases — Los Angeles County deputy sheriffs are dispensing baseball-type trading cards sporting pictures of themselves. The captain who dreamed up the idea hopes the cards will lead youngsters "to realize we're not the enemy."

Thought for the week — "Despite Americans' sense of seeing the Persian Gulf War being waged live on the television, journalists concede that much — perhaps most — of the war is not only unseen but unreported. And major questions remain unanswered." — Los Angeles Times.

'Militant' 1990 bound volume to include index

BY YVONNE HAYES

For the first time in its 62-year history, the *Militant* will be including an index in its yearly bound volume.

The 1990 bound volume is a hardback collection of the 49 issues of the *Militant* published last year. It is a valuable resource for working-class fighters and their organizations, branches of the Socialist Workers Party, communist groups around the world, libraries, and other institutions.

The index, available to all readers for \$1.50, cross-references more than 1,500 articles, speeches, and interviews according to author, country, and subject.

The material in the newsweekly will be more accessible to our readers as they campaign against the U.S. imperialist war against Iraq and join the battles of working people against the employers' war at home.

Priced at \$100 the *Militant* is offering the 1990 bound volume at a 20 percent discount of \$80 through March 15. Last year the newsweekly traced the acceleration of the U.S.-led drive to war in the Middle East, providing its readers with the facts of the

imperialist war preparations, and promoting debate and discussion among working people on the war. The paper regularly included chronologies of the moves by the United States and its allies as an easy reference for opponents of the war drive.

The *Militant* was the only place that unionists, GIs, farmers, and youth could find the record of Cuba's fight in the United Nations against this war drive. In addition to the texts of several UN resolutions — including one adopted November 29 authorizing a U.S.-led war against Iraq — the paper printed speeches by Cuba's representatives in the Security Council.

In December, a special *International Socialist Review* supplement featured two articles by Socialist Workers Party leader Jack Barnes — "Working-class campaign against imperialist war drive" and "War and the communist movement." The supplement also includes the facts on backing that Washington has received from its allies, and the impact of the war preparations on immigrant workers in the Arab-Persian Gulf region. The bound volume will help working-class fighters and

youth put their hands on this information as they organize a fight against the war.

The *Militant* champions the struggles of working people against the employers' offensive at home as well. Together, the 1989 and 1990 bound volumes of the paper are the most comprehensive record available of the battle by members of the International Association of Machinists against Eastern Airlines. Nearly 125 entries on this strike can be found under the Machinists union heading in the 1990 index.

In addition, there are numerous articles on the labor movement in Britain, Canada, Cuba, Nicaragua, and South Africa.

In February 1990 the paper celebrated, along with millions of people around the world, the release of African National Con-

gress leader Nelson Mandela, and published many of his speeches as well as interviews with other ANC leaders. A team flew to Zambia and South Africa in March to bring our readers firsthand reports on the struggle to topple the racist regime. The breadth of the team's coverage is reflected under the South Africa listing in the country section of the new index, which has subcategories such as the "Bantustans," "Workers Struggles," "Youth," and "African National Congress — Documents."

Workers' and farmers' government

Before closing in December 1990, the Managua bureau of the *Militant* prepared numerous articles explaining the conquests of the Nicaraguan revolution and the reasons behind the revolution's defeat. These articles are listed in a large section of the index and subdivided into categories such as the "Atlantic Coast," "Peasants and Land Tenure," "Contras and Disarmament," and "Elections 1990."

Supporters of the fight for freedom for jailed unionist and political activist Mark Curtis will find the 1990 bound volume of the *Militant* very useful. The index provides an easy reference for documents in Curtis' appeal of his 1988 conviction on frame-up charges, the fight to bring his case before the United Nations, and the challenge to his defense committee by the courts and the cops.

The preparation of the index was made possible through the efforts of a number of volunteers — including Suzanne Weiss, who took on the challenge of entering information on each of the articles on computer.

Subscribers will receive the 1990 index in the mail. Others can order copies for \$1.50. Orders for bound volumes or the index can be sent to the *Militant*, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Bound volumes of previous years are also available from the address above.



Militant/Janet Post
'Militant' salesperson in New York

Washington, D.C., Eastern strikers discuss gains, U.S. war in Mideast

BY SUSIE WINSTEN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — After more than 22 months on the picket line, International Association of Machinists (IAM) members on strike at Eastern Airlines at Washington National Airport took time out from celebrating the final demise of Eastern Airlines January 18 to discuss their opinions of the U.S.-led war against the Iraqi people. Eastern closing its doors registered the victory that strikers had already won against management's attempt to bust the unions at the carrier.

"I don't think we should be there," Forrest, one striking worker, said. "Bush says it's not about oil, but I don't believe him. They say they're not killing innocent civilians but when you drop bombs, you're going to kill a lot of people."

