

Build Feb. 21 actions against slaughter of Iraqi people!

Student meetings kick off worldwide protests

BY PETER THIERJUNG

University and high school students from Chicago to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and from New York to San Francisco have already begun building an international day of antiwar protests slated for February 21. Action coordinating offices have been set up in Washington, D.C., and Berkeley, California.

Student and youth activists are planning a variety of actions to protest the U.S.-led war in the Middle East, including teach-ins, marches, rallies, picket lines, special discussions on the war during regularly scheduled classes, and canvassing of dormitories.

Discussions are under way among student and youth activists in France, Norway, and Sweden on coordinating campus protests in their countries with those in the United States.

In Chicago, New York, Miami, Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay area, and other metropolitan areas, citywide meetings of student and youth representatives took place the weekend of February 2 and endorsed the action.

February 21 was targeted as an international day of antiwar protests.

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U.S. widens bombing; civilian toll grows

BY RONI McCANN

In the third week of imperialist war against the Iraqi people, Washington and its allies have intensified around-the-clock bombing raids on the country.

With air expeditions increased to 2,600 on any given day, massive bombardments are aimed at Iraqi troop positions along the Saudi Arabian border and military installations throughout Iraq.

Together with stepped-up murderous air raids, allied forces under U.S. command are finalizing preparations for a huge ground invasion of Iraq and Kuwait—aimed at breaking the Iraqi military, occupying the country, and installing a regime beholden to Washington.

The first of what will be many bloody land battles was fought the week of January 28. The length and intensity of the fighting is a harbinger of the war the U.S. government has begun in the region.

Eleven U.S. GIs were killed and two reported missing after a three-day battle with Iraqi troops in the Saudi Arabian border-town of Ra's al Khafji that ended on February 1.

Saudi commanding general Prince Khalid bin Sultan reported that 15 of his troops were killed and four wounded along with 30 Iraqis killed and 33 wounded. On February 2



Militant/Harvey McArthur

Participants in January 26 antiwar march in San Francisco. International day of protests against war was called for February 21 by students and youth at January 27 post-demonstration conferences.

Khalid claimed 400 Iraqi soldiers had been captured.

Seven of the U.S. GIs were killed by "friendly fire," the Pentagon reported. "Tanks were firing at tanks," said one U.S. marine after the fighting. "Everything was so confused. I didn't know what unit was which and who was firing at who."

The battle at Khafji began late January 29 when several hundred Iraqi troops advanced into the recently abandoned town of 20,000, located on the Arab-Persian Gulf coast about six miles south of the Kuwait-Saudi border.

The assault on the town was part of a four-pronged Iraqi attack: incursions on the Saudi border northwest of Khafji; advances over the Saudi border near Wafra, Kuwait; and two attacks on Khafji itself.

While Washington has won cover for its aggression in backing from Arab regimes, the fact that it is a U.S.-led war was proven in the battle. Troops from Saudi Arabia and Qatar were responsible for guarding Khafji. However, the *Washington Post* reported that

they abandoned their road blocks outside of the city, and units in the town fled before the Iraqis arrived. "Saudi guards' tents and a helmet" found early January 30 "suggested a hasty retreat," the paper reported.

Late January 30 a column of Saudi troops riding in U.S.-made tanks headed back into Khafji in an effort to drive the Iraqi forces out and retake the town. They were backed every step of the way by U.S. marines and allied air power.

After what one marine officer called "a hellacious battle" lasting 36 hours, the Iraqi forces were pushed back February 1. U.S. Army Col. Jack Petri claimed, "This was the first battle the Saudis had ever fought and they acquitted themselves terribly well."

Throughout the battle the Pentagon banned reporters from the scene of the fighting. When the dust settled, however, the *New York Times* described the war-scarred town: buildings shot-up, burned-out armored vehi-

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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."

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Editors of Marxist magazines announce special antiwar issue

BY CINDY JAQUITH

The editors of *New International* and its sister magazines in French and soon in Spanish have announced publication plans for 1991 and have launched a \$75,000 fund drive to cover the production costs of the forthcoming issues.

The projected publications will greatly expand the arsenal of communist literature available to workers and youth as they discuss, debate, and campaign against imperialism and its war in the Middle East.

Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *New International*, reports that issue No. 7 of the Marxist magazine, a special issue on the war, will come off the press in February.

New International No. 7 features "Washington's Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III" by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party.

Also in this issue is related material on communist policy in wartime and peacetime, including articles by Mary-Alice

Waters on "Washington's Third Militarization Drive Since World War II," and the 1945-46 troops revolt that prevented U.S. forces from being used in the aftermath of World War II.

Of special interest are two documents by the Workers Unity Party of Iran, drafted during the Iran-Iraq war. An introduction by Samad Sharif takes up vital questions of working-class perspectives and anti-imperialist struggle.

This issue will also carry three articles on Che Guevara and the building of socialism: "Che's Contribution to the Cuban Economy" by Carlos Rafael Rodríguez, a 1987 talk by the Cuban vice president and Communist Party leader; "The Creativity of Che's Economic Thought" by Carlos Tablada, a 1989 article by the Cuban economist and author; and "Economics, Politics, and Communist Consciousness: Che's Contributions to Marxism" by Steve Clark, managing editor

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'No to Ottawa's and Paris' war policy'

The following statement was issued January 25 by Michel Prairie, editor of *L'Internationaliste*, in the name of the Central Committee of the Communist League of Canada, and by Jean-Louis Salfati in the name of the Executive Committee of the Communist Organizing Committee of France. The statement was first published in the January-March issue of the magazine *L'Internationaliste*. The translation is by the *Militant*.

On January 16, just hours before the massive bombing of Iraq began, the French government pledged its forces would join in the imperialist assault and placed its troops in the Middle East under Washington's command. Paris had already given its support to the use of military force against Iraq if Baghdad did not withdraw from Kuwait by January 15.

In the days that preceded the U.S.-led assault, the French government had failed in its independent diplomatic maneuvers aimed at preventing the outbreak of a war that would strengthen U.S. imperialist control over much of the world's oil resources and thereby deal a heavy blow to French imperialist interests.

"In any international police operation" French prime minister Michel Rocard said after the initiative failed, "the fatal moment comes when one must act. That moment has now arrived."

France's 75 warplanes and 15,000 troops joined U.S., British, Saudi, and Kuwaiti forces in the initial bombing of Kuwait — the most sustained and devastating bombardment in history. Three days later President François Mitterrand said French forces would begin attacking Iraq as well.

In Ottawa, the federal cabinet authorized Canada's 24 CF-18 fighter jets and 2,000 troops stationed in the region to participate in the offensive against Iraq as soon as the criminal bombardment began. Canadian jets are being used to protect the planes bombing Iraq.

The Canadian government had previously claimed it planned to play only a "defensive" role in the war, a stance consistent with Canada's supposedly traditional "peacekeeping" role.

In reality, Ottawa has been one of the strongest supporters of Washington's march toward war. From the beginning, like Paris and virtually every other imperialist power, the Canadian government fully supported the criminal imposition of sanctions against Iraq, including the ban on shipments of food and medicine.

These sanctions, enforced by the most massive military blockade since World War II, caused the death of hundreds of Iraqi and Kuwaiti children, elderly, and sick.

In France, the Socialist Party of President François Mitterrand openly backed the war.

The Communist Party in France and the New Democratic Party (NDP) of Canada supported the blockade, which they claimed was an alternative to war.

In both countries a significant layer of workers and small farmers consider these parties to be their own.

Blockade: first act of war

On the contrary, as Cuban ambassador to the United Nations Ricardo Alarcón has explained, the blockade imposed on Iraq was a criminal act.

In fact, it constituted the first act of war against Iraq.

Like the war itself, the sanctions have nothing to do with the defense of the democratic rights of the people of Kuwait. The war and the sanctions that preceded it are aimed at strengthening imperialism's domination over the oppressed peoples of the Middle East and the region's oil.

Once the bombing began, the NDP explained that its objection was not to Canada's participation in the war but to its direct involvement in "offensive" actions.

NDP leader Audrey McLaughlin called on working people to support "our troops" — Canadian imperialism's army — while pleading with the government to limit its participation in the war to "a compassionate and humanitarian role."

The French Communist Party argues in a similar fashion, saying that this war is an "American" war in which France should not be participating — especially not under U.S. command.

Such reservations and criticisms completely miss the point.

It is true that the war against Iraq is not the product of a concentrated effort by a "partnership of equals." It is U.S. imperialism that is calling the shots.

Paris and Ottawa have joined in the war, not because they were forced to do so by the United States, but in order to defend the worldwide system of capitalist exploitation and imperialist oppression in which they are fully a part.

War against Iraq is reactionary

The war against Iraq is just as reactionary as earlier imperialist wars against Korea and Vietnam. Paris and Ottawa are as much imperialist powers as is the United States, even if on a smaller scale. This is an essential point to explain to working-class fighters and other opponents of the war against Iraq.

Working people in France and Canada can never advance our fundamental interests by accepting the idea that we should defend the interests of French or Canadian capitalist rulers against the big majority of the world that they oppress.



In Ottawa, the federal cabinet authorized Canada's 24 CF-18 fighter jets and 2,000 troops stationed in the region to participate in offensive against Iraq.

This is the only way to carry out an effective struggle against the war and against the capitalist governments that are waging it.

The ruling rich of both France and Canada have a vital interest in uniting with the U.S. government and the other major capitalist powers to defend the crumbling worldwide system of imperialist domination.

The governments of both countries have participated directly in or backed every major imperialist war in this century.

French imperialism has carried out massive and bloody counterrevolutionary wars in Vietnam and Algeria. It continues to maintain thousands of troops in its former and present colonies from Chad to New Caledonia, and from Polynesia to Guadeloupe.

Canadian imperialism sent 25,000 troops to participate in the Korean War, a war in which several million people were killed or maimed. To this day, it continues to back the division of Korea, imposed by an occupation force of 40,000 U.S. troops. Ottawa also fully backed Paris and then Washington in their wars against the Vietnamese people.

The Canadian imperialists are part of an increasingly integrated North American capitalist market. Despite occasional tactical differences with Washington, their fate is closely linked to the fate of their U.S. allies. This is much less true with their French counterpart.

The French rulers have tried much more strenuously to maintain their distance from Washington's policies. Most of their Western European allies have followed the same course, with the major exception of London.

They do so not because they are any less imperialist, but in order to strengthen their economic and political weight against their major U.S. rival.

Political conflicts will continue to deepen between the imperialist powers as the capitalist economic crisis sharpens. But this has not kept all these imperialist powers from supporting the U.S.-led war against Iraq.

The French and Canadian capitalists are also waging a relentless war against working people at home, attacking our wages, working conditions, social services, and democratic rights.

Both fronts of this war are essential for their efforts to resolve the deepening crisis of the world capitalist system in their favor.

No common national interests

They try to convince us that we have a common interest as "the French" or as "Canadians" to defend "our" countries against working people of other countries or nationalities.

Today, the rulers especially try to convince us that the workers and peasants of Iraq are our enemy — rather than our class brothers and sisters who share with us common interests and a common class enemy.

Paris, Ottawa, London, and Washington have also launched a massive racist campaign to spy on, harass, arrest, and deport people of Iraqi and Arab descent. This is a major attack on the democratic and political rights of all working people.

In France, this attack is closely connected with repeated government efforts to ban antiwar protests; the deportation of 18 people of Arab descent, charged with being sympathetic toward Iraq; and a threat to indict Gilles Perrault, a central leader of the antiwar movement, on charges of inciting treason and desertion.

In Canada, the government and cops are stepping up their racist assault on Native people fighting to defend their national rights.

Defending the democratic rights of Iraqi and other Arab workers, as well as of the Native people of Canada, must be at the center of the struggle of all working people against the bosses' offensive at home and their war abroad.

We must stand shoulder to shoulder with the working people of Iraq who are victims of this massive imperialist offensive against their country and demand:

Stop the bombing!
Bring the troops home!
All foreign troops out of the Mideast!
End the sanctions and blockade against the people of Iraq!
End the attacks on the democratic rights of Iraqis and Arabs and on Native peoples in Canada!



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Conference on Cuba held in Minneapolis

Cuban diplomats denounce U.S.-led war against Iraq

BY WENDY LYONS

On January 26, as 14 busloads of people left Minnesota to march with others in Washington, D.C., against the U.S. imperialist war against Iraq, another important antiwar event took place in Minneapolis. Close to 100 people attended a conference entitled, "Cuba: the Untold Story."

The conference, sponsored by a number of organizations including the U.S. Cuba Friendship Committee, featured Rafael Dausá, third secretary of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, D.C. In addition, Ricardo Alarcón, Cuban Ambassador to the United Nations, addressed the conference via videotape.

Alarcón explained that Cuba tried to negotiate Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait prior to the beginning of the war there. He pointed out that in the United Nations, Cuba stood firm in opposing the United States dragging the world into war. He said now that it has started, the United Nations is clearly a fig leaf for the U.S.-led war. He explained that UN representatives get current information on the war the same way everyone else does — by watching television.

"Cuba's position has been one of principle," Dausá said. "We have condemned all that was condemnable in what Iraq did, but we have opposed the U.S. push to war." Dausá told the audience that Cuba is facing one of the hardest moments in its history because of the cutoff in trade from countries in Eastern Europe, the decline in trade from the Soviet Union, and the rising price of oil.

He reported that the workweek in Cuba has been reduced by one day in order to save energy and some factories have shut down. Many more items are being rationed in order to ensure equal distribution to the population. The government appealed to each household to reduce the use of power by 10 percent. Dausá explained that the majority of people have responded by trying to cut back even further.

Dausá said that "one of the most painful measures" was stopping construction of some of Cuba's social projects, including work on some hospitals and schools. He noted the contrast between the steps Cuba has taken and those of other Latin American countries that face economic problems. In other countries, workers have been fired and prices on necessities have skyrocketed. But because the workers' government in Cuba has control over the means of production, measures have been taken to limit, as much as possible, the hardship of the cutbacks on working people.

Tasks of 'special period'

Dausá spoke about the main tasks of what Cubans call the "special period." These tasks are to develop self-sufficiency in food, make progress on the use of scientific techniques in production, and the development of the pharmaceutical industry. In addition, they project advancing in the area of tourism and maintaining production of sugar and other key exports.

The aim of the food program, which is in progress now, is to make all of Cuba's provinces self-sufficient in food. In Havana province, volunteer brigades have built more than 30 camps to house 20,000 workers in the countryside. The aim is for volunteers to work 15-day shifts and to rotate the shifts among the general population.

The tourism program includes "health tourism" for people who need medical treatment. In addition, the program is for those who want to learn more about Cuba's advances in health care, which is growing in stature around the world.

The Cuban diplomat explained that Cuba has developed a cure for vitiligo, a skin disorder, and a vaccine for a type of meningitis. Dausá pointed out that Cuba has more doctors and nurses working around the world than the UN World Health Organization. Cuba also takes care of 10,000 children from the Soviet Union who were victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster of 1986. All Cubans have the right to quality health care, free of charge.

More than 200 Cuban doctors and nurses who were in Iraq prior to the war, have stayed to help with the mounting casualties, and many more have volunteered since the war started.

Dausá ended his talk by saying that Cuba will continue to fight for socialism. "Our enemies want Cuba to change," he said. "We will change, but to improve our revolution. We'll never surrender the flag of the revolution. We'll fight, we'll survive, and we'll win."

During the discussion, Dausá was asked about the crisis in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. He explained, "The Cubans are sure that the crisis didn't occur because of socialism, but because of the people who put it in practice. We have to improve the theoretical framework, and learn lessons from mistakes. The problem isn't Marxism-

Leninism, but the people who abandoned the idea of socialism, who abandoned the people.

"In Eastern Europe," he said, "the party was one thing and the people, another. In Cuba, the party is representative of the people. Belonging to the party doesn't mean privilege, it means more work, more volunteering for internationalist missions, and more meetings."

During the conference, there were workshops held including on public health and AIDS; music and art; African, Cuban and Latin American connections; women; and human rights.

Dausá also spoke to two classes at the University of Minnesota, and at a meeting at Macalester College. The diplomat was also able to hold discussions with trade unionists and those interested in furthering cultural exchange with Cuba, including the mayor of St. Paul, Minnesota.

He also visited the Heart of the Earth Survival School, established by the American Indian Movement (AIM) and met with Bill Means, the executive director. Means reported the school had to be evacuated earlier that day due to a bomb threat by forces opposed to AIM's antiwar stand.

'New York Times' criticizes demands raised at massive antiwar marches

BY SETH GALINSKY

The 125,000-strong antiwar protest in Washington, D.C., on January 26 did not go unnoticed among ruling circles in the United States. The *New York Times* felt compelled to criticize and attempt to answer the demonstrators' demands.

In a January 27 editorial entitled "The Protesters, Heard," the *Times* insists that "Iraq is not Vietnam." It says the U.S.-led aggression is "a just war though not a wise one."

Most of the protesters "shunned crude slogans like 'No blood for oil!'" the paper claims. "Most of them would agree with Vice President Quayle about the need to support America's troops in the gulf."

"As the country braces for a longer war," the *Times* adds, "Their arguments need to be answered."

Protesters assert that this is "essentially an American war, waged by an imperial president who failed to give diplomacy time to work," the editorial states, referring to a "Say no to Bush's war" placard. It is true, the paper says, that "only the United States" could have brought together and led the anti-Iraq coalition.

President George Bush should have let the embargo work longer, the *Times* writes, but "often, the protesters' opposition inescapably makes Saddam Hussein out to be the victim, turning reality on its head."

Noting one popular slogan at the march, "How many deaths per gallon?" the *Times*

admits that "oil certainly lies at the heart of the Gulf crisis." But demonstrators should not "ignore Saddam Hussein's political ambitions, his drive to dominate the Persian Gulf and thus control 65 percent of the world's known oil reserves," the daily warns. "Iraqi mastery would give a dictator without scruple vast strategic power."

The *Times* notes that opponents of the war point out "that American Blacks pay twice for the war because they represent almost 30 percent of the Army's troops in the Middle East but only 14 percent of the draft-age population — and because billions spent on the war may be diverted from social programs at home." The editorial quotes one sign that read, "Blacks are killing browns for whites."

"Disproportionate casualties is indeed troubling," the *Times* says. But this is because the armed forces "have become instruments of remarkable change, giving minority groups fairer chances to rise, right to the chairmanship of the Joint Chiefs of Staff."

The *Times* also argues against the slogan, "War never solves anything."

"Theologians contend that a war is just only as a last resort and when punishment is proportionate to the offense," the paper asserts.

Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, an affront to "morality and law," justifies the war, the *Times* says. "As Saddam Hussein raises the stakes," it continues, "the pressure will build to follow suit."

The editorial expresses the hope that the demonstrations, instead of leading to an end to the war, will be a "restraint on reprisals whose fury would mock the idea of a just war, and give a martyred Saddam Hussein an enduring victory in defeat."

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, 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.

Two students from Japan attended the January 27 student and youth conference in Washington, D.C., and handed out literature to inform others about their efforts against the war.

"We are from the University of Tokyo and represent the peace loving students of our country," one of their fliers said. "We have been fighting hard to stop our government from supporting the American government policy toward the Gulf war." They expressed a desire to work with participants at the conference and reported that there have been a number of actions at the University of Tokyo in opposition to the war.

After Washington started bombing Iraq, some 80 people protested in front of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, carrying placards that said, "Stop War" and "No blood for oil." They chanted "U.S. stop military action in the Middle East"; "America withdraw from the Middle East"; and "Citizens will not condone war."

A reader, who was visiting Costa Rica when Washington opened its war against

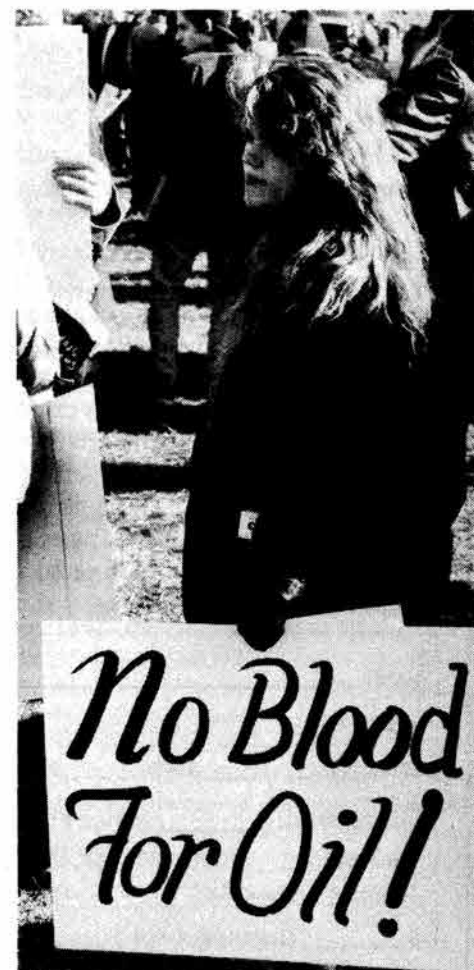
the Iraqi people, reported that there have been a number of protests held in the Plaza de Cultura in San José, the capital. On one afternoon there was a demonstration of 60 people and some participants distributed fliers to passers-by, he said.

The leaflet, issued by the Coordinating Committee for Actions against the War in the Persian Gulf, said, "'Stop the war' should be the cry of every human being. If the war is not stopped, we will face one of the great holocausts of all time, with incalculable destruction of the environment, and the deepening of political and economic problems — especially in the countries of the third world."

"In our country, the implications of the war will bring us a deepening of the economic crisis that will have repercussions on our standard of living including health, food, clothing, and education. Working people will be particularly affected. Using the war as a pretext, the government is carrying out anti-people measures aimed against working people. We should stop it."

Recently, Radio Centre-Ville, a multilingual radio station in Montréal, Québec, phoned volunteers staffing the Pathfinder Bookstore to request an interview. They wanted to discuss — for the benefit of the Spanish-speaking community in Montréal — the contents of the Spanish-language edition of *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*, published by Pathfinder Press.

The interview aired on a Saturday night. The following Monday morning, Katy LeRougetel, a garment worker and a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, showed the book to some coworkers. They said they already knew about the book because they had heard about it on the radio. The interview became a topic of discussion in the plant and helped generate interest among LeRougetel's fellow workers to read the book.



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky
Washington, D.C., march, on January 26.

Curtis' backers raise funds for UN trip

\$30,000 goal, first weeks meet success

BY CHRIS REMPLE

DES MOINES — A team of supporters of Mark Curtis, a unionist and political activist framed up by the Des Moines police on charges of rape and burglary, are calling political rights supporters around the country to raise \$30,000 by the end of February.

The special financial appeal will make it possible to present Curtis' case to the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland, and to pay for continuing legal expenses.

Mark Curtis Defense Committee coordinator John Studer and defense committee leader Kate Kaku, who is Curtis' wife, will head up an international delegation to the UN meeting. The team will spend several weeks, beginning in early February, speaking with participants at the event and winning new support for the jailed unionist's fight.

"We're getting in touch with hundreds of people," fundraising volunteer John Rubenstein reported. "We have not been in touch with some supporters for a while, so while we are making real progress in raising the funds, it is only part of what we are accomplishing," the volunteer said.

"We are having great political discussions about the case, letting people know the steps forward the fight has taken over the past months, and encouraging people to step-up their work in support of the defense campaign," he said at the committee's office here.

Rubenstein, for example, spoke with a leader of the Machinists strike against Eastern Airlines in Pittsburgh. Since the unionist did not have much money to contribute, he said he would work with other supporters in the area to organize a raffle as a means of raising funds for the UN delegation.

Candace Wagner, also volunteering in the Curtis defense office here, has been calling supporters in Colorado. "Even though most people I spoke with had not heard about the case recently, every one made a pledge to the fund drive," she said.

"A member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union contributed \$50, and a coal miner in Craig, Colorado, pitched in \$25 even though he said his mine would be closing soon," Wagner said. "He suggested that Curtis supporters publicize the case and raise funds at upcoming mine hearings that will be attended by miners in Salt Lake City."

Many of the defense committee endorsers are active in opposing the U.S.-led war in the Mideast. Kevin Magee, a longtime supporter

and friend of Curtis, made a pledge to the fund. He also asked for literature to distribute on buses going from Iowa to the January 26 antiwar march in Washington, D.C.

Fundraising volunteer Lisa Potash says that suggesting a specific contribution to each supporter "helps everyone understand the financial needs of the defense effort and to think out how much they can give."

As of February 4, more than \$9,300 had been pledged or donated to the fund. Curtis' backers in New York and California have also decided to organize a round of calling to a range of endorsers and supporters of the fight.

"All supporters of the fight for justice for Mark Curtis are encouraged to become a part of this effort," Rubenstein said. "It's going to take a real drive by everyone to go over the top of the goal by the end of February."

For more information or to make a contribution contact the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Larger tax-exempt contributions can be made out to the Political Rights Defense Fund.



Militant/Susan Berman

Mark Curtis Defense Committee leader Kate Kaku, also Curtis' wife, speaking last August at a subcommission of the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. Supporters are raising funds to send Kaku and others back to Geneva for the upcoming full commission.

Iraqi people defiant in face of bombing

BY SETH GALINSKY

The massive bombing of Iraq is provoking deep resentment and hatred of the United States government and its allies among the Iraqi people.

Interviewed on ABC television's *Nightline*, Lami Andoni, a reporter for the *Financial Times* of London, said that at the beginning of the bombing the "Iraqis were in a state of shock and they were taken aback, but by the fourth day, confidence was building up and it was turning in to a mood of defiance and resolve."

Andoni was in Baghdad until January 23. She traveled around the city and visited two villages on her way out of Iraq. Andoni saw the ruins of houses, stores, oil refineries, and

power stations that were destroyed by the United States, British, Italian, French, and Saudi bombing campaigns. Her description of the civilian toll and response among the Iraqi people was also carried in a series of articles in the *Christian Science Monitor*.

Mohammed, who served in the Iraqi army during the Iran-Iraq war, told Andoni, "This is a war against the Iraqi people, against Iraq, against Baghdad, against our existence."

In the Baghdad suburb of Kazimieh, Andoni spoke with a shopkeeper who proudly stated, "We were able to stand in the face of the United States and its coalition." She heard similar statements many times during the course of her trip to the area.

"We dare them to confront us face to face," said one young Iraqi.

"They will have a bitter taste of Iraqi resistance," said another.

Many Iraqis expressed their hostility toward pilots who are dropping the bombs. One woman told Andoni that a group of angry residents threw stones at a pilot as he landed after his plane was hit.

Iraqi radio issued daily appeals to people to not hurt the pilots and offered rewards for people who turn the pilots in alive.

People are "rallying behind [Iraqi President] Saddam [Hussein] regardless of the criticism that they sometimes have," Andoni said. "And I heard many criticisms of the way he runs the country." This includes opposition to Hussein's invasion of Kuwait.

"They think that if he survives and the country survives he has to change and they have to have freedom," she added.

Andoni spoke to one young man who had been discussing the situation with a group of friends, some of whom are pro-Hussein, and others who oppose him. The young man said, "But at the end of the discussion we decided that we should remain reunited until the battle is over. It is not the right time to allow our differences to erupt."

According to Andoni there is some resentment towards Hussein and some of the measures the regime has taken, such as fuel rationing.

"It is just unfair for him to expect us to tolerate hardships and make big sacrifices without thinking of consulting us," said a taxi driver. "Without taking into consideration our feelings, without giving us freedoms."

The taxi driver, who does not like Hussein, said, "He might be ruthless, but he is dignified. He is not like those who are kneeling to the United States."

U.S. gov't tells disaster-relief groups to brace for refugees in Mideast

BY RONI McCANN

A letter in the January 27 *New York Times* sheds a little light on the impact of Washington's Mideast war on the popula-

tions in the region.

Richard Walden wrote that "an extraordinary meeting was held earlier this month at the State Department's Foreign Disaster Assistance Office in Washington, D.C." Walden is the president of Operation USA, an international relief organization.

"More than 25 major disaster-relief organizations heard an official briefing on possible scenarios following an armed conflict in and around Kuwait and Iraq," Walden reported.

"Maps were produced showing possible flows of more than a million displaced persons — with emphasis on Kuwait and southern Iraq," he said.

After the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August, hundreds of thousands of workers in Kuwait were forcibly displaced. As Washington and its imperialist allies opened their war, more working people have become refugees.

Walden wrote that government officials reported "[refugee] encampments in Jordan and southern Turkey were being fortified; relief depots in Cyprus were being filled with emergency medicines, tents, blankets, and food." Operation USA, he reported, had already responded to the "flood of more than 750,000 displaced foreign workers fleeing Iraq and Kuwait."

However, the relief group leaders were told the "airlifts of civilian relief were not likely to be available from the United States."

In his letter Walden said that participants in the meeting felt overwhelmed by the pressing demands on their aid groups from all corners of the globe. "... it is nearly unthinkable to contemplate mounting a massive and all-consuming relief effort for another man-made disaster," Walden wrote.

"We have no illusions about the scope of the impending disaster resulting from the use of modern weapons of destructive power," he concluded.

A BOOK FOR WORKERS WHO WANT TO KNOW THE FACTS

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

Featured in the book are statements by Cuban Ambassador to the UN Ricardo Alarcon and President Fidel Castro that rebut the pretexts and arguments used by Washington to justify its unilateral acts of aggression. Unionists, GIs, veterans, reservists, and other workers involved in struggles against the employers' offensive at home can use the facts and arguments it contains to arm themselves and help convince others to join in campaigning against the slaughter taking place by the same employers, through their government, in the Mideast.

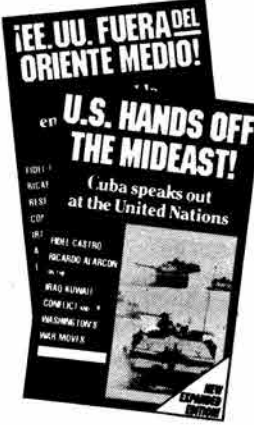
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Please send: _____ copies of *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* _____ copies of *¡EE.UU. fuera del Oriente Medio!* Enclosed is \$_____ for the book(s) plus \$_____ shipping, total \$_____.

Mail to: Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Outside the United States contact Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12.



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

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

Available at Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 16 or by mail from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Add \$1.00 for postage and handling.

New issues of Marxist magazine announced

Continued from front page of *New International*.

The inaugural issue of a sister publication in Spanish, *Nueva Internacional*, has been announced by its editor, Luis Madrid. *Nueva Internacional* No. 1 will center on Washington's war against Iraq, making many of the same articles appearing in *New International* No. 7 available to working people whose first language is Spanish.

"For the first time in this form, major articles explaining the communist perspective will be within reach of the large audience of Spanish-speaking readers," Madrid noted, "from farm workers, garment workers, and meat-packers in the United States and other imperialist countries, to workers and peasants in Central America, the Caribbean, and the rest of Latin America."

Since 1985, three issues of *Nouvelle Internationale*, the French-language sister magazine to *New International*, have been published. The upcoming *Nouvelle Internationale* No. 4 will also carry a number of articles from *New International* No. 7, said editor Michel Prairie, as well as articles by Farrell Dobbs and other working-class leaders on a communist orientation to the trade union movement.

Following publication of these three issues, *New International*, *Nueva Internacional*, and *Nouvelle Internationale*, each plans to bring out a special double issue dealing with world economic and political perspectives in the 1990s. The double issues will contain resolutions adopted by conventions of the Socialist Workers Party and Communist Leagues in several countries in recent years.

Search for politics

Three hundred pages in length, *New International* No. 7 is in reality a book — exactly the kind of book that a growing layer of workers, farmers, and youth both in and out of uniform need as they search for political explanations and a way to organize a struggle against the imperialist war in the Middle East.

Increased interest in studying the roots of the war and the social system that bred it is shown by the receptivity to the December *International Socialist Review* supplement to the *Militant*. Now in its second printing, thousands of copies of the supplement have been sold: to coal miners and meat-packers, to farmers and farm workers, to student activists and antiwar marchers, and to GIs and reservists.

These readers of *International Socialist Review* will be among the first to be interested in the new issue of *New International*.

The value of the previous issues of the magazine is indicated by the fact that since 1987, 11,226 copies of *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale* have been sold as part of special sales campaigns by supporters around the world. Nearly half of these were sold in 1990 alone.

The estimated editorial, printing, and promotional costs of producing these six magazines and reprinting two back issues of *Nouvelle Internationale* is \$75,000. A fund drive to make this possible is being launched in eight countries initially: Australia, Britain, Canada, France, Iceland, New Zealand, Sweden, and the United States. Donations will be sought from both long-time supporters of the magazine and from working people and youth who have more recently started reading communist literature.

The fund drive will run until May 1, spanning what is certain to be three months of deepening debate and discussion among working people, and spreading protest actions on campuses and in cities and towns around the world as the reality of the imperialist war against Iraq registers ever more broadly.

Future issues of the *Militant* will carry scoreboards and report on the fund's progress.

Contributions may be sent to New International Fund, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Campaign to sell socialist press to unionists

Sales effort on target after 5 weeks

BY RONI McCANN

International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) members topped — and raised — one of their goals after the fifth week of the campaign to sell hundreds of *Militant* subscriptions, copies of the *International Socialist Review* supplement, and the Pathfinder book *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* to coworkers and union fighters.

The IUE workers, along with members of nine other industrial unions, are aggressively campaigning to counter the U.S. government's lies and build working-class opposition to the war against the people of Iraq.

So far 1,447 workers, GIs, reservists, and veterans in factories and mills across the country have decided to get the facts about the war — putting the campaign on target. Union members decided last week to extend until March the distribution of the *International Socialist Review*. Increased goals for the supplement will begin to be reflected in next week's scoreboard.

Achievements of the Week

IUE members had set a target of getting out 72 copies of the *International Socialist Review* as part of the sales effort that runs until March 1. By January 29, they had already shot over that, selling 80. This week members in both Chicago and Boston decided to up their targets to 25.

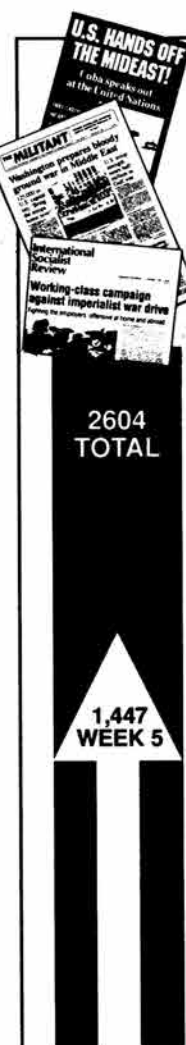
After reading the *International Socialist Review*, many workers will want to sign up to get the *Militant* each week to stay informed. UAW member Val Libby from Cincinnati writes: "Please add three more *International Socialist Reviews* to the UAW totals. I'm working on some subs!"

Just Off the Fax

Nelson González from Los Angeles: "One UAW member received some hostile remarks when he spoke out against the war at his local union meeting. Nonetheless, he was able to sell two copies of the *International Socialist Review* afterwards."

"Members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union here have surpassed their goals from sales to workers at their shops and at union meetings."

Gary Boyers from Detroit: "At the General



SCOREBOARD

Union	Total %Sold	Militant Sold (Goal)	Mideast Book Sold (Goal)	ISR Sold (Goal)
IUE**	90%	4 (23)	36 (41)	100 (91)
UAW	81%	11 (75)	46 (75)	145 (100)
ILGWU	65%	5 (22)	31 (45)	47 (61)
UMWA	62%	3 (22)	14 (28)	42 (45)
IAM	57%	26 (170)	59 (170)	235 (225)
UTU	52%	13 (77)	44 (105)	103 (127)
ACTWU	47%	6 (38)	14 (41)	49 (67)
OCAW	46%	8 (50)	57 (100)	73 (150)
USWA	43%	3 (90)	45 (77)	99 (171)
UFCW	41%	14 (85)	21 (70)	94 (163)
Total	56%	93 (652)	367 (752)	987 (1200)
Should be	56%	362	418	667

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*.
**Raised goal

Motors Orion plant, one UAW member sold a *Militant* subscription and three copies of the *International Socialist Review* to coworkers this week."

From a *Militant* supporter in Morgantown, West Virginia: "Two UMWA members bought copies of the *International Socialist Review* at a women miners support group meeting."

At the Plant Gate

In Detroit a team of *Militant* supporters regularly sells the paper to meat-packers, many of whom are immigrant workers in-

cluding Arabs, at the Thom Apple Valley plant. "While some sales at other plants in town have fallen off a bit since the war against Iraq broke out," writes Gary Boyers, "at Thom Apple Valley last week two workers bought copies of the *Militant*, two picked up the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*, and one got an *International Socialist Review* — our biggest sale there in many months."

United Food and Commercial Workers members there have sold 10 subscriptions to coworkers over the last seven weeks.

The *Militant* urges members of industrial unions participating in the sales campaign to send in notes on results in your area.

Brisk sales of 'Militant' on January 26

BY STEVE WARSHALL

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Participants in the national January 26 antiwar protests in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco found the *Militant*, *International Socialist Review*, and books from Pathfinder an essential part of deepening the fight against Washington's aggression in the Mideast.

A large display of the literature set up at the Ellipse just south of the White House was the center of brisk sales of communist liter-

ature and of many political discussions about the war and international politics.

"I read the *Militant* at school in Ithaca, New York, along with some friends," explained a young protester from Cornell University. "I couldn't help but notice your headline about World War III. What do you mean by that? Nuclear war?"