Forrest took time out from picking up his groceries at the weekly strike food bank to discuss the war. He explained that the experience of the strike has affected his opinion of the war because he has learned more about the way the government and U.S. President George Bush act at home and abroad. "Bush is misleading the American people," he explained.

One of a half dozen strikers who currently subscribe to the *Militant* newspaper, Forrest said that reading the socialist paper had helped him understand why the troops should be brought home.

Another *Militant* subscriber, Jack, has a very different opinion. "I just don't agree with the *Militant* on this. This war is to stop the aggression of Saddam Hussein," he said.

Ed thinks the war is not about Kuwait, but the control of oil. "We should have waited," he said about the bombing. But now that it has begun, "we have to support the troops," he explained.

Bill agreed with Ed, but he also added, "right now most people support the war, but when ground combat begins and people see the destruction, there will be widespread opposition."

While staffing the food bank which he coordinates, Willie expressed an opposite view. When asked why the U.S. government was waging war, he rubbed his thumb against his first two fingers in the sign for money. "This war is over money and power," Willie said. "All the money used in the war effort could be used here at home. We should bring the troops home because a lot of people are going to die." Willie was one of three strikers who bought a copy of the *International Socialist Review* supplement in order to learn more about the reasons for the war and what it will take to stop it.

Later that night, twenty-five strikers crowded the picket line at National Airport on a moment's notice when it was confirmed that Eastern Airlines would shut down. The mood was happy about Eastern's demise and the strikers were boisterous. They shouted "scab" at the pilots and flight attendants who had crossed the picket line before their unions decided to end their backing of the Machinists strike over a year ago. One striker, Tony, was trying to figure out what he would say if a reporter asked what had been won by the strike. Upset that the strikers would not win their jobs back, he nevertheless concluded he would say, "we proved that the company couldn't make it without the unions."

Earlier Tony had been quite heated in his defense of troops in the Mideast. But when asked whether he was prowar, he just as emphatically said no. But he thought, like some other strikers, that once the war had started the troops had to be supported.

Another striker on the picket line named Joe had indicated strongly in December that the next picket line he would be on was one against a U.S. war in the Mideast. When asked if he still felt that way now that the shooting had started, Joe said, "I'll still be there."

Susie Winsten is a member of IAM Local 796 formerly on strike against Eastern Airlines.

— 10 AND 25 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Feb. 6, 1981

Since the coming to power of the government of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in May 1979, there has been a stepping up of the offensive against Black people in Britain.

Thatcher's election was accompanied by racist demagoguery about Britain being "swamped" by an "alien culture." Since the elections, the government has doubled the level of deportations. Right now, it is attempting to deport thousands of Filipino domestic workers.

These workers, who have performed some of the most menial and low-paid jobs in Britain, are being charged with not declaring they had children when they entered the country.

The fact that they were not required to do so at the time, in addition to the hardship that their deportations would bring, has carried no weight with the racist authorities.

Raids on factories and other workplaces are being stepped up. On any one day, up to 200 people are being held in detention centers. Police harassment is increasing.

The case of the Filipino workers is being taken up in several unions. Five hundred Filipinos and their supporters marched and rallied in London on November 23 for amnesty and no deportations.

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Feb. 7, 1966

Price 10c

"More men, more planes, more ships, more money, more war matériel, more wounded, more dead," the *New York Times* stated editorially in the morning's paper, "— these are the unmentioned but probable sequels to the resumption of the bombing of Vietnam... President Johnson argued that 'if continued immunity' were given to the north Vietnamese, 'the cost in lives — Vietnamese, Americans and allied — will be greatly increased.'"

"But if 100,000 or even 500,000 more American troops are sent to Vietnam, as is predicted," the *Times* editorial continued, "many more lives are surely going to be lost. What was a morass is becoming a bottomless pit."

Eastern strikers' victories

Working people can join in celebrating and saluting the victories in the 22-month strike against Eastern Airlines registered when the carrier was forced to shut its doors January 18.

The rank-and-file fighters of the International Association of Machinists did what the employers, the big business media, the federal government, and others said was impossible: they broke the union-busting drive by Eastern management and made sure the airline would remain unprofitable as long as it attempted to run nonunion.

Like tens of millions of other working people, Eastern workers were the target of a concerted employer assault aimed at driving down their standard of living, reducing safety on the job, cutting back on union control of working conditions, and speedup.

When the Machinists said "enough" and walked out on March 4, 1989, their strike inspired working people across the country. Moreover, their fight won backing from unionists around the world who also saw the fight as their own.

Despite the attempts by the union officialdom to divert the fight into the courts, halls of Congress, or buyout speculation, the rank-and-file strikers kept pressing ahead on the battle: keeping picket lines up, reaching out to other strikes and struggles that developed, and holding rallies and other actions.

They turned Texas Air chief Frank Lorenzo from a darling

of Wall Street into a pariah in U.S. ruling circles. The wide working-class support kept passengers off the planes and Eastern hemorrhaging financially throughout the nearly two-year battle.