Sarah Ryan, a leader of the Young Socialist Alliance, explained the meaning of the article as the discussion expanded to a group

of high-school students who had just arrived at the rally from Binghamton, New York.

A little later they were all joined by a couple from Washington, Pennsylvania. "Are you in favor of Iraq winning the war?" "Is it wrong to support the troops even if they don't want to be there in Saudi Arabia?" "Don't you think there are any friends in Congress?"

These kinds of discussions continued all day long at the table, with many demonstrators deciding to buy a copy of the *Militant* or the *International Socialist Review*. By the time the last bus had left Washington, *Militant* supporters had sold some 1,500 copies of the socialist weekly.

Forty-seven people took advantage of the paper's 12-week special subscription package that included the *International Socialist Review* and one of two Pathfinder books — *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* or *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*. Rally participants also purchased 631 copies of the *International Socialist Review*.

The Young Socialist Alliance sponsored open houses in both Washington and San Francisco following the protests. More than 400 people attending the event after the Washington march continued discussions on the character of the U.S.-led assault on the Iraqi people and how to build working-class opposition to the war.

In San Francisco the open house attracted some 80 rally participants. Antiwar demonstrators on the West Coast bought 340 copies of the *Militant* and 120 copies of the *International Socialist Review*. Thirteen subscriptions to the *Militant* and its sister publication *Perspectiva Mundial* were purchased as well.

Nearly 100 copies of *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* and 71 copies of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People* were sold at January 26 demonstrations.

COMING SOON!

New International No. 7

Featuring

Washington's Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III

By Jack Barnes

From August 1990, when the preparations for war against Iraq began, until January 1991, when Washington, London, and their allies launched the imperialist military assault, hundreds of millions the world over followed the "chronicle of a war foretold."

In the lead article of *New International* No. 7, Jack Barnes examines the dynamics of the world political situation in which the war is now unfolding, including the deepening fault lines within the imperialist-led alliance against Iraq; and the evolution of the class struggle and politics in the United States as Washington intensifies its aggression in the Middle East.

Also in this issue is a special feature on "Che Guevara and the Building of Socialism" — articles by Carlos Rafael Rodríguez, Carlos Tablada, and Steve Clark.

Available from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, New York 10014 or from one of the bookstores listed on page 12. Add \$1 for shipping and handling.

\$10

In Germany, France, thousands protest U.S.-led war against Iraqi people

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Tens of thousands opposed to the U.S.-led war in the Mideast took to the streets across Europe and in other parts of the world January 26. The actions coincided with the largest antiwar demonstrations in the United States since Washington and its allies initiated the massive bombing of Iraq.

Some 200,000 people mobilized in Bonn, the capital of Germany. Twenty-seven trains were chartered and more than 650 buses brought protesters from across the country.

The demonstration was called by a broad coalition of peace groups, environmentalists, and the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB). The Social Democratic Party and the Green Party endorsed the action.

Demonstrators marched from four assembly points and converged on a large mall at the university in Bonn, the site of massive antinuclear rallies in the early 1980s.

Banners throughout the march said "Stop the war," "No war in the Gulf," and "We

don't want a Gulf war."

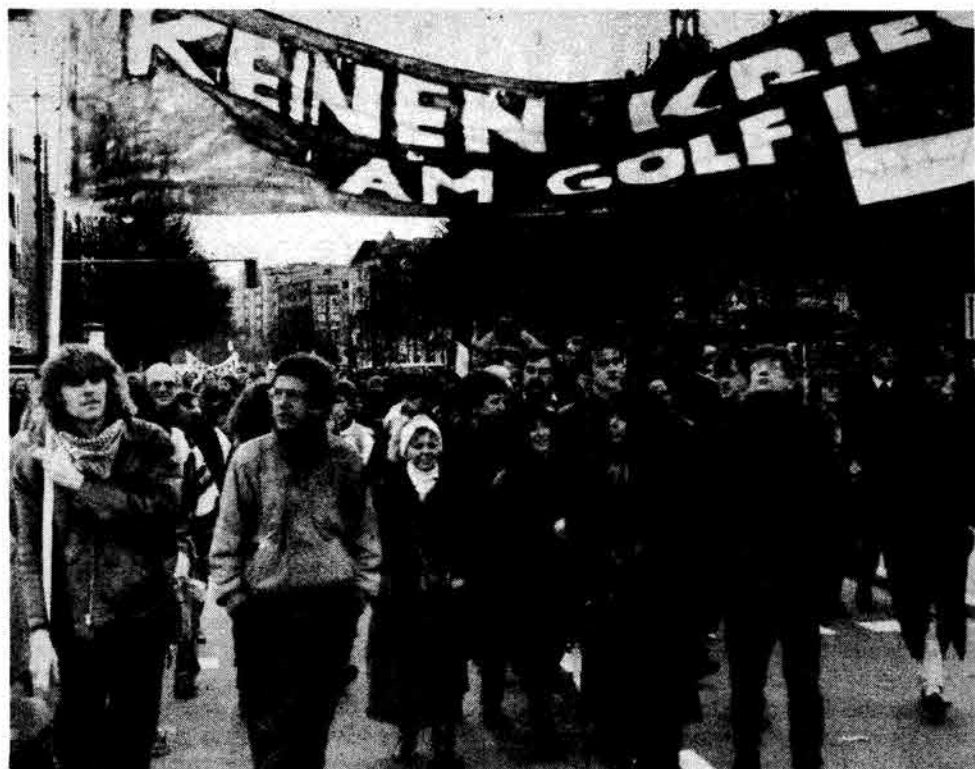
Bishop Gottfried Forck, the senior Protestant clergyman from the state of Brandenburg in eastern Germany, told the crowd that Iraqi President "Saddam Hussein committed a great injustice when he invaded Kuwait. But that did not justify the attack on Iraq. An injustice was met with an even greater injustice."

Forck and Heinz-Werner Meyer, the chairperson of the DGB, both called for a ceasefire in the Mideast war and an end to German arms exports.

Felicia Langer, an Israeli lawyer who has defended many Palestinians, was best received by the crowd. "Hussein did not occupy Kuwait to solve the problems of the Palestinians," she said.

"But who has put this card into Saddam's hand? Who has allowed him this maneuver? It is the stubborn policy of Israel which rejects any possibility of a peaceful solution to the Palestinian question by recognizing the Palestinian's right to self-determination," Langer said.

In Berlin, nearly 100,000 people marched to protest the war and smaller demonstra-



Lüko Willms

'No war in the Gulf!' said student banner in Berlin march on January 12. Nearly 100,000 people in Berlin protested the Mideast war on January 26, which coincided with protests in Washington, D.C., on same day. Large demonstrations were held in many cities in Europe.

tions took place in other cities.

For the fifth time in two weeks, protests occurred across France against the French government's participation in the war against Iraq. The largest demonstration was held in Paris where more than 30,000 people responded to a call for a march by two antiwar coalitions. Thousands more demonstrated in Lyon, Marseilles, Toulouse,

Bordeaux, and other cities.

The two groups that called the protest were the Appeal of the 75, a coalition formed by 75 well-known personalities in France, and the Forum for a Just and Global Peace.

Half way through the protest, Paris police blocked the streets forcing the demonstration to disperse. It was, however, a legal protest. Three previous demonstrations banned by the government were held anyway.

Tens of thousands also marched in Switzerland and local actions were held across Britain.

Picket lines and teach-ins were held in various New Zealand cities on January 25-27. Some 200 people picketed the U.S. consulate in Auckland, demanding an end to the war and against the sending of New Zealand military forces to the Gulf.

In Wellington, the country's capital, more than 400 people demonstrated outside the Parliament building where a special debate on the war in the Arab-Persian Gulf was held. A Christchurch teach-in attracted some 80 people.

Lüko Willms from Frankfurt, Nat London from Paris, and George Buchanan from Auckland contributed to this article.

Airline refuses Iraqis plane tickets

BY PETER THIERJUNG
AND RONI McCANN

NEW YORK — A lawsuit, filed January 31 in Manhattan federal court, charges that Pan American World Airways violated antidiscrimination provisions of the Federal Aviation Act, the 1866 and 1964 Civil Rights Acts, and the New York State Human Rights Law when it refused to sell a ticket to an Iraqi national living in the United States.

The suit, prepared by attorneys for the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee (NECLC), says that a Pan Am reservation agent following company policy refused to make reservations and sell a ticket to H. Salman, an Iraqi national who is a permanent resident of the United States.

At a press conference here, NECLC attorneys said they are seeking an immediate court order to have Pan Am cease discriminating against Iraqi nationals.

Edith Tiger, executive director of NECLC, called Pan Am's policy "an outrage that not only violates civil liberties, but feeds into a potentially dangerous wave of xenophobia" stemming from the U.S. government's war against Iraq.

These attacks on civil liberties must be stopped before they escalate, she said. The NECLC director recalled the U.S. government's internment of Japanese-Americans in the United States during World War II and said that the suit was aimed not only at defending an individual, but combating a climate where "internment of people who have an Arabic name or come from the Middle East" would be tolerated.

NECLC general counsel Eric Lieberman told the press that Salman attempted to buy tickets on January 30. He had hoped to travel to Czechoslovakia to visit his wife's family. The reservation agent, however, cited Pan Am's policy of not permitting Iraqi nationals to board flights and refused to sell him the tickets.

The January 25 *New York Times* quoted a Pan Am employee who revealed such a directive exists, and that it came from the carrier's national headquarters in New York. By the time the restriction was made public, four or five people had already been prevented from boarding flights in Los Angeles, the employee said.

Elizabeth Hlinko, a Pan Am spokesperson in New York, said that the carrier had "no comment" on the lawsuit or the exclusion of Iraqi nationals from flights. When asked what measures Pan Am had implemented, she said that "airport security has increased, but we don't discuss the measures because the information might fall

into the wrong hands."

Other airlines apparently have adopted similar discriminatory policies. A United Airlines company memo informed customer service agents that passengers with Iraqi passports will not be allowed on international flights. The memo instructs the agents to process the customer, but then to call the police.

United's corporate spokesman John Hopkins said that he could not comment on the matter, but United does not have a "blanket policy" against allowing Iraqi nationals on flights.

The carrier does maintain computer "profiles" of individuals that are considered security risks, Hopkins said. "If an individual happens to match the profile,"

then a "security issue" would be posed, he said. Hopkins would not say whether United or the government determined what kind of profiles are kept in the company's computer system.

Iraqi nationality is "one of several" factors taken into consideration when accepting passengers, cargo, and mail, another United spokesperson told the *Times*.

Delta Air Lines has refused to confirm or deny whether it has a policy on Iraqi nationals. American Airlines also refused comment.

NECLC attorney Lieberman said he hoped the lawsuit would send a message that such discrimination will not be tolerated, not only at Pan Am, but at other airlines as well.

Spanish daily reviews Malcolm X book

The following review appeared in the January 29 issue of *El Diario/La Prensa*, the Spanish-language daily with the largest circulation in the New York metropolitan area.

BY NYDIA CHIRIBOGA

African-American History Month begins February 1, a month that ironically coincides with the 26th anniversary of the assassination of the Black leader Malcolm X.

Despite all the years that have gone by since Malcolm X's assassination, the importance of his political contribution, his impressive standing, his charisma, and the resonance of his words did not diminish. On the contrary, it has grown tremendously.

Malcolm X Talks To Young People: Speeches in the U.S., Britain and Africa is a new book containing a valuable collection of unpublished speeches.

The speeches, published by Pathfinder Press, were especially aimed at the youth who felt committed to the struggle against racism.

Talking to "the young generation of whites, Blacks, browns, whatever else there is," Malcolm X explained the time they happened to live in. He described it as "a time of revolution, a time where there's got to be a change," and one where the "people in power have misused it... and a better world has to be built."

Malcolm X Talks To Young People is also a historical document that reminds us of the activities carried out by the Black activist in his tireless campaign against racism, oppression, and against the U.S. intervention in the territories of Central Africa and Vietnam.

Reading the constant denunciations of military interventionism that appear in Malcolm X's speeches can serve as perfect inspiration for [solving] potential intellectual disagreements on the current war in Iraq.

"I am not an American... [but] one of the victims of Americanism... one of the

victims of a very hypocritical system that is going all over this earth today representing itself as being qualified to tell other people how to run their country when they can't get the dirty things that are going on in their own country straightened out," said Malcolm X in one of his speeches.

Available from Pathfinder!

Malcolm X Talks to Young People

"The young generation of whites, Blacks, browns — you're living at a time of revolution, a time when there's got to be a change. People in power have misused it, and now there has to be a change and a better world has to be built."

This new collection includes an interview with Malcolm X and four speeches given in Ghana, Britain, and the United States during the last months of his life. More than half the material appears in print for the first time. 110 pp., \$9.95.



Order from the Pathfinder bookstore nearest you or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include \$1 for shipping and handling.

Students kick off building of protests

Continued from front page

tional day of coordinated antiwar actions on high school and college campuses by two January 27 conferences, one in Washington, D.C., and the other in Berkeley, California. More than 1,500 representatives from student and youth organizations across the United States attended the twin meetings. The conferences followed antiwar marches of 125,000 in Washington and 80,000 in San Francisco on January 26.

The National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East, a coalition of some 50 organizations, sponsored the D.C. meeting. Leaders of the action coalition held a January 31 press conference in the U.S. capital to publicize the call for protests on February 21.

Pierre Barolette, a leader of the United States Student Association, told reporters that the February 21 date was chosen because it is the anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X. "Fighting against this war is an example of what Malcolm X stood for," Barolette said. "Reading him tells us we must oppose U.S. intervention and work for peace."

Malcolm X was a revolutionary fighter, an outspoken opponent of imperialism and its wars, and a leader of the struggle for Black rights. He was gunned down on February 21, 1965.

Barolette stressed the importance of the unity around the demands adopted by the participants at the conferences. These include: Stop the war; bring the troops home now; and no legal or economic draft. The D.C. meeting adopted additional slogans: Fight racism; develop sustainable and renewable energy policy; and end all occupations in the Middle East.

"The fact that so many students from such diverse backgrounds got together around these key demands shows the seriousness of our movement," Barolette said.

Carl LeVan, a George Washington University student and leader of the National Student and Youth Campaign, noted that student activity in opposition to the war is already significant. He predicted the protests will increase when the war escalates to ground combat.

Jin Sook Lee of Young Koreans United (YKU), pledged her organization's support for the February 21 protests. "Only in solidarity and unity can we stop the war in the Middle East and end U.S. intervention in the Third World," she said. "The YKU will be participating in the internationally coordinated antiwar actions."



Left to right: Jin Sook Lee, Young Koreans United; Rashid Taher, Palestine Academic Freedom Network; Pierre Barolette, United States Student Association; Carl LeVan, National Student and Youth Campaign. "Reading Malcolm X tells us we must oppose U.S. intervention and work for peace," Barolette said at press conference.

Plans for February 21 take shape

Some 35 students held a February 4 planning meeting at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. Student activist Jason Marty said the meeting decided to form a campus group called Students for Peace and adopted the February 21 call. The group is aiming for two events, including a teach-in. An evening activity is being scheduled so that high school students can participate.

"Let's get organized!" sums up the attitude of many who attended the meeting at Drake, Marty said. Students from Drake will contact other campuses in the state. February 21 offers students a chance to see that "they are part of something bigger, a movement," Marty added.

At the University of Miami a new student group was formed by activists who attended the Washington, D.C., conference. The group, Students for Social Justice, is in the midst of making definite plans for the protests. Students at Florida International University in Miami are also mapping out their goals. A Florida statewide rally has been set for February 23 in Gainesville.

Afro-American students opposed to the war in the Middle East will meet in Atlanta on February 16. The goal of the gathering is to help promote the February 21 protests and other antiwar activities at Black universities and colleges throughout the South, said Leslie Watson from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The idea for the

meeting developed out of an Afro-American caucus meeting at the January 27 conference in Washington, D.C.

Watson said a February 21 teach-in with a variety of speakers, including international students, Vietnam veterans, environmentalists, and peace activists, will be held at Southern University. One goal of the event is to attract and involve high school students.

'Bring the troops home!'

Watson estimates that some 600 students have not returned to Louisiana State University and to Southern University this semester because they have been called up for duty in Saudi Arabia. "Louisiana has been hit hard and this has caused some confusion about supporting the troops," she said. "Now is the time to shout as loud as possible 'We don't support the war, Bring the troops home!'"

Christine Kelly, an activist at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, said the R.U. for Peace Coalition has begun planning for February 21. Different types of activities are currently being discussed, including dormitory canvassing and a protest at a congressman's office. A February 5 meeting will make final plans. Activities will be coordinated with Black student groups organizing Malcolm X commemorations, Kelly said.

"Students continue to turn out for the coalition's weekly activities, but there has been a bit of a polarization," Kelly reported. She said that some fraternities have begun organizing prowar activities, but have failed thus far to overshadow the numbers participating in antiwar activities.

The New Brunswick coalition is contacting other campuses in New Jersey to coordinate their efforts. A February 20 teach-in sponsored by Advocates for Political Awareness has been scheduled at the Rutgers campus in Newark, New Jersey.

A February 3 citywide meeting in Los Angeles attracted some 50 students and youth from at least 10 university and college campuses. The meeting endorsed February 21 and slated a citywide rally at the end of the day at the University of Southern California.

The Chicago Student and Youth Coalition against the War in the Middle East has voted to endorse February 21. A February 9 citywide planning meeting will be held at the University of Illinois, Chicago campus.

Representatives from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Brigham Young University and a high school in Provo, Utah, held a February 3 meeting where they planned a march and rally for February 21.

Tara McGann, a member of Students Against U.S. Intervention in the Middle East in New York, reported that a February 5 meeting would finalize plans for a citywide student and youth protest.

"Everyone wants something to happen on February 21," McGann said. "We need to look for the broadest possible activity" to involve the greatest numbers of people. Representatives from City University of New York, Columbia and New York universities, Bard College, the State University of New York in Albany, and area high schools are among those expected to attend the New York meeting.

"People are excited about the coordinated nature of the actions," said Aaron Ruby, a

leader of the National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East. "Everyone feels more effective and part of something bigger, especially as we link up with student and youth activists in other countries." He urged the broadest participation possible from students and other youth, unionists, GIs and reservists, and others opposed to Washington's widening slaughter in the Mideast.

Gene Banks, a volunteer from Albany, Georgia, working in the D.C. student and youth campaign office, said that, after rounds of calls to various parts of the country, he was encouraged by the response to February 21. He plans to return to his state to work with activists at the University of Georgia in Athens where a teach-in has been scheduled. Banks says he wants to get word out all over the state.

Reports on February 21 activities from other areas include:

- The Campus Peace Committee at the University of California in Berkeley is planning a protest for February 21.
- The Detroit Palestinian Solidarity Committee campus network held a planning meeting for February 21 that included representatives from five area university and high school campuses.
- The Palestinian Academic Freedom Network's members "all over the country will be backing February 21 activities," said Sana Odeh, a spokesperson for the organization in New York.

For more information, contact the National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East at (202) 462-1801. Their address is 1225 15th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20005. The fax number is (202) 232-5210.

On the West Coast, contact the Western Student and Youth Action Network against the War at (415) 653-5442.

The *Militant* encourages readers to send in reports of February 21 building activities in your area. Our fax number is (212) 727-0150.



Militant/Peter Thierjung
Participants at January 27 national student conference in Washington, D.C.

**Thursday,
February 21**

International Day of Student and Youth MOBILIZATION AGAINST THE WAR

On January 27, 1,500 students and youth from over 100 campuses and high schools met in Washington, D.C. At the same time, 500 met in Berkeley, California. We have come together to unify our many protests into a single day of mobilization to stop the war.

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Malcolm X, assassinated
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Local contact:

Strains on U.S.-led coalition surface

BY SETH GALINSKY

The governments of Britain, Germany, France, Spain, Turkey, and other U.S. allies are stepping up their participation in the war against the people of Iraq. But coming to the surface of the U.S.-led coalition are sharp hesitations, divisions, and disagreements within and between the ruling classes prosecuting the bloody conflict.

U.S. B-52 bombers are already flying missions to Iraq and Kuwait from Spain and will soon be based in Britain. The French government agreed to let the giant warplanes use French airspace and refuel at a French military base.

Before the start of the war, U.S. B-52's were permanently based only in Guam and North America. The Pentagon has sought more bases to be able to increase the number of planes used to bomb Iraq.

In an attempt to avoid antiwar protests, the Spanish government tried to keep the basing of the planes a secret. After the news broke, the Madrid daily *El Mundo* published an editorial headlined, "They have deceived us. We are at war."

The French government's increasing involvement in the war has caused divisions in the ruling Socialist Party.

Former defense minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement had opposed sending French troops to Saudi Arabia to participate in what he called "America's war."

Chevènement was not the only one. Senator Philippe de Gaulle, son of Charles de Gaulle, voted against participation on the grounds that it would damage the French rulers' interests in other Arab nations.

On January 16 Chevènement announced that France's 10,000 troops, 54 aircraft, and 12 ships in the Gulf would not fight inside Iraq.

Three days later President François Mitterrand reversed Chevènement's position. French Jaguar fighter bombers have since been attacking both Kuwait and Iraq.

Chevènement resigned as defense minister in protest on January 29.

Similar divisions have erupted among other U.S. allies. On January 31 Mario Buracchia, the head of Italy's naval forces in the Gulf, resigned. He was quoted as saying in reference to the war, "I wondered if in a certain sense we hadn't all been made fools of, if they hadn't drawn us into a much larger game."

Pressure on Germany and Japan

Washington and London have also been pressing the governments in Germany and Japan to step up participation in the imperialist war. Like the French ruling class, the German and Japanese imperialists stand to lose the most if Washington succeeds in its goal of wresting control of the Mideast oil reserves through the war.

Despite this, both the German and Japanese governments have increased monetary and other contributions to the war effort. While giving money to the U.S.-led coalition, neither have placed troops under U.S. military command or played an active military role in the war, although Germany has some soldiers in Turkey.

In late January some British politicians and news commentators accused the Germans of "cowardice."

Turkish President Turgut Ozal also complained about Bonn's refusal to state whether it would defend Turkey if fighting broke out with Iraq. Both Turkey and Germany are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and are bound by treaties to defend any NATO country under attack. "The signal should go out that if Turkey is attacked, let NATO be with Turkey," Ozal said in an interview broadcast on German television.

The German government has also come under fire for its aid to the Hussein regime in Iraq before the start of the conflict. German technicians helped redesign Iraq's Scud missiles, giving them longer range. French, Italian, Soviet, and U.S. companies also aided Iraq when it was fighting against Iran.

Cash from Germany

On January 29, German government spokesperson Dieter Vogel announced Germany would provide an additional \$5.5 billion in cash to the United States for the war and send anti-aircraft batteries and 580 soldiers to Turkey.

Germany will also pay Britain \$535 million to help out with British expenses in the war.

On January 31, German military transport planes began flying \$670 million in military aid to Israel.

"This operation beginning tonight is the first direct delivery of weapons material, military material by Germany officially to Israel," Otto von der Gablentz, the German ambassador to Israel, stated.

The aid includes Patriot missiles, submarines, gas masks, and vehicles.

Jerusalem's mayor Teddy Kollek commented on the German aid: "They have a bad conscience, but that's not worth a penny."

The Japanese government plans to give \$9 billion for the war. To win approval for the aid in the face of opposition, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu agreed to restrictions on the money that would prohibit it from being used for arms or ammunition.

Besides the aid, for the first time since World War II Japan is deploying military forces in an international conflict. The Japanese military is sending five C-130 transport planes to the Arab-Persian Gulf.

'Map of the area will change'

The Turkish government has systematically built up its participation in the war against Iraq. It now has up to 180,000 troops poised at the Iraqi border in what could become a second front.

"Turkey will emerge stronger, much stronger from this conflict, by siding with the allies," Turkish President Ozal told a closed meeting of leaders of the ruling Motherland Party.

Continued from front page

cles littering the streets, skeletons left seared to the seats of jeeps, and bodies strewn over the ground.

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Albert Rivera said he and other GIs were surprised at the scale of the Iraqi assault and the "resistance they put up. We thought they were weak and malnourished and they proved us wrong."

Marine pilot Michael Steele, assigned to lead a helicopter squadron over Khafji and fire rockets to back up allied ground troops, remarked afterwards, "This war will not be a cakewalk."

"There are 500,000 people up there," he said pointing north across the desert. "Some of them are going to fight. I know that."

Steele said, "Nobody is saying we'll be home by Easter."

Bombing intensifies after battle

As the battle at Khafji ended, the U.S. imperialist-led forces increased their relentless bombardment of Iraq. Some estimates put the total tonnage of bombs dropped on Iraq and Kuwait above what was used during the whole of World War II.

On February 4, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that allied planes were flying lower in more potent bombing runs. Over the weekend of February 2, B-52 bombers pummeled Iraqi Republican Guard troop positions. British and U.S. forces also bombed Iraqi ships, sinking 24 and damaging several others.

To date the U.S.-led bombing has focused on military installations and economic targets and infrastructure. But along with hitting communications centers and munitions factories, the bombs explode on surrounding factories, residential areas, hotels, shops, and schools.

The port city of Basra, in southern Iraq, near the Kuwaiti border, has been one of the worst hit. Construction workers from the city interviewed in Jordan February 3 say the town is "ravaged by air strikes," according to the British Broadcast Communications World Service. Bombing raids, which began more selectively, intensified after January 28, hitting two oil refineries, grain storage areas, and one Muslim mosque, they said.

"We are human beings!"

Residents in other cities described what was being done to the populated areas:

From Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq, residents reported that houses had been demolished the first day of the war along with hotels and shops in the business district, all near a telecommunications center. Live footage shown February 2 on New Jersey's WPIX TV news featured interviews with residents. A young man told reporters, "Your president is killing our children!"

Ozal pointed to the additional \$82 million in military aid Turkey will get from the United States in 1991 as just one example.

"After all this is over, Turkey's foreign economic relations, particularly with the United States, will develop greatly," Ozal said.

Interviewed by the *Christian Science Monitor*, Ozal stated that Turkey will play a major role in the "new Middle East" after the war.

"The map of the area is likely to change. Power balances will change," he said. "We must be at the [conference] table when the new situation is discussed. Turkey must be influential," he said.

Not everyone in Turkey agrees. "Muslims should not be fighting Muslims," said a farmer interviewed by the *New York Times* in a border region of Turkey.

"We don't approve of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait," said Nizamettin Alaverdi, a Muslim religious leader. "But America should not get involved. This thing should be settled by Muslim countries themselves."

As the war deepens, Iran is being drawn into the vortex in spite of its declarations of neutrality.

The Iranian Red Crescent Society, ignoring the United Nations Security Council embargo, has begun sending powdered milk and medicine to Iraq to alleviate some of the suffering caused by the war.

About 90 Iraqi military planes have flown to Iran over the past weeks seeking sanctuary. The Iranian government has protested the

move and said that it will not allow the planes to leave until the war is over.

According to the *Washington Post*, Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani has said that any allied warplanes in distress would be allowed to make emergency landings after obtaining Iranian permission.

On February 4 Rafsanjani offered to mediate between the United States and Iraq to end the war.

Hesitations in Egypt

The Egyptian government, one of the main U.S. allies among Arab regimes, has expressed some limited hesitations on the course of the war. There are between 35,000 and 45,000 Egyptian troops stationed in Saudi Arabia.

A reporter for the *New York Times* noted that after news of civilian casualties reached Egypt, there was "a clear shift" in public opinion against the Egyptian presence.

"We are under pressure from the street," said one official.

Taking distance from the U.S. preparations for an invasion of Iraq, Boutros Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, stated at a news conference, "Certainly our position is not in favor of the destruction of an Arab country, is not in favor of a change of government."

Washington is drawing other governments into the action. On January 9, U.S. C-141 transport planes started refueling at Safar Airport in Bombay, India, at the rate of about

Continued on Page 9

U.S. widens bombing, death toll grows



Jordanian newspaper photo of Iraqi woman injured by intense U.S. bombing raids against Iraq. "We are human beings!" another Iraqi woman shouted at international reporters at the scene of bombing in Baghdad.

In the rural town of Al Hillah, 60 miles south of Baghdad, residents said that a housing area, a secondary school, and a children's clinic were hit by bombs. In the village of Al Haswa a crater about 50 yards in diameter marked the impact of a bomb in a residential neighborhood.

"We are human beings!" shouted one woman to reporters standing around a huge missile crater in Baghdad February 2. "This isn't a game, these are human lives!" she told reporter Alfonso Rojo of *El Mundo*. Another woman leaned over a terrace and yelled, "Is this what you call Western civilization?"

Planes aiming at a telecommunications center in An Najaf, 120 miles south of the capital, bombed 50 houses as well. The *New York Times* reported at least 20 Iraqis were killed and dozens more wounded.

On February 4 the outskirts of Baghdad came under even heavier bombardment from three waves of allied aircraft that included B-52 bombers. A group of correspondents reported witnessing scenes of devastation in populated areas.

Allied forces in position for ground war

The same week U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney announced allied forces would be in position for launching a ground invasion of Kuwait and Iraq by the end of February. Putting the last pieces in place, the allied military force massed in Saudi Arabia grew to more than 500,000 the week of February 4. Heavy tanks that allied com-

manders want to use to spearhead ground assaults are arriving from the American VII Corps in Germany. Two-lane highways are crisscrossed as military supply trucks file in. Workers from Pakistan, Philippines, Korea, and elsewhere have been hired. The *Wall Street Journal* reported that a captain told soldiers "before the end of February, you'll be advancing under live fire against targets that shoot back."

One front-line colonel reminded a *New York Times* reporter that intensive bombing raids by allied forces on German-occupied France in 1944 during World War II did not make it easy to invade. "We face something that bad, or worse, in my view," in a ground war against Iraq.

U.S. Maj. Gen. William Pagonis, in charge of the logistics operation, described the plan being put into place to enable allied forces to take Iraq inch-by-inch. He compared the effort being mounted in the desert to the battles between the British and Germans in north Africa during World War II. Because of logistics, he explained, the Germans had to return for supplies as they advanced but the British brought theirs with them.

"The Iraqis are less organized than I expected," said Marine Capt. Michael Rocco, who fought in the first ground battle at Khafji. "But they fight hard."

"I wouldn't say this war will be quick," he said, adding coldly, "Many people will die."

Israeli government presses assault on Palestinians

BY JAMES HARRIS

Since Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait the Israeli government has stepped up its assault on the Palestinian people.

While the big-business media throughout the world has focused in on the Iraqi Scud missile attacks on Israeli civilians areas, a rising number of Palestinians have been killed by Israeli government troops. The regime has further trampled on the Palestinians' democratic rights, with 1.7 million Palestinians now under virtual house arrest on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israeli army killed 11 Palestinians in the first week of January alone. This brings the total number of Palestinians killed during

sary of the founding of Fatah, one of the organizations that make up the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO).

Curfew on West Bank and Gaza Strip

Within minutes of the beginning of the U.S.-led imperialist bombing of Iraq the Israeli government imposed a draconian curfew on Palestinians living in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. A form of mass house arrest exists for the 1.7 million Palestinians who live there — the Israeli army claims the confinement is necessary to keep the Palestinians from "exploiting the conflict with Iraq," reports the *New York Times*.

Saeb Erakat, a political science professor,

Every few days the curfew is lifted in different areas for a few hours to allow people to get food and other supplies. Many residents report they are running low on food, money, and medical supplies.

The curfew is the longest ever imposed by the government in the two areas since Israel occupied them in 1967.

The curfew is having a devastating impact on the economy of the region. Workers cannot go to their jobs, stores are not allowed to open, and families are pressed to live off their savings. Many of the more than 100,000 Palestinians who travel daily to and from the West Bank or Gaza Strip to jobs in Israel are paid by the day.

This hardship is magnified by the fact that tens of thousands of Palestinians have been forced to flee the Gulf states. Some 400,000 Palestinians lived and worked in Kuwait alone prior to the August 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The pay of these workers made up a substantial portion of the income of Palestinian families.

Many Palestinians fear that even when the curfew is lifted there will be fewer jobs to return to. This is because employers are hiring some of the 200,000 recent Soviet immigrants to Israel for jobs that were formerly held by the Arab work force. The government has openly said that its aim is to cut the number of Arab workers in Israel by half.

Arrest of leaders

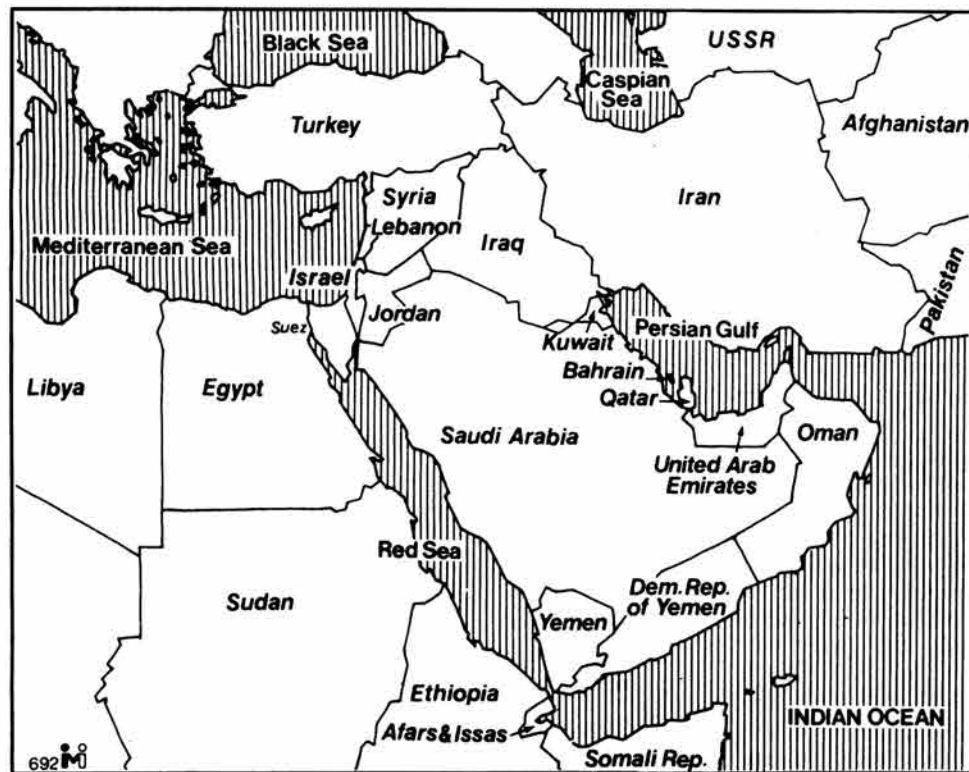
The government has used the crackdown on democratic rights as an opportunity to strike out at particular Palestinian leaders.

Leading activist Sari Nusseibeh was arrested on charges of spying for Baghdad. He was sentenced to six months in jail — without formal charges being filed or a trial.

In a statement from prison Nusseibeh said: "I categorically deny the government statement, and assert that I have never been or



Israeli soldier conducting a search in Jerusalem. Within minutes of the beginning of the U.S.-led imperialist bombing of Iraq the Israeli government imposed a draconian curfew on Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.



the three-year *intifada* to 915 as of Jan. 7, 1991. The *intifada*, or uprising, is the sustained rebellion of the Palestinian people that began in December 1987.

Claiming the need to prevent the Palestinians from "getting out of control," Defense Minister Moshe Arens deployed army snipers along major roads in the West Bank at the end of 1990. At least half a dozen Palestinians had been wounded by the snipers before January 4. Army regulations permit Israeli soldiers to shoot Palestinian youth wearing masks.

Al-Fajr, a Palestinian weekly in Jerusalem, stated that on December 29 Israeli soldiers shot and killed four Palestinians and injured more than 600. They began firing at two masked youth writing graffiti on a wall commemorating the twenty-sixth anniversary

told *The Christian Science Monitor* how he learned about the curfew.

"Somebody called me from the states to tell me that war broke out in the Gulf. It was about 2:15 in the morning, January 17. At 2:30," he said, "we heard Israeli jeeps with microphones telling us Jericho was under curfew and warning residents that if they left their doors they would be shot at."

Palestinians can be fined up to \$15,000 for breaking curfew, and there are reports of beatings, use of tear gas, and arbitrary arrests.

Join the campaign to get out the truth

Order your bundle of 'International Socialist Review'

Join **Militant** readers and opponents of the U.S.-led war against Iraq in campaigning against the imperialist assault by helping distribute the **International Socialist Review**. Since December nearly 10,000 copies of the special supplement have been ordered: by **Militant** supporters who have taken goals to get it out widely among unionists, farmers, GIs, and students; and by readers who have sent in coupons for bundles to sell in their areas.

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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300,000 in Morocco demand: Allied troops out of the Gulf!

More than 300,000 people demonstrated in Rabat, the capital of Morocco, February 3 demanding the withdrawal of allied troops, including Moroccan soldiers, from the Arab-Persian Gulf. The Moroccan government has sent 1,200 troops to Saudi Arabia and 500 more to the United Arab Emirates as part of the U.S.-led alliance fighting Iraq.

The huge demonstration denounced the U.S., British, French, and Arab governments for waging a massive war against the people of Iraq.

"Bush is a murderer," was one of the slogans. "Assassin Bush, Mitterrand his dog, and Fahd his donkey," was another chant. Fahd is the king of Saudi Arabia. They also chanted slogans in support of Iraq and carried portraits of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, and the Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yassir Arafat.