When Lorenzo was finally forced out of Eastern, the government was compelled to directly intervene in the strike in an attempt to hold the airline together long enough to prevent a fire sale. The government has tried to remain a behind-the-scenes backer in this and other assaults by the employers. The accomplishments of the strike helped remove this fig leaf and reveal the government's real role as a strikebreaker in concert with the employers.

Taking place outside of conditions of generalized resistance or an offensive by the labor movement, the strike accomplished what the relationship of forces between the employers and the working class today would allow. This is its great victory.

Working people resisting the employers' offensive at home and its war abroad can draw lessons and inspiration from the accomplishments of the fighting Machinists and their supporters here and internationally. Through battles such as these, and many more ahead, the unions can be transformed into the fighting instruments the working class needs to advance its struggles against the employers and the bosses' government.

Support Feb. 21 antiwar actions

The call for an international day of antiwar actions on February 21 by the National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East should be welcomed and responded to by students, workers, GIs, and all those opposed to Washington's imperialist war in the Arab-Persian Gulf.

These actions can build on the successes of the international protests that took place between January 15-26, especially the 125,000-strong January 26 march in Washington, D.C. The call is an important initiative in building opposition in the streets to the U.S.-led imperialist war of conquest in the Mideast.

As the U.S. government and its allies continue their criminal bombing of Iraq and Kuwait, the fact that Washington has begun a prolonged war that will widen and can approach the scale of a third world war becomes clearer to millions. The U.S. rulers are preparing for the next stage in their assault on the people of Iraq and the Arab peoples as a whole — a bloody ground war that will result in tens of thousands of casualties among soldiers and civilians on all sides.

These facts make clear the urgent need for all opponents of Washington's war to reach out broadly and expose the true nature of the horror that imperialism has unleashed on the world. Opponents of this war need to reach out to unions, workplaces, workers and farmers in uniform, and college and high school campuses with a clear explanation of the conflict in the Gulf and why it should be opposed.

With the onset of the war — as in earlier imperialist

Wars — Washington, London, Paris, and Ottawa are able to at least temporarily win wide support for, or acceptance of, prosecution of the conflict. Many, confused by the government's staggering barrage of prowar propaganda, are taken in by the rulers' lie that the war is to defend Kuwait's sovereignty or protect Saudi Arabia.

Fighting workers can explain that Washington aims to attempt to reestablish imperial domination over the resources and peoples in the region, and that the only people who stand to benefit from the war are the tiny handful of billionaire ruling families.

Protests, rallies, and demonstrations are essential components of building opposition to imperialism and its war. They provide a focal point for the discussions and debates that help to clarify the questions and disagreements. They help opponents of the war to continually reach out to broader layers of the population. And they help to keep open the political space that working people need to be politically active. As the war continues, the ruling class will attempt to shut down this political space and cut back on democratic rights — claiming that this hurts the war effort. Actions such as these help to maintain the ability to discuss, to exchange ideas, to speak out, and to protest.

Holding actions on February 21, the day of Malcolm X's assassination, is appropriate and will aid builders of these actions in carrying out this work. Reading and studying Malcolm X can provide an understanding of imperialism and its wars, against which Malcolm campaigned in the early 1960s.

Labor should oppose city cuts

The massive budget cuts being carried out in cities throughout the United States will be a disaster for working people, bringing more joblessness, homelessness, and a further lowering of living standards. Such draconian measures, aimed at making working people carry the burden of the capitalist economic crisis, should be met with protests from the labor movement. Unfortunately, the opposite has happened.

On January 25, delegates of the United Federation of Teachers voted to defer, over the next four years, part of teachers' salaries for this year as a concession to New York Mayor David Dinkins.

Under the guise of "saving jobs," the labor officialdom of the teachers' union; the Teamsters, which represents some 12,000 city workers; and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees have collaborated with the city administration to impose concessions to "benefit" the city's budget. These agreements follow in the footsteps of other concession contracts in basic industry, like the one negotiated last year between the auto workers' union and General Motors.

The labor officialdom operates completely within the framework of capitalist politics. They claim that cuts in social services and contract concessions are necessary. And they present the fake strategy of "job security" for a very limited layer in the work force — a course that means the

big majority of working people are left out in the cold.

Working people can chart a different course. This begins with rejecting the notion that the working class should pay for the crisis of the bosses' system by agreeing to a drop in wages and benefits in order to bring city budgets back to fiscal health.

The labor movement should champion the needs of all workers by demanding the workweek be cut to 30 hours with 40 hours pay. A shortened workweek would open up jobs for millions.

Labor can also champion a fight for a public works program to correct the ever-worsening conditions in both urban and rural areas across the country. Schools, hospitals, streets, highways, and bridges are crumbling and need repair or rebuilding. Tens of thousands need adequate housing. Such a massive public works program would create millions of productive jobs.

As shown in the strikes and skirmishes by working people — coal miners, steelworkers, catfish processors, and others — there is resistance to the employers' union-busting and concession demands. Through combining this resistance against the offensive at home with building opposition to the brutal U.S. imperialist war against the Iraqi people, the reactionary policies of Wall Street and Washington can be pushed back.

Malcolm X on the struggle in the Congo

BY DOUG JENNESS

The release of a new book with previously unpublished speeches by Malcolm X deserves celebration and a serious promotional campaign.

The *Militant* has joined the effort to help publicize *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*. In our January 25 issue, we ran excerpts from one of the selections in the book. We will continue this month — Black History Month — with ads for special offers, articles, and a feature review.

In many cities around the country, the Militant Labor Forum is holding public meetings in February to discuss the significance of this book and Malcolm X's political legacy. Reading, studying, and discussing this new volume of speeches from 1964 and 1965, shortly before Malcolm's

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

assassination, will deepen understanding of imperialism and its wars. The revolutionary leader's denunciation of U.S. military involvement in Africa and in Vietnam, which features prominently in these speeches, is especially timely as Washington escalates its slaughter in Iraq.

I will focus on just one question dealt with by Malcolm in the four speeches and one interview that make up this volume. This is his effort to expose Washington's criminal intervention in the Congo (now called Zaire).

After a hard-fought struggle, liberation fighters in the Congo had won independence from Belgium in June 1960. Patrice Lumumba, the foremost independence leader, was elected prime minister of the new republic.

Belgian and U.S. capitalists, however, weren't about to let a new government that they couldn't dominate keep the reins of power. They immediately began organizing military operations to destabilize the new regime. Soon, they succeeded in separating the mineral-rich province of Katanga and imposing a puppet regime there headed by Moïse Tshombe.

Lumumba asked for United Nations help. But the United Nations favored restoring a pro-imperialist regime and its troops stood by while the Belgian government built up a massive military force in Katanga. The UN forces, with Washington's blessing, then gave their backing to an anti-Lumumba faction in the Congo which removed Lumumba from office in September 1960. He was seized on December 1 and imprisoned in Léopoldville. Six weeks later he was turned over to Tshombe's forces and shipped to Katanga. UN troops watched as he was dragged off the plane in Katanga and beaten. He was soon murdered.

Over the next several years the Congo government, backed by UN forces and Washington, waged a war to retake Katanga. This, more than anything, reflected a conflict over whether Belgian or U.S. imperialist interests would dominate the Congo.

By 1963 the UN-backed forces had gained virtual control over Katanga and Tshombe went into exile. But a large part of the Congolese people remained strong Lumumbists and continued to wage a guerrilla struggle against imperialist domination.

In an agreement between Brussels and Washington, UN forces were pulled out in June 1964. Tshombe was brought back as the "savior" of Congolese independence to crush the liberation struggle.

Malcolm X addressed the Congo struggle in a Feb. 11, 1965, speech at the London School of Economics, printed for the first time in *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*. He explained, "They take this man Tshombe — I guess he's a man — and try and make him acceptable to the public by using the press to refer to him as the only one who can unite the Congo. Imagine, a murderer — not an ordinary murderer, a murderer of a prime minister, the murderer of the rightful prime minister of the Congo — and yet they want to force him upon the people of the Congo, through Western manipulation and Western pressures."

Washington generously supplied Tshombe's mercenaries with money, counterinsurgency experts, and warplanes, including B-26 bombers and T-28's. Right-wing Cuban exiles participated in the operation.

Malcolm condemned the bombing attacks on Congolese villages, as well as the press treatment of this savagery. "All the press had to do was use that shrewd propaganda word that these villages were in 'rebel-held' territory," he pointed out. "'Rebel-held,' what does that mean? That's an enemy, so anything they do to those people is all right. . . . And the progressives, the liberals don't even make any outcry. They sit twiddling their thumbs, as if they were captivated by this press imagery that has been mastered here in the West also."

More than 25 years later, Malcolm's apt description could well apply to the media's cold indifference to the slaughter of the Iraqi people.

The stakes in the revolutionary struggle in the Congo were also explained by Malcolm. Not only is the Congo a source of mineral wealth for the imperialist powers, a truly independent government in the Congo, he said, would dramatically change the relationship of forces against the Portuguese colonialists in Angola and Mozambique, the white-settler regime in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), and South Africa.

Auto workers discuss union stand on Gulf war

BY JOHN SARGE

DETROIT — Discussions about the U.S.-led war in the Middle East have been taking place in a number of United Auto Workers locals here.

Literature for antiwar actions, such as the one held January 26 in Washington, D.C., has been circulated among UAW members. Some union officials have invited representatives of antiwar action coalitions to union meetings. Following a discussion in one meeting, the local voted to remove an anti-Arab caricature of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein from the union office in the plant.

Also being discussed is a large advertisement printed in the January 10 *Washington Post*. The ad stated the position of nine top labor officials on the war drive prior

UNION TALK

to the beginning of the massive U.S. bombing of Iraq and Kuwait.