The demonstration was the first permitted by the Moroccan government since war broke out in the Mideast.

Peter Hart, a correspondent for the British Broadcasting Corp., estimated the march as "the biggest demonstration since independence was won in 1956."

Morocco, formerly a Spanish and French protectorate, is located in northern Africa and has a population of 25.6 million people.

Strains on U.S.-led war coalition begin to surface

Continued from Page 8

two a day, according to *The Times of India*. Almost every opposition party, including the former ruling Congress Party, has criticized the move.

The Jordanian government has not joined in the anti-Iraq coalition. Jordanians, many of whom are Palestinian, overwhelmingly sympathize with Iraq.

The Saudi government cut the flow of oil to Jordan in retaliation for its refusal to back the war effort. Jordan's only port is under a de facto blockade by the U.S. alliance. As a result, unemployment is up and food and medical supplies threatened.

Further increasing the pressure, the U.S. has been bombing Jordanian oil tanker trucks that drive from Baghdad to Amman, even though the United Nations exempted oil imports from Iraq to Jordan from the embargo.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Taher al-Masri said that four Jordanians and one Egyptian had been killed on the highway in just two days by allied aircraft.

"These brutal planes knew exactly what they were doing," Masri charged.

Korean in Hiroshima tells of devastation after atomic blast

BY DOUG JENNESS

HIROSHIMA, Japan — In the weeks leading up to their military invasion of Iraq, White House officials were raising the specter of President Saddam Hussein's regime soon achieving the capacity to produce atomic weapons.

That warning rings especially hollow in this city. A U.S. president, wholeheartedly backed by the U.S. Congress, ordered the dropping of an atomic bomb here on Aug. 6, 1945. Three days later President Harry Truman ordered a second A-bomb attack, this time on the Japanese city of Nagasaki. These remain the only atomic bombs used in wartime, and Washington remains the only government that has used them.

The devastation from each of these two bombs is unsurpassed for single bombs in all of warfare. The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, here, documents the effects of the holocaust that struck this city in a series of modest, but effective, displays. Sources dif-

fer as to the number killed outright, but some estimates run as high as 120,000. If those who died in the subsequent days, weeks, and even years from related injuries and radiation poisoning are included, the figure may be 200,000. Nearly 400,000 people suffered in some way directly from the attack.

The city was turned to ashes for well over a mile in every direction from the center of the bomb's impact. Some 90 percent of the residential areas were destroyed or seriously damaged. Only a few structures were not totally demolished. Famous among them is the Hiroshima Prefecture Industrial Promotion Hall, whose partially destroyed dome-like structure still stands as a grim reminder of that terrible day.

In an interview here in December, Lee Sil Gun, president of the Council of Atom-Bombed Koreans in Hiroshima Prefecture, described his impression of Hiroshima the morning after the bomb attack. He was 16 at the time and had been in Kobe to buy rice

the day the bomb was dropped. The next morning he was scheduled to pass through Hiroshima on the way to Yamaguchi, where he lived. "When I arrived in Hiroshima by train I didn't know about the atomic attack," he said. "There were rumors on the train that something drastic had happened but nobody knew anything for sure, and nobody imagined what really had happened."

"What I noticed first," he continued, "was how far you could see. There were no buildings left so you could look across the city. You could still see dead people laying in the streets."

A fiendish experiment

Hiroshima was chosen by U.S. military brass as a target partly because it was the site of the largest military base in western Japan. But its physical features also offered favorable conditions to experiment with the new weapon's total destructive capacities.

Hiroshima is mostly located on a number of delta islands at the mouth of the Ota River and is surrounded on three sides by mountains. This served to concentrate and worsen the impact of the blast on Hiroshima's dense population.

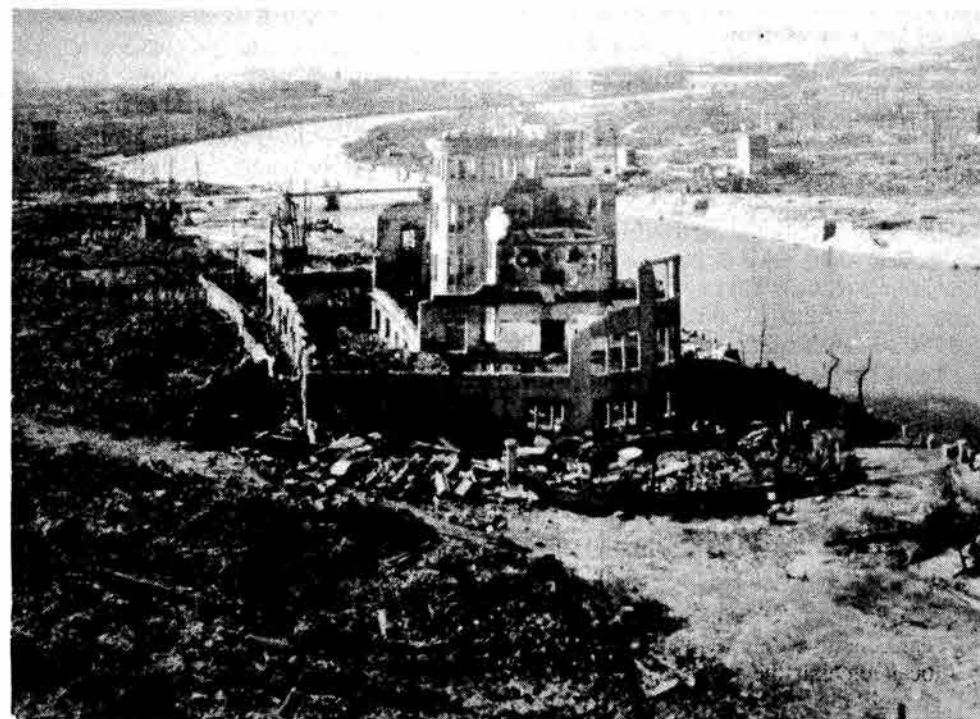
The two A-bombs were dropped even though the Japanese government had offered to negotiate a surrender. Washington was determined to get an unconditional surrender and unleashing these new weapons was the fastest way to achieve this, U.S. officials believed.

Moreover, the bombings were aimed at sending a chilling warning to the entire world that Washington intended to maintain its overwhelming military superiority in the post-war period.

A little-known chapter

One of the little-known facts about the attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki is that a disproportionately large number of the victims were Korean. Lee put the number killed in Hiroshima at 30,000. Another 48,000 Koreans were exposed to the radioactive fallout, he said.

In 1945, 100,000 Koreans were living in Hiroshima. Most of them, Lee explained, "were brought as forced labor from Korea to work in factories and other jobs." His own



Hiroshima Prefecture Industrial Promotion Hall, one of the few buildings not flattened in 1945 after the U.S. government dropped an atom bomb on Hiroshima.

Iowa unionists stand up to political police

BY PETER THIERJUNG

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Harold Searcy is a 27-year-old worker who lives in Des Moines, Iowa. On January 26 he was one of more than 125,000 people who marched in Washington, D.C., to protest the U.S. war in the Mideast.

Just a few days before, agents of the U.S. Secret Service and Iowa Bureau of Criminal Investigation showed up at the Emco auto parts plant where Searcy works. They attempted to intimidate him and a coworker, Priscilla Schenk, by questioning them about alleged threats against the lives of the president of the United States and Iowa's governor.

Searcy and Schenk have both been outspoken opponents of Washington's war in the Mideast and Schenk is the Socialist Workers' candidate for school board in Des Moines.

But they were not intimidated. "There are thousands of people who think like us and we are not going to go away," Searcy said in an interview following the demonstration. He said the company had warned him last December to keep quiet about his antiwar and political views.

"We are unionists, not just antiwar activists," he said and explained that the union's contract with the company would be up for negotiation later this spring. The cop visit and the company's warnings are "a way to try to shut us up and intimidate all the workers," he explained. Searcy and Schenk are members of the United Auto Workers union.

Washington vs. our brothers and sisters

Asked what motivated him to participate in the January 26 protest, Searcy explained that "all workers across the world are our brothers and sisters. In Iraq, our brothers and sisters are being killed by the U.S. government." Washington "would rather slaughter people than try to take care of the problems people face," he said.

Unionists Searcy and Schenk keep explaining their views against war despite threats.

A few days after the cops' visit Searcy joined the Young Socialist Alliance. Following the antiwar demonstration he spoke to more than 400 people at an open house sponsored by the YSA. Searcy has been active in People for Peace in the Middle East, a Des Moines antiwar group.

When he was a high school student, Searcy considered himself a Republican. But several experiences changed his outlook and helped him "to relate to what's happening to people all over the world," he said.

Searcy said a summer spent in Mexico, while he was still a teenager, had a major impact on him. He went there on a church-organized trip to help build a bible school. The poverty and difficult conditions faced by working people there deeply troubled him.

Later Searcy married. He is now the father of a boy who is five years old and a girl, three years old. Making ends meet and the burdens of raising a family led him to a few brushes with homelessness. He recalled living out of his car a few times and some stints in a transient hotel where he met other workers facing similar hardships.

'There had to be a different way'

Then two-and-a-half years ago, Searcy began working at Emco. He met Schenk there, who introduced him to the *Militant*. He said that reading the *Militant* and attending a Militant Labor Forum on the struggle against apartheid in South Africa helped open his eyes to what is happening in the world and motivated him to consider socialism. "There had to be a different

way," he said.

Searcy discusses his political views with coworkers. "The plant is polarized" on the war issue and "a majority supports it," he said. But some coworkers are not convinced that the war is right. One coworker told Searcy that he did not like what happened in Panama when U.S. forces invaded and does not like what is happening in the Middle East.

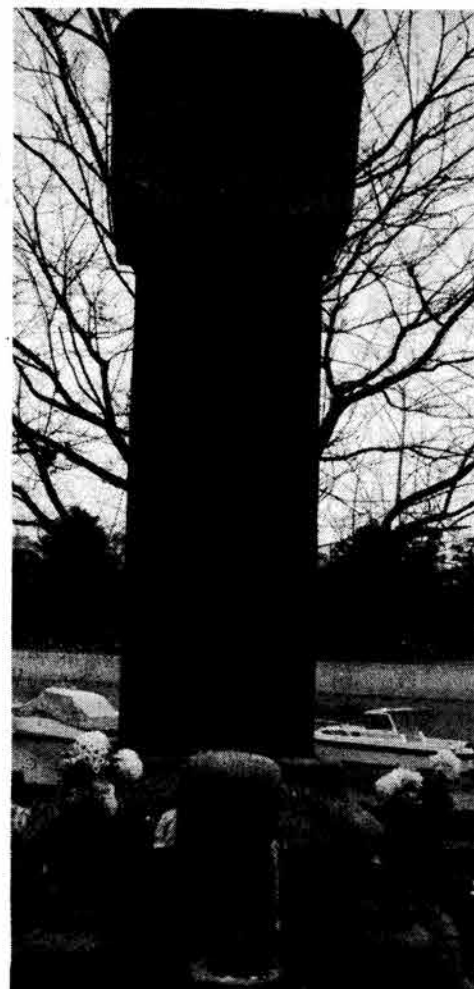
In interviews a week after the January 26 demonstration, Searcy and Schenk talked about developments at their plant since the cops appeared there.

Schenk said that when she and Searcy reported for work January 28, U.S. flags and prowar paraphernalia cluttered their work areas. The company has been on a prowar campaign that emboldened some workers, she said. "Support our troops" banners with names of coworkers in the military have been posted throughout the plant.

On the other hand, Schenk said some workers have stepped up their discussions with her and Searcy. "They want to discuss what the cops' visit was all about, what we think about the war, and what happened at the demonstration," she said.

Searcy reported that he was getting into more political discussions with a layer of workers, while others have become less tolerant of his views.

The highlight of the week, Searcy reported, was a January 31 phone call by a journalist from the *Washington Post* to the company. "She was writing a story on First Amendment free speech rights during times of war and wanted to interview Priscilla and me," Searcy said. The company took a message from the reporter for the two, who then called the newspaper back after work.



Militant/Doug Jenness
Monument in Hiroshima dedicated to the some 30,000 Korean victims of atomic bomb. Koreans, discriminated against in Japan, had to wage a 25-year fight for the marker.

parents were farmers in the southern part of Korea when the Japanese colonial officials removed them from their farm and brought them to Yamaguchi. There they were put to work making charcoal.

Many Korean workers in Hiroshima were employed by Mitsubishi and Toyokogyo in large munitions factories. Conditions in the factories for Korean workers were particularly oppressive, Lee said. They were paid very low wages and worked 12-18 hours a day. "Often families only had millet to eat because there wasn't enough money for rice," he recalled.

The principal factories were not far from the epicenter of the bomb blast. Workers had just punched in and were at work when "Big Boy," as U.S. officials dubbed the big bomb, was released from a B-29 bomber.

Although the number of Korean casualties was remarkably high, no public funerals or memorial ceremonies were carried out for them as they were for Japanese victims. The first monument to Koreans killed in the nuclear bomb blast was not erected until 1970. And then it was not placed inside the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, which covers many acres, but was set across the Honkawa River from the park. The monument was made possible by the efforts of the Hiroshima Prefecture Branch of the Organization of Koreans Resident in Japan.

The inscription on the monument's plaque points to one of the continuing problems facing Korean victims of the A-bomb attack. We "pray," the message reads, "that the plight of the Korean survivors, poorly understood even today, will emerge into public awareness and that reasonable assistance for these survivors will be provided immediately."

Lee, whose organization has been waging a fight for the past 15 years to win aid for Korean survivors, explained that most Korean survivors aren't covered by any medical plan. The survivors who still reside in Japan get a government Health Book like all residents which provides them with medical compensation. "But this is only 540 people," Lee said. "Most of the A-bomb survivors returned to Korea after World War II. The 2,000 that went to North Korea automatically get free medical care, which is guaranteed every citizen. But the 20,000 who went to the South get little or no protection."

Lee said that many of the survivors still suffer from radiation sickness, and many others have developed cancers that need treatment. The medical costs can be exceedingly high.

The fight for medical aid has focused on demanding that the Japanese government provide the necessary funds. Last May, Tokyo pledged \$26.5 million, but this is far from sufficient, Lee stated. He said his organization is demanding \$2.3 billion.

When asked if the U.S. government, which was responsible for the bomb attack, had offered any compensation, Lee laughed bitterly. "Nothing!" he said.

Alabama miners push back company attack on safety

BY JOHN HAWKINS

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — The fight for safety in the mines has always been at the center of efforts to build and maintain strong miners unions. That remains the case today.

Recently, miners at the Jim Walter Resources (JWR) No. 5 mine — members of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local 2368 — were reminded of that fact by a concerted company assault on mine safety.

Over long-standing union objections JWR management decided to introduce a new longwall ventilation plan.

If enacted, the plan would enable the company to profit from the sale of methane gas, a byproduct of the new ventilation system. But the proposed plan would also place the life of every worker at the mine in danger and encourage other companies using longwall mining to implement similar plans, placing the lives of thousands more miners at risk.

UMWA members at JWR, mine coal underground in one of the coal-mining centers of the United States.

In longwall mining, a complete block of coal is extracted by using a long machine that shears back and forth along the width of the block, cuts chunks of coal from the face, and pushes it toward a conveyor belt that takes the coal out of the mine. Miners operating the longwall system work under hydraulic roof supports that advance electronically.

The area of fallen rock that remains behind a longwall machine as it moves along the face is called the "gob."

The pretext for JWR's proposed change was the discovery of a "hot spot" in the mine floor near a longwall gob. It was discovered while workers were away from the mine during their regular vacation period.

"Hot spot" is the term used in the mining industry to describe the occurrence of spontaneous combustion in the mine floor. This

occurs when chemicals in the rock layers that form the floor are exposed to oxygen due to bottom heave. Explosions and cave-ins resulting from this condition have occurred at mines around the world.

Some miners speculated that the hot spot was discovered before our vacation, but had been kept from general knowledge at that time. Other hot spots had been previously discovered and extinguished at the mine.

When the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) inspectors found out about the hot spot they issued an order to prohibit mining on the longwall section. The prohibition was to be in effect until a plan was devised to control the spontaneous combustion, provide for monitoring of the area, and insure safe and rapid evacuation of miners should the hot spot get out of control.

But rather than moving rapidly to correct the situation and return to full production following the two-week vacation, JWR management decided to mount a pressure campaign against the union local.

While MSHA did shut down the longwall section, at no time during the forthcoming 10-week dispute did the agency issue an order shutting down the entire mine.

Attempt to weaken union

First, JWR management hoped to stamper the miners into accepting the company's new plan for ventilation. They also hoped to divide and weaken the union, thereby dealing a stunning blow to the miners.

A few days before we were to return from vacation we were told that the vacation had been "extended." This extension, with the exception of a less-than-ten-day period during which the new ventilation scheme was "tested," was to last for more than ten weeks.

The new ventilation plan submitted by JWR would seal the longwall gob completely, allowing methane gas in the sealed gob area to rise through the explosive range (between 5 and 15 percent of atmosphere for methane), driving off oxygen and thereby prevent spontaneous combustion.

According to the company, this was the only way to insure that spontaneous combustion would not occur in the longwall gob, thus the only way to keep the longwall running — without which it would be unprofitable to operate the mine.

Miners at JWR No. 5 should not be concerned, they argued, because this was the "European method" of mining — the way it is done in British mines.

A union meeting was called July 11 to discuss the company's proposed changes. Members of the local were told that if we did not accept this plan immediately the mine would be closed by the following Friday — July 15.

A heated discussion ensued, with some miners arguing for acceptance of the company's demands. Their arguments echoed company propaganda that blamed the delay in our return to work on the UMWA international safety representative stationed here in the union's District 20. He, it was claimed, was pressing MSHA for too many restrictions on the company.

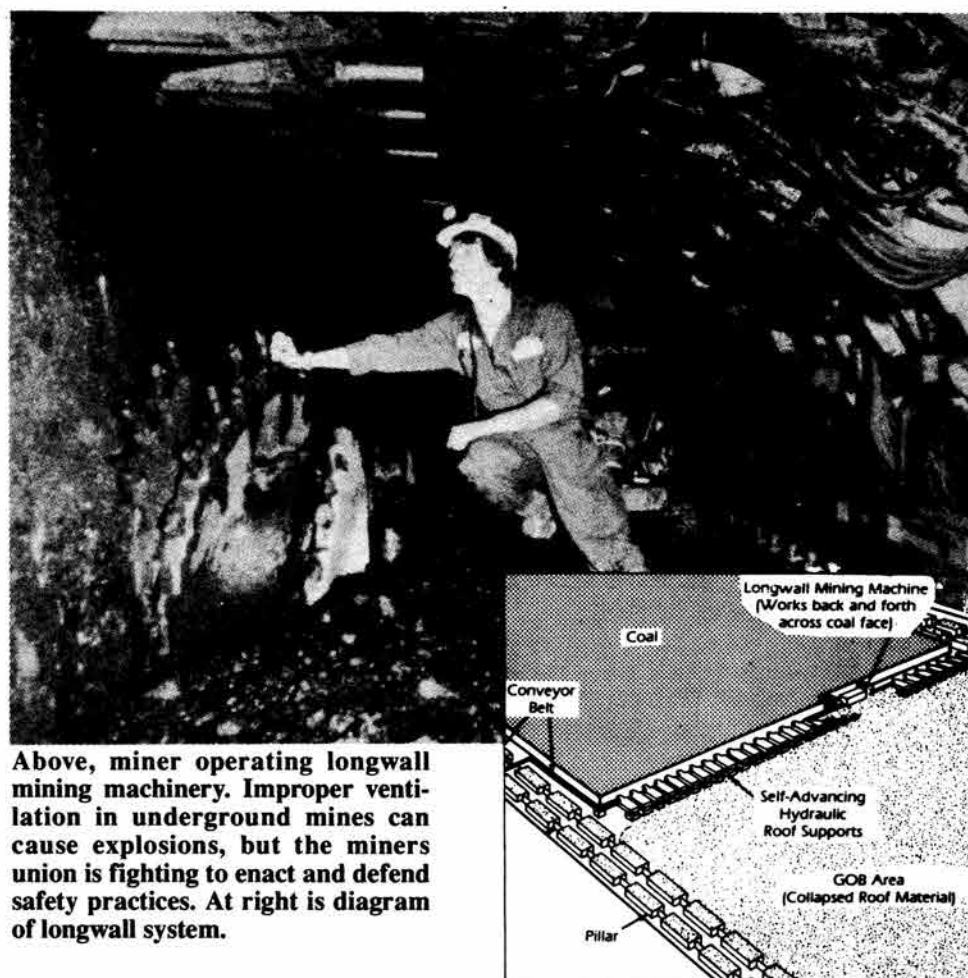
Others said that the company was trying to divide the union by setting the local against the international in a situation where the international was doing the right thing.

Yet other workers, including myself, argued that the company's description of the "European method" of mining could not be trusted. For example, in Britain, it left out the indispensable role of the union, the National Union of Mineworkers, in ensuring that mining was done safely under this system.

Closure threat: a bluff

Most importantly, we argued that the threat of a mine closure was a bluff designed to throw us into panic and disarray. What we faced was not a layoff but an attempt to force us to make an unacceptable choice between safety and our jobs, using the so-called layoff as economic pressure against us. That is, what we faced, was a de facto lockout.

The rank and file did not have to make this choice, we argued. If we held firm we could force the company to resume work on our terms.



Above, miner operating longwall mining machinery. Improper ventilation in underground mines can cause explosions, but the miners union is fighting to enact and defend safety practices. At right is diagram of longwall system.

The real motive behind this company campaign, we explained, was profit. The methane that was to build up in the gob was to be pumped out and sold to Black Warrior Methane Co. JWR has contracts with Black Warrior for the sale of methane from coal degasification operations already in place at its Brookwood, Alabama mines.

The plan was to allow methane to build up to 98 percent, insuring that it was near pipeline grade when it came out of the mine.

When the local met again on Friday, July 15, the mine had not been shut down as predicted. Moreover, the company had submitted a revised plan that addressed some of the most hazardous elements in the original plan.

Although the UMWA international safety representative and many members of the local felt that the revisions did not go far enough, the majority of the local wanted to give the plan a chance to work. So that is what was done.

Within three days after we returned to work under the new "Spontaneous Combustion Control Plan," the longwall section was shut down for half a shift due to leakage of methane gas from the seals built to enclose the gob area.

UMWA safety experts with experience in sealed-gob mining operations (one UMWA mine in Colorado operates under a sealed-gob system) were brought in to help company engineers improve the seal construction. This involved the routing of air around the seals to equalize pressure inside and outside the gob area, thereby preventing leakage.

Despite these efforts, MSHA shut down the longwall section a week later when a well — designed to pump gas from the gob — was turned on "accidentally." This "unplanned" activation of the well lowered the concentration of methane toward the explosive range. It also allowed the percentage of oxygen in the gob to rise high enough to support combustion.

Conditions that could have led to a massive and disastrous explosion were rapidly coming into being.

Again, the company's response to this threat to miners' lives was to shut down production in the entire mine. They geared up their propaganda campaign against the UMWA safety representative and threatened to close the mine permanently.

Union meetings held

At three union meetings August 12, 13, and 15, the debate in the local came to a head.

Members of the local intimidated by the company propaganda campaign and lock-out tactics dominated the August 12 meeting. They circulated a petition denouncing the conduct of the UMWA international safety representative. They also got the local to send a telegram calling on the international safety director to appear before the local to defend the union's position.

At the meeting on the 13th, however, the mood was more combative. Those who refused to be cowed by the lock-out tactics of the company and were prepared to fight won the day.

It was decided to hold another meeting on

the 15th and to invite the local officials of all the other JWR mines and the district officials to attend. The meeting also decided to encourage local members to show up wearing camouflage — as part of preparations to turn the lockout into a strike if the company refused to move toward a plan that would get us back to work in a safe environment.

At the August 15 union meeting many attended wearing the camouflage. The majority of District 20 officials were on hand as were the presidents and safety committee chairmen of all the other UMWA locals at the other JWR mines.

In addition, the international union safety director, Joe Main, flew in from Washington, D.C., to participate in our discussions and help negotiate with the company.

A sober and reasoned discussion took place about the seriousness of the situation we confronted and the stakes involved for the union as a whole. Although strike action was discouraged, the discussion of taking such action and the majority sentiment for it sent a clear message to the company. If it did not come up with a plan that the UMWA could recommend for MSHA to approve, the company faced the real possibility of a strike.

On August 17, JWR submitted a new plan.

This plan, too, was eventually rejected by MSHA upon the recommendation of the UMWA international safety department. So was a third so-called "Spontaneous Combustion Control Plan."

Ultimately the company decided to throw in the towel — for the time being — and return to the original method of ventilating the gob. In addition, company proposals included increased monitoring to detect hot spots, plans to flood the area of any possible hot spots, and evacuation plans for miners on the longwall and other sections of the mine.

On September 17, the members of UMWA Local 2368 returned to work.

We went back a bit more confident and secure in our power as a united and determined union. We had beaten back the company's attempt to divide and weaken our union and use us as a wedge against the safety of miners across the country.

But the fight over the sealed-gob method of mining is not over.

We also went back a lot more aware of the need to know and understand in detail all aspects of mine safety.

This will make it more difficult for the company to get to first base in future attempts to divide and confuse us in their efforts to push back our union and mine safety.

An explosion and fire at the Wilberg Mine, in Orangeville, Utah, killed 27 miners in 1984. In 1989, 10 miners died in an explosion underground in the Pyro Mining Co.'s William Station mine, in Wheatcroft, Kentucky. Only months later the same longwall mining area at William Station was evacuated after another flash.

According to a UMWA spokesperson at the union's office in Washington, D.C., 67 miners died in underground accidents in 1990.

John Hawkins is a member of United Mine Workers of America, Local 2368.

New! Malcolm X poster



In celebration of Black History Month the Friends of the Pathfinder Mural has produced a new full-color poster featuring a portrait of Malcolm X.

The portrait of Malcolm X was painted on the six-story Pathfinder Mural by artist and sculptor Carole Byard. Byard teaches at Parsons School of Design in New York City. She has exhibited in several anti-apartheid shows as well as shows on Black history and culture—winning numerous awards for painting, sculpture, and illustrations.

The 18" by 24" poster will be available mid-February. You can order in advance by writing to the Friends of the Pathfinder Mural. Single posters are \$8.00. Bulk order rates are \$6.00 each for 10 or more, \$4.00 each for 30 or more, and \$3.00 each for 50 or more. Pre-paid orders should include \$2.50 for shipping and handling in the United States, and \$5.00 for international shipping per order.

Order from: Friends of the Pathfinder Mural, 191 Seventh Avenue, New York, New York, 10011, (212) 727-8421.

ALABAMA

Birmingham

Israel and the Fight for Palestinian Liberation. Speakers: Joan Levitt, Socialist Workers Party, member United Mine Workers Local 2368; Dr. Ruth Lamonte, longtime Palestinian activist. Sat., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. 111 21st St. S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

Malcolm X in Today's World. Speaker: John Hawkins, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor. Sat., Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. 111 21st St. S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

ARIZONA

Phoenix

Malcolm X On the Fight against Imperialist War. Speaker: Harvey McArthur, Socialist Workers Party, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 99R. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum /Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (602) 279-5850.

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

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.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Working-Class Campaign against the Imperialist War Drive. Class series. Every Wed. through Feb. 20. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

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.

Chicago Socialist Workers 1991 Mayoral Campaign Rally. Speaker: James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor. Sat., Feb. 16, 7 p.m. 545 W Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: 1991 Chicago SWP Campaign Committee. Tel: (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

U.S. Invasion of Panama: One Year After. Speaker: Arturo Griffith, Panamanian activist recently returned from three-week visit to Panama. Sat., Feb. 9, Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: dinner, \$3; program, \$4. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

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.

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IOWA: Des Moines: 2105 Forest Ave. Zip: 50311. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Black History Month Series. "The Crisis Facing Black Farmers." Speaker: Kathie Fitzgerald, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. "Malcolm X in Today's World." Video presentation. Sat., Feb. 16, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. "South Africa: One Year After Mandela's Release." Sat., Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m. Speaker: Roger Jardine, South African student just returned from two-month visit home. 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA

Austin

War and Recession: The Government Offensive against Workers at Home and Abroad. Speakers: Henry Zamarrón, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Legislative District 32-B; Gale Shangold, co-chair, SWP Campaign Committee; Gerardo Sánchez, SWP candidate for St. Paul Board of Education. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 9, Reception, 7 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Sponsor: Minnesota Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. Tel: (507) 433-3461.

St. Paul

The Fight against Imperialist War: World War I to Today. Every Wed., Jan. 23-Feb. 27, 5 p.m. University of Minnesota, Room 308, Coffman Union. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Defend the Right to Speak Out against the War: Protest the Attacks on the Socialist Workers Campaign! Speakers to be announced. Sat., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign. Tel: (314) 361-0250.

Malcolm X and the Fight against Imperialist War. Speakers to be announced. Sat., Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (314) 361-0250.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

The Fight of Family Farmers Today. Speakers: Ted Leonard, Socialist Workers Party, just returned from Farmers Network Conference in Britain; Arlo Hoppe, member Nebraska Farmers Union. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 9, 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; Julie Nalibov, Palestine Solidarity Committee; 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.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

The War at Home and Abroad. Speakers: Richard Lefteris, president International Association

of Machinists Lodge 641, recently on strike against Eastern; Andrew Mitchell, retired tobacco worker and farmer; Naomi Craine, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Greensboro City Council. Sun., Feb. 10, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

WEST VIRGINIA

Morgantown

Blacks in U.S. Wars and the Fight against Racism. Speaker: Kibwe Diarra, Socialist Workers Party, Vietnam-era veteran and member United Transportation Union. Sat., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

BRITAIN

Cardiff

U.S. Hands Off the Mideast: Cuba's Campaign against the Imperialist War. Speaker: Debbie de Lange, member Rail, Marine, Transport Union, recently returned from Cuba. Sat., Feb. 9, 7 p.m. Moira Terrace, Adamsdown. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 0222-484677.

London

Why the U.S. Lost the Cold War. Speaker: representative, Communist League. Fri., Feb. 8, 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. 15, 7:30 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 061-839 1766.

CANADA

Montréal

Canada-U.S.-Mexico Free Trade: The Stakes for Working People. Speaker: Robert Simms, Communist League. Sat., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. 6566

boul. St-Laurent. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

Discuss the Middle East War with the Young Socialists. Every Sun., 3 p.m. 6566 boul. St-Laurent. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

Mass Student Demonstration against the Mideast War. Wed., Feb. 13, 3 p.m. McGill University, corner of Sherbrooke and McGill. Sponsor: Coalition Against the War in the Arab-Persian Gulf. Tel: (514) 253-9898 or 987-7042.

Vancouver

The Fight for Native Rights Today. Speakers: Kelly White, from Salish Nation; Ron Dan, from Lil'wat Peoples Movement. Sat., Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

Korea: Mideast War Today and Lessons of the Korean War. Speaker: George Johnson, Socialist Workers Party, former GI stationed in Korea. Sun., Feb. 17, 6 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

War-time Attacks on Workers' Rights: The Experience of World War II and the Korean War. Speaker: Jock Barnes, longtime trade union leader and antiwar fighter. Sat., Feb. 16, 7 p.m. 157a Symonds St. Sponsor: Socialist Forum. Tel: (9) 793-075.

Wellington

What World Wars I and II Can Teach Us about the War in the Gulf. Sat., Feb. 16, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Sponsor: Socialist Forum. Donation: Tel: (4) 844-205.

Discussions on Fight against Imperialism and War. Every Thurs., 7:30 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Sponsor: Young Socialists. Tel: (4) 844-205.

Stop the Gulf War! Emergency action on day U.S.-led invasion of Iraq begins. Rally, 5 p.m. Cenotaph, near Parliament.

Books for working-class campaign against the war

Pathfinder publishes a number of books and pamphlets that are valuable weapons for working people 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.



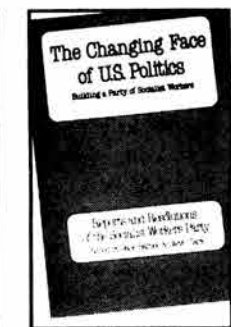
Malcolm X Talks to Young People
Speeches in the U.S., Britain and Africa, 110 pp., \$9.95



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

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

Pittsburgh: 4905 Penn Ave. Zip 15224. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

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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.

Of course — Responding to an American Civil Liberties Union protest, the FBI said its interrogation of Arab-Americans about "terrorism" were strictly voluntary and



Harry Ring

folks could simply decline to be interviewed. A spokesperson did add that those who declined would be "referenced" in agency files, but only so that they "would not be contacted again."

They do care — When William Hart, 75, was captured in his wheelchair after hitting a San Diego bank for \$70 to buy heart medicine, the feds moved to prosecute. But in the wake of publicity, they decided not to — provided he stays out of trouble for a year. Declared warm-hearted Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney James Brannigan, "We'll give him a break if he keeps his nose clean."

Can't fund WWIV? — "An unlikely casualty of the Persian Gulf War might be the defense industry itself. . . . The cost of the war effort is potentially so great that it could deplete defense budgets — long into the future — of money for new

weapons purchases." — *Los Angeles Times*.

With justice for all — When Harlem's tiny Freedom National Bank had to shut down, federal regulators refused to pay off uninsured depositors, including such institutions as the United Negro College Fund. Meanwhile, the regulators agreed to cover all deposits in the huge, bust Bank of New England, including accounts in overseas branches.

Royal blue, of course — "LONDON — Say what you will, Queen Elizabeth has keen taste. Looking out on the . . . construction going on around Windsor Castle, she was struck by how the red cranes clashed so badly with their surroundings.

Taking matters in firm hand, she ordered the contractor to paint them blue to better fit the skyline." — *New Zealand Herald*.

Really? — "NEW YORK — Uninsured hospital patients get fewer expensive treatments and die at up to triple the rate of patients who have insurance, a nationwide study found." — *News item*.

Didn't need crystal ball — "I don't think they're sitting around watching Redskins reruns." — A Washington-area pizza operator noting the record number of late-night deliveries to the White House and Pentagon on the eve of the Gulf invasion. He said it was the same just before the invasion of Grenada and Panama.

No mink body bags? — Andre Van Pier, a New York designer, is using gas masks slung over the shoulder in his spring collection of "war fashions." He features a camouflage collection lined in gold silk. Up to \$4,000.

Thought for the week — "It's hard to convince me that you own a piece of property until you can stand on it. You might fly over it, spit on it, napalm it, or make it an uninhabitable moonscape. But there are people who would dispute whether you own it. To control the town, you have to sit in city hall." — Maj. Gen. Bruce Jacobs (ret.) on why a Gulf ground war is needed.

Greek government to use army patrols in Athens

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

On January 29 the Greek government announced that it would begin using army troops, in addition to police, to patrol the streets of Athens and other major cities. The government will also increase security on military installations, government buildings, and businesses.

The decision was announced after bombs exploded at the offices of American Express, the British Barclay's Bank, other multinational corporations, and the office of the French military attaché in Athens. No injuries were reported in the blasts.

Yannis Vassiliades, the Minister of Public Order, blamed "November 17," an alleged terrorist group, for the bombings. "It seems that Greek terrorists have made an alliance with [Iraqi President] Saddam Hussein," Vassiliades was quoted as saying in the *New York Times*.

The move came as the government ran into stiff opposition in its attempts to impose austerity measures on the population and a wave of protests that have swept the country, organized against the U.S.-led war in the Middle East.

On January 11 the police attacked a 50,000-strong peaceful demonstration in Athens, resulting in four deaths and 100 injuries. The student march was organized to protest the killing of a high school teacher by right-wing thugs in the city of Patra a week earlier.

These actions were the culmination of a six-week nationwide occupation of most high schools. Students and teachers were demanding the government rescind a bill that would have resulted in major cutbacks in education, stricter rules of conduct for students, and increased police surveillance in schools. The mobilizations forced the

resignation of the Minister of Education and the rescinding of the bill in mid-January.

Chants of "Stop the war," "Americans — murderers of peoples," and "Bring the Limnos back," rang out in the center of Athens as 30,000 demonstrators took to the streets on January 17, hours after the massive bombing of Iraq had begun. *Limnos* is the frigate dispatched by the Greek government to the Arab-Persian Gulf as part of the U.S.-led forces there. According to the January 20 issue of the Greek weekly *Vima*, the ship has been placed under U.S. command.

A demonstration of more than 50,000, took place in Athens on January 24. In Thessaloniki, Greece's second largest city, 20,000 marched on January 26 as part of international antiwar actions. Both actions were called by peace groups, several trade unions, and student organizations.

"Out with the bases of death" was a major slogan in these marches. There are four U.S. military bases in Greece.

According to *Eleftherotipia*, a Greek daily, the two U.S. bases at Souda and Gournon in Crete, a Greek island in the southeastern Mediterranean close to the northern coast of Egypt, "have been transformed into a station for the military resupply of U.S. and other western aircraft arriving from European cities on their way to the Gulf." The operations include U.S. bombers and other aircraft flying from NATO bases in Spain to Saudi Arabia.

At a conference of peace organizations, elected officials from cities in Crete, representatives of the General Confederation of Greek Trade Unions and the Confederation of Public Workers — the two major national trade union federations, and others have called for a February 8 day of actions in Crete



Washington will provide Greece with Stinger missiles, M-60 tanks, and M-113 armored personnel carriers. Greek military officials say this will help to counterbalance U.S. military aid to Turkey (at right on map).

against the war. City labor councils in Crete and other unions have called for a one-day strike against the war the same day. Rallies will take place outside U.S. bases and most major cities in Crete.