The ad was an open letter to President Bush, signed by nine presidents of international unions: Morton Bahr, Communications Workers of America; Owen Bieber, United Auto Workers; William Bywater, International Union of Electronic Workers; Keith Geiger, National Education Association; James Herman, International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union; George Kourpias, International Association of Machinists; Joseph Misbrenner, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union; Jack Sheinkman, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; and John Sweeney, Service Employees' International Union.

The title of the ad was "Let the Sanctions Work."

Working people make up a high percentage of U.S. military forces and reserves, the letter said. It expressed concern about the prospect of war and a permanent U.S. military presence in the Arab-Persian Gulf. Denouncing the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the letter called on the U.S. government to continue the sanctions against Iraq. "We emphatically oppose the initiation of offensive military action by the United States at this time," it said.

Many saw the open letter as a step in the right direction by the labor officials. For years during the Vietnam War, virtually the entire union officialdom in the United States gave complete backing to U.S. government policy and urged rank-and-file unionists to do the same. Only in the latter years of that war, after the rise of a massive antiwar movement combined with the fight for Black rights, did top officials begin to speak out against the war.

The *Washington Post* ad sparked a discussion in some local unions, including my own. Due to a temporary layoff I did not attend our union meeting, but a coworker said that the executive board voted to endorse the statement and then urged the membership to do the same. After a discussion, the local — representing some 5,000 Ford workers — did just that.

Those who voted to endorse the letter saw it as an action to oppose the government's march to war. The fact that top union officials would publicly differ with the Bush administration's policy on Iraq helped to legitimize discussion and debate on Washington's war aims, including on why all U.S. and foreign troops should be withdrawn from the Mideast.

However, the sanctions that these nine union presidents painted as a road toward peace were in reality an act of war

and remain so today. They were imposed as a method of forcing the Iraqi people to submit to the dictates of U.S. imperialism, which is the essence of the phrase "let the sanctions work."

Sanctions against Iraq were not a step toward peace, but the first brutal stage of the war — imposed not by international agreement but by warships, commandos, fighter planes, and threats. The first victims of this stage of the U.S. war in the Gulf were the young, elderly, and sick who died because of lack of food and medicine.

Moreover, the sanctions played an important role in preparing public opinion for the bombing, and the coming ground war against the Iraqi people. This war will result in the death of tens if not hundreds of thousands of workers and farmers in uniform and civilians from both sides. Washington and its allies are not in the Gulf to free Kuwait but to reassert imperialist domination in the region.

Such a victory for U.S. imperialism could only be won through massive death and destruction. It would put wind in the sails of the bosses here at home, strengthening their hands as they move to further divide working people, drive down our standard of living, and bust our unions.

Working people have no interest in seeing any of these goals achieved. Unionists who are opponents of the U.S. war should use every opportunity to help clarify the important issues involved. We should work toward winning coworkers and our unions to the fight to demand the U.S. government stop the bombing, end the war, and bring the troops home now.

John Sarge is a member of United Auto Workers Local 900 and an activist in the Detroit Committee for a Peaceful Resolution to the Gulf Crisis.

LETTERS

Censorship

The administration here where I'm incarcerated has guidelines for receiving papers from the outside. They're trying to isolate us from politics dealing with the working-class people and the movement against the U.S. imperialists' moves on the Iraqi people.

They also want to censor the news media so they can edit, splice, and cover up the atrocities that the soldier-cops in Washington are really committing against the working class. The GIs have people here at home and I'm quite sure they want to hear the truth about this imperialist war.

A prisoner
Crescent City, California

Can't imagine

Enclosed is a check for a one-year renewal. I can't imagine my subscription running out at a time like this.

R.S.
Maywood, Illinois

Farm crisis

Four farmers, as well as auto workers and meat-packers, attended a recent Militant Labor Forum in Austin, Minnesota on the crisis facing working farmers.

"It's getting so it's becoming too expensive for farmers to even plant," said Don Gooden, a farmer who belongs to Minnesota Community Organizations Acting Together.

Jerry Nash, a member of the Iowa National Farmers Union, said he thought that "part of driving farmers off the land is a way to force them into factories in order to drive down wages."

Terry Cunningham, of the Land Stewardship Project, said he wished "farmers could get together worldwide and agree not to fight a trade war."

There was some debate about a "pickup-cade" to Washington in March to protest the continuing attacks on farmers. Nash suggested it might be selfish to protest while the country was at war. Several others disagreed.

Sylvia Giesbrecht
Austin, Minnesota

Four cents an hour

I am a prisoner serving 198 years and I have recently become politically conscious. A subscription to your publication would be a welcome relief from the "tainted" es-

tablishment news and information sources.

If I were in any way able to pay, I would, but we only earn four cents an hour in this prison.

A prisoner
Angola, Louisiana

Cuba

I'm renewing my subscription for six months. Let's have more photos of Cuba in the paper.

J.C.
New Haven, Connecticut

Exceptional

The *Militant* is an exceptional way to keep up with news. It covers topics that the capitalist press wouldn't think to touch. Are there any other similar publications available in Canada?

Sean Wilson
Hamilton, Ontario

[Editor replies: Readers in Canada may be interested in *L'Internationaliste*, a quarterly magazine published in French in Québec. It was previously known as *Lutte ouvrière*. Subscriptions are available for \$12 (Canadian) by writing to *L'Internationaliste*, C.P. 340, succ. R, Montréal, Canada, H2S 3M2. Or visit one of the bookstores in Canada listed on page 12.]

Palestinians

Dr. Swee Chai Ang, former surgeon at Sabra Camp in West Beirut, Lebanon, gave a firsthand account of Israeli mistreatment of Palestinians at two church meetings in Atlanta recently.

Dr. Ang explained how her media-inspired beliefs in "democratic" Israel and "terrorist" Palestinians had been shattered by her experiences during the 10-week Is-

raeli bombardment of Beirut and subsequent massacre of 2,400 unarmed Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in 1982.

Expelled from Beirut by the Israelis, Ang served in 1988 as a surgeon in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip at the beginning of the *Intifada* uprising. She was later barred by the Israeli government from that post as well.

Bob Braxton
Atlanta, Georgia

Iraqi Kurds

There are 84 Iraqi Kurds in prison in Greece, according to the Democratic Party of Kurdistan-Iraq (KDP). They are serving sentences of nine to 14 months for "illegal entry into the country."

The 84 are part of thousands who fled from Iraq in March 1988 after Saddam Hussein used chemical weapons on their villages. That massacre left 5,000 Iraqi Kurds dead and 10,000 wounded.

The KDP is demanding that the Greek government release Iraqi Kurds from the prisons here and that they be allowed to stay in Greece or go to another country of their choice.

Amnesty International says there are 27,500 Iraqi Kurds in military camps in Turkey, living literally in starvation conditions.

Bobbis Misailides
Athens, Greece

Uncensored reporting

I share the *Militant* with several other inmates, hopefully to enable a larger audience. Further, I forward various articles from your paper, identifying the source, to friends on the street so they may see accurate and uncensored reporting of the facts.

We could win the war on ignorance if all commercial papers were scrapped and only the *Militant* was sought. Great job. Much appreciated.

A prisoner
Michigan City, Indiana

From a marine

Would you please consider sending me any back issues of your *Militant* newspaper? I am a military prisoner. Your paper gives an insight to the world for us "brothers" (marines) here.

A prisoner
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

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.



Militant Prisoner Fund

Enclosed is my contribution \$ _____ to help defray the costs of providing *Militant* subscriptions to prisoners.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Clip and mail to the *Militant*, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Eastern strike scores gains for labor

After 686-day battle with rank-and-file Machinists, airline folds

BY ERNIE MAILHOT

After 686 days on strike against Eastern Airlines, rank-and-file members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) and our supporters registered the final piece of our victory against the union-busting drive of the employers, when the carrier folded on Jan. 18, 1991.

On that day, as they left work at airports throughout the United States, grim-faced managers and scabs from Eastern Airlines were greeted by strikers from the IAM. This is something these so-called replacement workers had become used to in the 22-month-long strike at Eastern Airlines — but Friday night, January 18, was different.

Martin Shugrue, the government trustee running Eastern, announced the next day that Eastern had "run out of time and resources." After 62 years, Eastern, one of the first and one of the largest airlines in the world, was ending its operations.

Eastern strikers from coast to coast, from Puerto Rico to Canada, reacted by calling to congratulate each other and going out to airports to celebrate.

Mark McCormick was one of the Eastern strikers who made his way to New York's La Guardia Airport the night of January 18. "I wouldn't have missed this for the world," he said, as he stood watching management personnel walk out. With a big smile on his face he suggested to the managers that they "take tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow off."

Over the next few hours, strikers and our supporters showed up, many with handmade signs, at rowdy picket lines. The sign I think expressed our feelings the best was the one at the Miami airport that read: "We said we'd last 'One Day Longer'."

The big business press, which for many months had referred to the strike only in the past tense, sent reporters to airports and interviewed strikers. Now they referred to Eastern in the past tense as they interviewed us in the present.

A typical question to strikers was one asked by a *New York Times* reporter: "Why do you seem happy?"

The next day the *Times* answered its own question in an article that said, "The hatred and passions stirred by the long strike of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers lie at the heart of why Eastern was forced" to park its 170 planes and begin selling its assets.

Defeated union-busting drive

The 22-month strike of the IAM had defeated Eastern's attempt to create a profitable nonunion airline and set an example for all bosses who want a "union-free environment" if they can get away with it.