Smaller protests of several dozen have taken place in Rhodes, a Greek island off the western coast of Turkey. The actions took place after news broke out that eight British fighter jets landed there on their way to the Gulf, January 19. The Greek government, after attempting to keep news of the landings secret, refused to disclose the purpose of the aircrafts' stay in Rhodes.

These moves unfolded against the backdrop of a recent visit to Washington by Greek Foreign Minister Antonios Samaras. *Athens News*, an English-language daily published in Athens, reported February 1 that an agree-

ment was struck for Washington to provide Greece with 400 Stinger missiles, 559 M-60 tanks and 300 M-113 armored personnel carriers. Pentagon officials reportedly agreed to help modernize the Greek army. In exchange, the U.S. government would be allowed wider use of Greek military facilities during the war.

The New York-based Greek language daily *Proini* reported Greek military officials as saying these moves are being taken in order "to counterbalance part of the [U.S. military] aid to Turkey, which, as a result of the Gulf war, has reversed the balance of power in the Aegean Sea."

Alexandra Topitizis, from Athens, and Bobbis Misailidis from Thessaloniki, Greece, contributed to this article.

Canadian unionists campaign to sell antiwar books to coworkers

BY SUSAN BERMAN

MONTREAL, Québec — As elsewhere in the world, the imperialists' war in the Middle East is the center of discussions in factories, mines, and mills in Canada. Members of four industrial trade unions here have been campaigning against the war by selling subscriptions to the *Militant*, copies of the *International Socialist Review*, and the Path-

finder book *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* to coworkers and fellow unionists.

Unionists in the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) are aiming to sell 10 subscriptions, 20 *International Socialist Reviews*, and 10 books.

CAW member Janet Fisher at McDonnell Douglas reported that in the week following the opening of the war, coworkers bought seven copies of the *International Socialist Review*, one copy of *Malcolm X Speaks to Young People*, and two copies of *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!*

She reports that, "One young coworker who bought the book said, 'I will read this, my daughter will read this, my daughter's daughter will read this. This is history.'" Another worker, upon seeing Fidel Castro's name on the Mideast book commented, "I've always admired that man. He's done so much for his people. I want to read this."

Members of the International Association of Machinists, United Steelworkers of America, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, and the Canadian Auto Workers have taken goals totalling 36 subscriptions, 50 *International Socialist Reviews*, and 35 books. As of January 26, a total of 51 items have been sold, 31 percent of the target.

"Cuba Will Never Adopt Capitalist Methods"

Excerpts from

Fidel Castro's July 26, 1988 speech

32 pp. pamphlet, \$2.50

Order from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include \$1 for postage and handling.

— 10 AND 25 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Feb. 13, 1981

Union officials, workers at Lockheed's Burbank, California, plant and others here have joined Chris Hoepfner to demand that Lockheed rehire him and fourteen other workers fired from its Marietta, Georgia plant.

All 15 are members of the International Association of Machinists Lodge 709. Fourteen are also members of the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance.

Hoepfner was in Los Angeles to win support for the fired workers.

"Sworn testimony by a Lockheed security cop and internal company documents that we have obtained show that we were singled out for our political ideas and activities," said Hoepfner at a meeting sponsored by the Militant Forum.

These firings are not simply an attack on socialists, he said. "They are an attack on the whole union movement."

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

Feb. 14, 1966

Price 10c

Between four and five thousand students at the University of California here walked out of classes this afternoon to attend a rally against the war.

The walkout climaxed three days of intensive antiwar activity at the Berkeley campus. On Monday and Tuesday, students attempted to turn their classrooms into discussions on the war. Four hundred teaching assistants voted to endorse the plan for classroom discussions, and they were held in more than one-third of the classes.

The Vietnam Day Committee (VDC), which organized all of the activities, prepared a packet of literature on the war, which was passed out to the students.

The VDC has held rallies almost every day for the past week, of 500 to 1,000 students.

Build Feb. 21 antiwar protests

The February 21 international antiwar mobilizations, called by the National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East, are being organized in dozens of cities. Building these events as broadly as possible should be the central activity of youth, students, workers, farmers, unionists, GIs, and others opposed to Washington's widening war against Iraq.

The demands put forward by the Student and Youth Campaign — "Stop the war!" and "Bring all the troops home now!" — help in building opposition to the war. They set a clear and unambiguous course against Washington's policies.

The February 21 actions have been called at an important stage in the war. Unable to defeat the Iraqi people through the most intense and sustained bombing campaign ever seen, Washington is now preparing to launch an invasion of the country, opening up a bloody ground war. This will result in tens of thousands of dead and wounded among civilians and soldiers on both sides of the conflict, as Iraqi territory is fought for mile by mile.

The true horror of the character and scope of the war the imperialists in Washington, Ottawa, and London have begun is becoming apparent to millions of working people around the world.

Polarization, debate, and discussion on the war will deepen as a result. Mobilizing in the streets those opposed to Washington's war of imperial conquest is a vital part of

countering the patriotic and prowar propaganda from the government and big-business media. Such actions help reach out to those who want to find out about and discuss the real aims of imperialism, those who can be drawn into active opposition to the war.

Leading up to these actions, unionists can spread the word in their plants, mines, and refineries and discuss the protests with coworkers and at union meetings. Fighting workers can join with students and youth on college and high school campuses to reach out and build participation in the events.

Through press conferences, picket lines, leafleting, and speak-outs and teach-ins, students and other youth can reach out to neighboring campuses, military bases, and working-class communities with the news of the upcoming actions and the truth about Washington's war.

Getting the facts and information into the hands of workers and farmers in uniform is especially important. Washington and its allies are preparing to use these young men and women as cannon fodder in the conflict.

The actions that working people take today as the war begins will lay an important basis for building a sustained opposition to imperialism and its war. Many people who now support the war will become open to opposing it as it continues. An important part of speeding that day is a visible public opposition that is active in the streets.

Reject 'patriotic' prowar pleas

The January 27 *New York Times* editorial responding to the massive antiwar demonstrations held the day before is just one example of attempts by the big-business media to corral those who are debating, discussing, or protesting against the imperialist war into a patriotic prowar framework.

Recognizing the size and importance of the January 26 demonstrations compelled the *Times* to attempt to rebuff the main demands of the 125,000 who marched in Washington, D.C.

Most of the demonstrators "would agree with Vice President [Dan] Quayle about the need to support America's troops in the gulf," states the editorial, trying to blur over the real opposition expressed by those who took to the streets.

The *Times* tried to step up the pressures building on opponents of the war, especially among those who fall into the trap of calls for patriotism through such efforts as the yellow ribbon "support our troops" campaign. Like other big-business media, the *Times* aims to further the rulers' drive to win public opinion as they prepare for a long and bloody war.

Countering the antiwar slogan chanted by thousands, "Say no to Bush's war," the *Times* argues that Baghdad, not Washington, is to blame for the slaughter currently taking place in the Mideast.

But this war was prepared by the U.S. rulers step-by-step with bipartisan support. The scope of the deployment of troops and military hardware, the political campaign launched to gain diplomatic cover for its efforts, the government's refusal to enter into serious talks with the Iraqi regime, show that Washington had been determined for months before the bombing and shooting began to wage

an all-out imperialist war of conquest in the Middle East.

While the Iraqi regime's invasion of Kuwait violates the sovereignty of that country and should be condemned, the *Times* supports the war and urges others to do the same. It claims Washington has the right to intervene in any region of the world where imperialist interests are threatened — all the better if it is handed an excuse to do so on a silver platter.

While the *Times* condemns Baghdad for seeking greater control of the vast oil resources of the Arab-Persian Gulf it is Washington that is now driving to achieve that goal. But the *Times* defends Washington's right to do the same — and more. Through massive use of military power, Washington wants to shift the relationship of forces in the region in its favor and get an upper hand against its imperialist competitors.

This is Washington's, London's, and Ottawa's war — aimed at the Iraqi people, the Palestinian people, and the broader masses of Arab and other oppressed peoples in the region. The *Times* carefully avoids the fact that an invasion of Iraq is being systematically prepared and the U.S. rulers have callously put the lives of tens of thousands of workers and farmers — in and out of uniform — on the table in pursuit of their goals.

That is why the slogan "No blood for oil" — chafed at by the *Times* — and other slogans demanding an end to the bombing and for the troops to be brought home should be championed by fighting workers, youth and others. Advancing these demands outside of government and big-business demands for "patriotism" is the only course in building the kind of working-class opposition to the war that is both needed — and possible — in the weeks and months ahead.

Support 'Daily News' strikers

The recent announcement by New York's *Daily News* that it could close down by March 20, poses a challenge to the labor movement and all working people to step up solidarity with members of the nine unions locked out by the newspaper some three months ago.

The decision by the *Daily News* to send out official notification to its workforce is the latest indication that efforts by the Chicago-based Tribune Company to defeat the union by running the newspaper with scabs is failing. Support continues for the 2,300 unionists' battle to resist the bosses' demands for concessions. Working people in massive numbers throughout the New York area still refuse to buy the daily.

Despite efforts by the bosses to violence-bait the strike and terrorize strikers with gun thugs, the *Daily News* has been unable to shake the solid support the unionists have gained. The tabloid has lost millions of dollars and its circulation still remains low.

Events in the *Daily News* strike prove that the employing class isn't able to get their way without a fight. They continue

to confront a labor movement that has not been defeated or demoralized. And layers of working people continue to resist union-busting and demands for concessions.

Recently, labor celebrated victories in the nearly two-year strike against Eastern Airlines, when the carrier shut its doors. There, the strikers pledged never to let the airline run profitably as long as it operated with scab labor. Their persistence paid off, and they indeed stayed out "one day longer." The strike contains rich lessons and can inspire others to act.

The *Daily News* is on the ropes. Many strikers point to this and urge labor to "increase the pressure." As one striking newspaper worker pointed out: "our unions are prepared to die with our boots on and bring the company down with us."

By holding firm in support of the strike, working people can secure more gains for the labor movement. By keeping the *Daily News* off the newsstands and actively participating in strike picket lines and other actions working people can score another victory against union-busting.

A newspaper that doesn't censor itself

BY DOUG JENNESS

Those of you who recently subscribed to the *Militant* will receive a phone call or visit from one of our supporters during the last two weeks of this month. They will ask what you think of the *Militant* and suggest that you renew your subscription.

Some of you have already received letters from our circulation director urging you to extend your subscription. Others will start getting them soon. You will receive four letters before your subscription lapses.

You don't need a hard sell to decide whether or not to continue getting the paper. After a few weeks of reading the *Militant*, you can judge for yourself what you think of it. One thing to consider, however, is the special role the *Militant* plays in campaigning against, reporting on, and explaining the political stakes in Washington's war in the Middle East. Renewing your subscription and reading the paper every

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

week is one of the most important things to do to join in the fight against the employers' war at home and abroad.

Most of you have become increasingly conscious of how the big daily newspapers and the TV and radio broadcasters chew on the least significant things hour after hour, day after day. While at first this may seem to be only banal chatter, it becomes clearer over time that the media is an unabashed instrument for promoting Washington's war policy. Virtually all commentators and reporters have abandoned even the pretense of objectivity as they continually refer to the U.S. government's actions and policies as "ours."

The White House and the Pentagon have imposed onerous restrictions on the press in the war theater — measures that need to be vigorously condemned. In general, however, reporters have accepted the restraints, despite a few bleatings of protest. And even worse, they engage in self-censorship and tailor their reporting to the official statements of military spokespersons.

The *Militant* doesn't pretend to be neutral. As we say on our masthead, our paper is "published in the interests of working people." This doesn't mean we don't strive to be objective and accurate.

Within the limits of our financial resources and our space, we assemble the facts about the war: what's happening on the battlefield; the effects on the Iraqi population, the Palestinians, and other peoples in the Mideast; the conflicts among and within the imperialist governments, as well as within the governments of countries like Turkey, Egypt, and Iran; and the consequences for working people in the imperialist countries, including the clampdown on democratic rights of Arab residents.

We present information about the mounting protests in the United States and other countries against the imperialist war. We aim to provide facts so that our readers can see for themselves the policies, debates, and opinions within the contending classes and governments involved in the war.

The *Militant* doesn't censor what it prints to accommodate the needs and interests of any government or exploiting class or privileged layer. Truth, not lies, is what working people need to advance our struggle — both against the employers' war goals in the Arab-Persian Gulf and against their attacks on workers at home.

We run editorials and articles that help explain the information that we present and point the road forward for working people. And we actively support strikes, rallies, and demonstrations, like the January 19 and 26 protests against the war and the upcoming international day of antiwar actions on February 21.

You surely don't want to miss a single issue at a time like this, so don't wait until the last minute to renew. The U.S. postal service has been getting worse for a long time and the recent jacking up of postal rates doesn't mean that you can get a letter and check to us faster.

The *Militant* has an unwritten contract with its readers — from those who will be getting their first issue this week to long-time subscribers. In return for receiving the *Militant* every week you have an obligation to help make the paper better. You can do this in three ways.

The first is to let us know your suggestions for improving the paper. This includes everything from political questions we should be taking up to our layout. It also means expressing agreement or disagreement on this or that question and sharing it with other readers.

Second, we need to know if you are having difficulty receiving your subscription. When do you get it? Are there unexpected delays? What condition is it in?

Finally, in order for the *Militant* to accurately portray the sentiments and activities of working people in and out of uniform, we need reports from our readers in the mines, steel mills, meat-packing plants, garment shops, and other workplaces. We need to hear from readers on military bases and warships; on college and high school campuses; and from farmers around the world. We all count on knowing and sharing what working people are discussing, the questions on their minds, the daily "guerrilla" struggles in the plants, and our small victories and defeats.

This is what we need to help make the *Militant* truly a paper of its readers and not just an instrument for its readers.

War stirs up debate at Ft. Madison, Iowa, prison

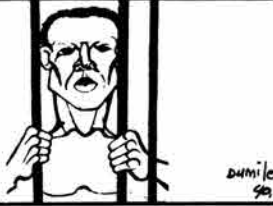
BY MARK CURTIS

FT. MADISON, Iowa — As the U.S. government begins its war against the Iraqi people, opinions on the conflict among inmates here at Iowa State Penitentiary's John Bennett unit are divided. A lively debate has been taking place for several weeks.

"I don't think there's going to be a war," said one man prior the bombing of Iraq. Despite the massive troop buildup, he thought U.S. President George Bush would not start such a conflict because of its terrible consequences.

"He knows most of the people in this country don't want war," he said. "The U.S. Congress is against a war. Too many people will be killed, and the Arab people could make this into a long war that the United States might lose."

BEHIND PRISON WALLS



Probably a majority did not think that it would come to actual fighting. "They're just bluffing," one inmate said. Many though, believed they would stand with the president if it came to a military confrontation. "I'd hate to see it happen. But if it does, my baseball and apple pie would take over and I'd have to support it," another inmate said. "Let's hurry up and get it over with," was a sentiment often repeated.

But not everyone agreed. Over a meal in the dining hall, two friends and I were discussing recent racist treatment of inmates by guards here and how it is part of the institutionalized racism in the United States perpetuated by the government.

The war against Iraq, they both agreed, was another example of the brutal treatment handed out to the brown and black-skinned people of the earth by the U.S. system of oppression. After discussing the war, we concluded that a victory by the Iraqi people against the onslaught against them would be in the best interests of humanity.

In the week before the war started a group of us sent a letter stating our opposition to the U.S. government's war drive to the *Des Moines Register*, the main newspaper in Iowa, and a copy to the People for Peace in the Middle East, a Des Moines antiwar group.

The letter said the war will only benefit those "with investments in oil and other property" and is not in the interests of working people. The letter supported the rights of "our brothers and sisters in uniform" to debate and oppose the war, and points to the similarities between the attempts to politically isolate both workers and farmers in uniform

and those of us behind bars.

"I like it, but what good will it do to send this off? Will it stop the war now?" one inmate asked about the letter. "They're not going to care what convicts think," said another. I argued that we had a right to voice our opinion and that the letter would be part of helping to begin a needed discussion among working people about why this war is not in our interests.

The questions stirred up around the letter have also come up in other discussions over the last few weeks. I have explained that working people, including those behind bars, are the only power ultimately capable of disarming the warmakers and eliminating the capitalist system which breeds wars. Many inmates right now don't believe this is possible and some assert that "money" is all-powerful.

After two days of discussions, five men signed the letter, including a former member of the army. More men were in agreement, but were reluctant to sign, fearing recriminations from the prison administration.

The violent beginning of the war detonated a small explosion of excitement in the prison. When I walked into the recreation hall from the library, a group of men were gazing up at the TV set showing news reports. "They've started bombing," one turned and said.

Upstairs in the dorm, nearly every television was turned to Cable Network News, which was broadcasting from Baghdad. Huddled around the TV sets everyone talked and some laughed nervously. The size and power of the attack excited some. "Kill 'em all!" someone shouted.

A number of those who disagreed with him came by my bed area to watch the news and talk about what was going on. It was the main topic of discussion the next day at work and in the yard.

"I was wrong. I was wrong," a friend of mine said as he shook his head in disbelief. "I didn't think it would happen. I'm still hoping it can somehow be stopped." Many who had opposed the war before the actual shooting started, began to change their minds. "Since we're in it now, we had better win it quick," they said.

Even one of the men who had favored the letter against the war retreated a bit from his original position. "I'm against this whole thing, but now it's not about the American government anymore," he said. "It's about our families. To hell with the U.S. government, this is about our homeboys."

Many inmates here have friends or relatives stationed in the Middle East and are concerned about them. I explained that while the boys might be our relatives, they are not fighting in the Middle East on our behalf — on behalf of working people. They are being made to fight for the rich, the owners of property and wealth in this society.

Not everyone was caught up in the prowar fever that seemed to be taking over. "This isn't a war. It's a slaughter,"

said one inmate watching the TV reports on the bombing.

By far the biggest supporters of this bloody assault on Iraq are the prison guards, many of whom seem delighted about the war. Early the next morning on the way to my job in the bakery, I heard two guards talking near the coffee machine. "They started doing it," one said. "Yeah, we'll be bombing everybody and I'm glad to see it. Those kids will just grow up to be terrorists anyway." More than a dozen guards at the penitentiary here, who are reservists, have been called for duty in Saudi Arabia.

Varying opinions were expressed by inmates. "If we don't do something now, what will we have to do with Saddam Hussein five years down the road?" one person said.

"I wouldn't go fight," said an army veteran. "There's not a damn thing to fight for. It's a senseless war."

"Would I go and fight for the United States? Hell no! The only thing the U.S. ever did for me was to put me in jail," another said.

A former heavy-equipment operator disagreed with my view that working people will not in any way benefit from the war against Iraq. "Will I benefit? Yes. I don't expect to get a check in the mail. But when I get home and pull up to the gas pump, I don't want to pay \$3 a gallon. I want to pay \$1.30," he said.

He balked when I explained that the U.S. government is the enemy of working people in this country. But citing the experiences of meat-packers who were forced out on strike a few years ago and the government's role in putting down those struggles helped to make my point. The inmate used to live in northwest Iowa and remembered the meat-packer struggles there.

The war and debate around it caused some men to want more information. After a discussion with two former members of the army, one of them said, "This whole thing has made me realize that I need to read some history."

As a first step, he read the new book by Pathfinder, *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* "Everybody in the world should read this book," he said later. "There's a lot in this book I didn't know before. I didn't know about the things Israel has been getting away with and the United States supporting them. I didn't know about how Saudi Arabia kicked out the people from Yemen. I didn't know how the U.S. violated the sanctions against South Africa. I just didn't know."

After he was finished, a couple of men argued against reading the book and said, "Curtis just wants to get protests started." After some discussion about the importance of getting facts to make decisions, one of them started reading the book too. And another inmate has asked to read it when he's finished.

Mark Curtis is an inmate at the John Bennett unit of the Fort Madison state penitentiary in Iowa. He is currently serving a 25-year jail term on a rape and burglary frame-up.

LETTERS

More on Blacks

I enjoy the articles in the *Militant*, however I would agree with the author of a particular letter to the editor who wanted to see more printed on the women's movement.

Also, as an African-American, I would like to see more on the plight of the Black urban underclass. This is not to belittle the plight of the farmer or coal miner. But to create the necessary alliance to bring about the eventual overthrow of the capitalist class, more Blacks will have to be part of this movement. They will not be attracted unless they can read about themselves. And much of the racism on the left can be dealt with.

D.C.
Columbia, Missouri

'Intellectual wasteland'

I am a long-term prisoner at the New Jersey State Prison. This place is an intellectual wasteland.

A subscription to your newspaper with its alternative views would be a very welcome respite from the day-to-day boredom here.

A prisoner
Trenton, New Jersey

'My eyes were opened'

I was introduced to your publication by a fellow prisoner a couple of days ago. I congratulate you. In reading your paper my eyes were truly opened to the mass corruption and devilishness of America.

I am relatively immature in my knowledge of the powers that be, and how they operate. However, with continued reading of your paper I am quite certain that I will have a broader insight on the meaning of the word "struggle."

I trust you will be generous enough to send me a subscription so that there will be an additional soul to fight this oppressive society.

A prisoner
Comstock, New York

GIs and unemployment

I picked up this tidbit from a worker at the unemployment office when I went to file after being laid off from the steel mill:

Workers in Pennsylvania are eligible for 26 weeks of unemployment benefits. But GIs are only eligible for 13 weeks after their enlistment time is up.

Thanks for the sacrifice, but ...
Michael Pennock
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Talk about the war

The actions here against the Gulf war have been young, angry, and loud. About 3,000 marched in Auckland, 2,000 in Wellington, and a similar number in Christchurch.

The war is being talked about everywhere.

A teach-in is planned for early February but I'm sure much more will happen before then.

K.R.
Auckland, New Zealand

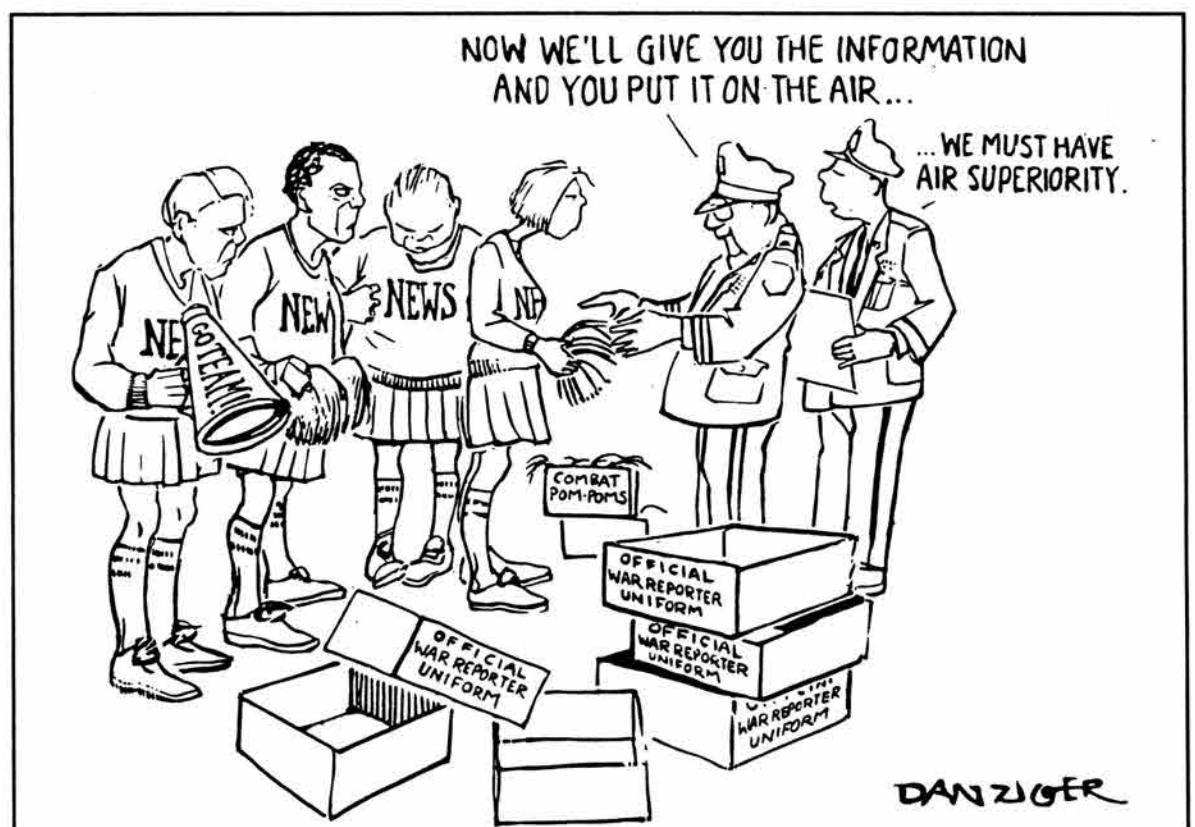
U.S. gov't is malicious

I enjoy reading the *Militant*. It has really raised my level of consciousness. I am 19 years old and I had no idea that the U.S. government was so malicious towards the so-called third world countries.

Please keep up the good work.
A prisoner
St. Joseph, Missouri

Disarm or die

I write on behalf of PEACE, a concept so misunderstood by the



American public. I'm 15 years old, and have been taught since I was a tiny child that I lived in the world's greatest country. I was taught that we live in a Peace Loving nation, and that it is our Communist Enemies that instigate the Arms Race.

Our economy is completely dominated by building weapons of Death. For a while it was justified by the containment of Soviet "Communism," and then by the "War on Drugs." Now, of course, it's the overthrow of a dictator (ironically one we supported less than a year ago).

It has been proven through history that the Government has no

intention of disarming. We must take it upon ourselves to lead the fight against fighting.

Disarm, or Die.

As a high school student, I find it most appalling that the military has such a major role on our campuses. Army Recruiting centers are commonplace, and on many campuses there are Junior ROTC classes. Let the process of disarmament begin at our schools. Help the movement to teach Peace.

U.S. Army out of High Schools!

All power to you.
Daraka Larimore-Hall
Santa Barbara, California

P.S. I would like to distribute the

Militant at my high school. Please send me info.

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

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

'Daily News' admits strike's impact

On Boston tour, unionists win solidarity for their fight against lockout

BY JOHN HARRIS

BOSTON — Striking workers from the New York *Daily News* brought the truth about their strike to workers and youth here during a January 16-22 speaking tour. The tour coincided with an announcement by the newspaper's management that they are preparing to either sell or close the paper.

Invited to the area by United Auto Workers Local 1596, Bill Farrell and Tom Robbins, striking reporters and members of the Newspaper Guild, received a warm welcome from members of industrial, teacher, and service employee unions.

At a local meeting of UAW members at the Northrop company, Farrell described the intense company harassment and recruitment of scabs leading up to the October 24 lockout of the unions by *Daily News* management. "Permanent replacements were looking over our shoulders while we worked, just waiting to take our jobs," he said. The 2,300 unionists have continued to press their fight against the lockout and union-busting drive by management.

On January 16, *Daily News* publisher James Hoge said he was going to send federally mandated 60-day notices to strikers that state the company would either be selling the paper or closing its operations. The notice left open the possibility of reaching an agreement with the nine striking unions, grouped together in the Allied Printing Trades Council — if steep concessions, so far rejected by the

unions, were agreed to.

In making the announcement, *Daily News* publisher James Hoge admitted that the strike had caused "substantial damage to the circulation and advertising revenue base" — something that the company could no longer sustain.

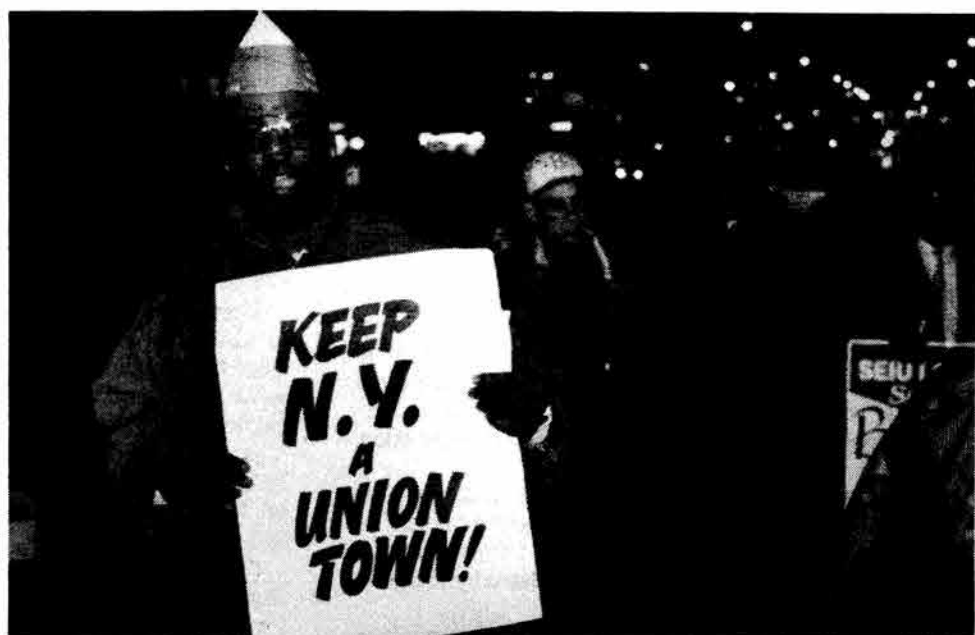
Prior to the announcement, management had insisted that it would rebuild the paper's circulation and win back advertisers. Broad solidarity with the strikers from working people in New York has kept the daily off of newsstands since the beginning of the lockout. Pre-lockout circulation of 1.1 million has been cut to 400,000 at most.

Even company analysts admit that the paper lost some \$90 million in 1990.

"The Tribune Co. said all along that they would never sell the paper," Farrell said. "This proves that we are winning now — and now is the time to increase the pressure. A victory in this strike will be a victory for everyone."

Shortly after the U.S. government began its massive bombing of Iraq and Kuwait, Farrell spoke at an antiwar teach-in attended by 200 students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

After being enthusiastically received by the students, he said that strikers "felt a shock — similar to the shock that many are feeling tonight — when the management of the *Daily News* put us all out on the street." He encouraged students to continue fighting and closed his remarks by saying that the strikers



Militant/Marc Lichtman

'Daily News' strike supporter at December rally in New York

"have received solidarity from people of all walks of life, from the labor movement, teachers, doctors, students, and thousands of people in New York.

"We have held rallies that have mobilized thousands in the streets," the striker told the students. "If the people in this country march in large numbers in the streets, this war will

stop and the troops will come home."

At Logan International Airport, Farrell walked the picket line with members of the International Association of Machinists on strike against Eastern Airlines — just before the announcement by the carrier that it was closing. He spoke with the strikers about how their 22-month battle had helped inspire the rest of the labor movement.

Strike supporters from several unions met with Robbins at the Service Employees International Union Local 509 headquarters. The next day, two dozen supporters converged on Out of Town Newspapers in Harvard Square, in Cambridge. The newsstand has been selling the *Daily News*. Union officials also met with Sheldon Cohen, the head of the newsstand, and he pledged he would no longer carry the paper.

At a membership meeting of International Union of Electronic workers, Robbins said the unions would "not allow the broad management rights language demanded by the Tribune Co. that would allow them to cancel important contract provisions at will.

"We want our jobs back and a contract that will respect our rights as union members. But if we have to," he said, "our unions are prepared to die with our boots on and bring the company down with us."

Chicago socialists win ballot spot

BY DON DAVIS

CHICAGO — Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Chicago, James Warren, announced January 30 that he and his running mates had won a spot on the ballot for the April 2 city elections.

"We will use our spot on the ballot to continue to give voice to opposition to the escalating imperialist war being waged by the U.S. government against Iraq and the Arab people as a whole in the Middle East," said Warren. He is a crane operator and member of the United Steelworkers of America Local 3247.

Running with Warren on the Socialist Workers ticket are International Association of Machinists member Estelle DeBates for city clerk and Eric Matheis for city treasurer. Matheis is a member of the Young Socialist Alliance.

The candidates and their supporters hit the streets in December, collecting some 30,000 signatures on nominating petitions, far surpassing the 25,000 signatures required.

In his statement, Warren criticized the ongoing attacks on the standard of living of working people in the United States. Noting the attempts by the owners of the USX steel company to wrest concessions from the workers, the mayoral candidate promised to speak out "in defense of the workers at USX now under attack in their contract negotiations."

The campaign has issued an attractive button that says, "U.S. hands off the Middle East! Bring the Troops Home Now! Vote Socialist Workers Party. James Warren for mayor."

BY DAVID MARSHALL

CLEVELAND — At a January 21 news conference here, four Socialist Workers candidates for Cleveland Board of Education denounced the U.S. war against the Iraqi people. The candidates — Dean Athans, Kibwe Diarra, Jon Hillson, and Margaret Husk — are area unionists who have been active in organizing opposition to the U.S.-led war.

Athans and Hillson are garment workers, members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Diarra is an unemployed member of the United Transport Union. Husk works at Ford Motor Corpora-

tion and belongs to the United Auto Workers.

The *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and radio station WERE covered the announcement. "We think the war will be a catastrophe for working people in the United States," the *Plain Dealer* quoted Hillson after the conference.

In a statement distributed at the news conference and at a number of plant gates, workplaces, and local antiwar events, the candidates explained that, "This brutal war against Iraq has nothing to do with protecting human rights.

"The U.S. billionaires and their government carry out this slaughter for the same simple reason that motivates all of their policies — greed and profits.

"This will be a very bloody war," the candidates predicted, "with tens of thousands of casualties on both sides. As it drags on, millions of working people will realize that it is not in our interests, and will come to oppose it."

"I'm so glad someone is running an antiwar campaign," one young woman said as she took campaign literature at a January 17 picket line against the war in downtown Cleveland.

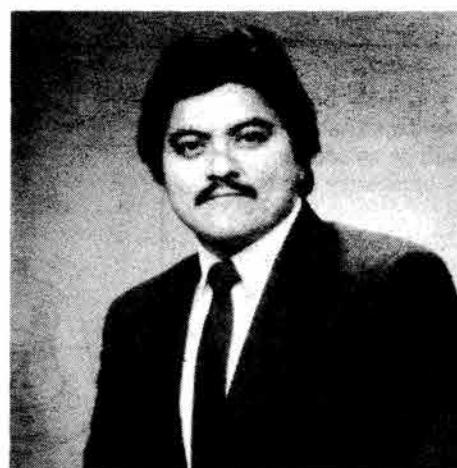
ST. LOUIS — David Rosenfeld, Socialist Workers candidate for president of the St. Louis board of aldermen and a laid-off worker from McDonnell Douglas Corporation, addressed an antiwar rally at Forest Park Community College on January 22.

Rosenfeld encouraged the students to read the speeches of Malcolm X, "because Malcolm spoke the truth about the role of imperialism in places like the Congo and Vietnam. He explained how the media and the rulers' propaganda machine tricks people into thinking that human beings in places like Iraq are less than human, and therefore it is OK to bomb them."

The event was sponsored by several African-American student groups.

Earlier in the week Rosenfeld addressed students protesting the war at Washington University. Some of the speakers said that the U.S. government had not given sanctions a chance. They called for an end to the war and a continuation of the sanctions.

"The total military embargo is not a peaceful alternative to war," Rosenfeld replied. "It is an act of war."



Henry Zamarrón, candidate for Minnesota legislature.

Other socialist candidates in St. Louis include Ruth Robinett, for school board, and Charlene Adamson for alderman in the 8th Ward. Robinett works for Amoco and is a member of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers Union. Adamson works for Ford Motor Company and is a member of the United Auto Workers.

An article in the daily *Post-Dispatch* on January 19 noted that the socialist candidates criticized the U.S. government-led war. "The candidates said that their candidacies gave working-class people a voice in the election arena."

AUSTIN, Minnesota — Henry Zamarrón, Socialist Workers candidate for Minnesota State Legislature District 32B, was certified to be on the ballot for the February 12 special election. Supporters collected 654 signatures, well over the required number of 500.

"I am for bringing the troops home now, stopping the bombing, and ending the embargo against Iraq," the socialist candidate said. "This is not a war for freedom and democracy, but for oil company profits and for increased domination of the Middle East by the United States."

Zamarrón is an auto worker and member of United Auto Workers Local 2125.

Smashing of socialist campaign office window protested in St. Louis

BY ANDREA GONZALEZ

ST. LOUIS — On the night of January 30 the window of the Socialist Workers campaign headquarters here was smashed.

The day before, campaign supporters had turned in 3,800 signatures, 1,000 over the number required for ballot status. Supporters had put the war at the center of the petitioning drive. They focused on three demands since the war began: "Stop the bombing!", "End the embargo against Iraq!", and "U.S. troops out of the Middle East!"

In the days since the window was smashed support messages have been received from Benjamin Hoover, Sr., a frame-up victim and political activist; Tim Kaminski, a member of the Communist Party; Dan Hellinger and Art Sandler, leaders of the Latin American Solidarity Committee; and Ted Braun, a longtime political activist from southern Illinois.

Bill Ramsey, a leading opponent here of the U.S. war; Eldora Spiegelberg, president of St. Louis Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; and Rev. Ted Schoeder, a prominent activist in the city, will be joining David Rosenfeld, the socialist candidate for president of the Board of Aldermen at a press conference protesting the attack.