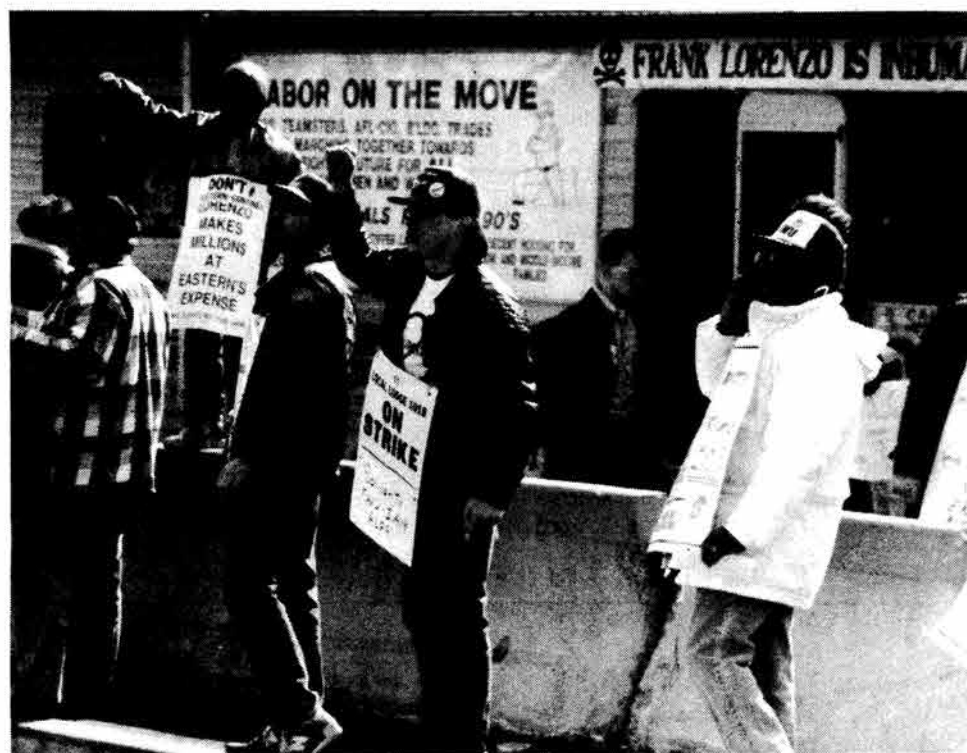
To strikers and other working people the scope of the accomplishments and victories scored in the Eastern strike are measured by what we were up against.

In 1981 U.S. President Ronald Reagan tried to set in motion union-busting on a national scale when he broke the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO). A pattern of union-busting drives by the employers in major industries soon developed, with Frank Lorenzo's destruction of the striking unions at Continental Airlines in 1983 spearheading the assault.

Takeback contracts, permanent replacement workers, and union-busting itself became the order of the day. In the airline industry nonunion airlines were established and strikes, such as the strike of the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants at TWA in 1986, were crushed.

On March 4, 1989, when we went on strike at Eastern Airlines, we looked back on almost a decade of many more defeats than victories for labor — defeats that, more often than not, came without a real fight by union members.

We faced Frank Lorenzo, the number one union-buster in the United States. We faced government agencies, such as the Federal Aviation Administration, that continually



Eastern strikers on the picket line in New York in March 1989. In their struggle Machinists faced union-buster Frank Lorenzo and the government, and won.

backed Eastern management in the face of massive union documentation of safety violations at the airline.

We faced the federal government and its proven bipartisan track record of siding with big business. In Lorenzo's case the cozy relationship between his airline holding company, Texas Air Corp., and the federal government was well known. One example that we all talked about was that of the judge who presided over the Continental Airlines bankruptcy in the early 1980s. He was later hired by Texas Air Corp. for a cushy post. Thanks, your honor.

Major metropolitan newspapers including the *Miami Herald*, the *New York Times*, and the *Atlanta Constitution* hammered away at us through articles and editorials saying we couldn't win. Many others, including so-called friends of labor in the Democratic Party, agreed. Even many of us thought the odds were long against preventing Lorenzo from succeeding. Despite this, we decided that it was time to fight, rather than accept our only other choice — letting Lorenzo destroy our union and set a profitable example for every other boss like him.

Saw our strength

When we walked out on March 4, 1989, most of the rank-and-file of the IAM sensed our strength for the first time. The Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), and Local 553 of the Transport Workers Union, which organized the flight attendants, also recognized our strength and our fighting determination. They joined our picket lines. The unity we had achieved between the unions and the pilots' association greatly increased our initial strength, and, in turn, our confidence.

The huge rallies at airports across the country, many held in cities with only a few strikers, showed us the broad support and identification our fight had evoked among working people. Many, having gone through years of concession contracts and union-busting, saw the fight as their own.

Our unity was crucial to being able to continue the fight despite Lorenzo's placing of Eastern under bankruptcy court protection five days into the strike. Despite hundreds of promises to the contrary by company officials over the next 22 months, Eastern would never emerge from the protection of the court.

It soon became clear to us that the confidence the rank and file had gained as fighters capable of taking on Frank Lorenzo and all his backers was not shared by the union officialdom in the IAM, ALPA, or the AFL-CIO as a whole.

We began organizing to keep our picket lines strong and to reach out to as many other forces as possible to join our fight. At every turn union officials in the IAM and the AFL-CIO attempted to divert us from focusing on the need to organize our strikers and win broader ranks of labor as a whole.

Each diversion bypassed

First, the IAM and AFL-CIO officials proposed a militant-sounding shutdown of the railroads to back our strike at Eastern. This tactic, though, was unprepared by the officialdom, both in the rail workers unions and among working people in general. It would have led to victimizations and given the bosses a handle to turn public support away from us. As soon as the courts placed injunctions against the move, the tough talk disappeared.

The officials then turned their attention to finding a "white knight" to buy Eastern as the key to defeating Lorenzo.

A new owner was worth taking even greater cuts in pay and benefits than Lorenzo had demanded, the officials said, in order to keep the "Eastern family" together. News on the ups and downs of each possible buyout became the focus of the officials' attention, rather than where we were carrying out the fight — on the picket line and at rallies and other events.

For many months the officialdom also narrowed in on the bankruptcy court, urging it to appoint a trustee to run Eastern. An emergency panel set up by Congress to investigate Eastern was another of their proposals on how to fight union-busting. This was especially pushed by the ALPA leadership.

All of these focuses had one thing in common: they looked away from mobilizing the power of the ranks of the unions on strike, the IAM as a whole, and the broader labor movement.

Accomplishments of strike

Our accomplishments are made clearer by seeing the forces arrayed against the rank-and-file fighters of the IAM — from Lorenzo to the federal government — and the obstacle represented by the strategy of the union officialdom.

The unity of the Machinists, flight attendants, and pilots in a major national strike, over a period of nine months, is something that had not been seen in the airline industry before. Winning the support of the pilots for that period of time allowed us to begin to put our stamp on the battle and step forward as a rank-and-file leadership. In addition, we

became seasoned enough to understand and weather the later treachery of the pilots.

By the time the pilots crossed our picket lines on Nov. 22, 1989 — in the name of saving Eastern and going on with our lives, as Skip Copeland, the head of the Eastern pilots, said — we in the ranks of the IAM were prepared to continue the fight. We knew that this was not a pilots' strike, as so many tried to say, and that we were the main force that Lorenzo had to deal with.

In and of itself, this was a victory. It had come about because for months, rank-and-file fighters in the IAM and some among the flight attendants had refused to be diverted from the task of organizing a real battle: day-to-day picketing, expanded pickets, rallies, speaking engagements, and other outreach work that helped show the broad working-class support for our just fight.

The joint work we were able to do with United Mine Workers members, backing their strike at Pittston through the summer and fall of 1989, also played a big role in our gaining experience and confidence.

From Los Angeles, to Buffalo, to Pittsburgh, to Miami, we learned from each other. Sometimes this took the form of joint tours and other times it meant collaborating to figure out how to best advance backing for the strike within our unions.

These organizing experiences helped show us that we could affect the battle, and that the conflicts in the courtrooms, among competing investor schemes, or debates in Congress were reflections of our ability to exercise union power and reach out to the broader ranks of labor.

'One Day Longer'

Our slogan became that we would last "One Day Longer" than Frank Lorenzo. This meant that we would never let Eastern run a profitable airline as long as it operated with scab labor. We knew that by achieving that goal, we would help set an example for every other working person in the country — our real family, not the "Eastern family." On April 18, 1990, in a victory for all labor, our slogan became a reality.

On that day the federal government, through its bankruptcy court, removed Lorenzo from control of Eastern. The once heralded example for the business class in the United States of how to rid industry of the unions and become profitable, even with government support and a several-hundred-million-dollar war chest, had been defeated. This had been accomplished by several thousand IAM members organized, to a large extent, by rank-and-file leaders who refused to walk away from the fight.

Our strike momentum later showed itself as Lorenzo was forced out of Continental, and even that did not prevent Continental from having to file for bankruptcy a few months later, on Dec. 3, 1990.

After Lorenzo was removed our slogan remained "One Day Longer," but it became "One Day Longer" than Eastern.

For more than a year, bankruptcy court judge Burton Lifland did everything possible to back up Eastern management, including giving them the use of the millions in escrow they needed to try to break our strike and somehow become profitable. He now sat in court berating Lorenzo for squandering a billion dollars.

The federal government had tried to avoid stepping directly into the Eastern battle, hoping that Lorenzo would be able to vanquish the IAM as he had the unions at Continental. The fact that this proved to be impossible was a big setback for the employers and their government. They were forced to appoint Martin Shugrue as the trustee to run Eastern and openly share the responsibility for trying to successfully reorganize the airline and protect Eastern's assets from a simple fire sale.

Finally, on Jan. 18, 1991, after throwing

Continued on Page 7