

Iraqi protectorate is U.S. goal: Withdraw troops from Iraq!

Invasion drives deep into Iraq

BY SETH GALINSKY

In a massive escalation of the war against the Iraqi people, Washington invaded Iraq at 8:00 p.m. February 23. Spread across a 300-mile-wide front, the invasion is the largest U.S.-led assault since World War II.

NBC news reported on the evening of February 25 that 100,000 U.S. and allied troops were in Iraq, some within 150 miles of the capital city of Baghdad.

With the ground war and the continuing aerial bombardment, Washington's real goal is clear: the establishment in Iraq of a regime beholden to the U.S. government — a protectorate that will help safeguard imperialist interests in the region.

Two hours after the start of the invasion U.S. President George Bush stated on national television that he had "directed Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, in conjunction with coalition forces, to use all forces available, including ground forces, to eject the Iraqi army from Kuwait."

The day before, Bush rejected a Soviet peace plan agreed to by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein that included withdrawal of the Iraqi army from Kuwait and a cease-fire. Instead he announced a February 23 noon deadline for Hussein to withdraw his military forces from Kuwait. Bush left the Iraqi government with few options: withdraw from Kuwait under fire, surrender, or face the U.S.-led onslaught.

Under the cover of United Nations Security Council resolutions, the U.S.-led alliance has been planning the invasion since Iraq occupied Kuwait in August 1990. Washington hopes to gain greater control of the vast oil reserves in the region and shift the relationship of forces in favor of imperialism,



Students in New York rally as part of February 21 international day of antiwar actions.

especially U.S. imperialism.

Underscoring the fact that Washington's intention was to block every diplomatic effort that could have led to a peaceful resolution

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Defend Iraqi people from imperialist onslaught

Workers, students and other youth, working farmers, and all opponents of the U.S.-led Mideast war should redouble their efforts to defend the Iraqi people from the imperialist onslaught they face.

Washington and London have one overriding goal in their war of conquest: to impose a subservient government in Baghdad

EDITORIAL

that will police imperialist interests in the region — a virtual protectorate regime.

Achieving this goal would be a giant blow to working people in Iraq and the Middle East as a whole, setting back their struggle for self-determination, national independence, and socialism.

The U.S. rulers rejected every diplomatic move to date that would result in less than this objective. They launched a massive invasion of Iraq and U.S.-led troops are now occupying large portions of the country.

Despite some tactical differences this course has had bipartisan backing in Washington ever since Iraqi President Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in August. The occupation of Kuwait by Iraqi forces handed



Boy in Basra, Iraq, whose leg was severely injured by shrapnel from U.S. bombs.

Washington a golden opportunity to move to recoup losses it had suffered in the region over the past several decades.

Far from wanting to completely destroy Iraq, the U.S. rulers and their imperialist allies seek to establish a moderately strong regime there that they would dominate. Such a government would play a role similar to that of the shah of Iran before he was over-

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Antiwar coalitions call local, regional protests

BY JAMES HARRIS

WASHINGTON D.C. — In meetings here on February 23 and 24 national antiwar action coalitions called two days of coordinated antiwar protests.

The National Campaign for Peace in the Middle East and the National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East encouraged organizations to hold local actions March 16 and regional protests April 6. Initial cities chosen for the regional actions are New York and the Bay Area. Other locations will also be chosen. The actions have the backing of both the National Campaign and the Coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention in the Middle East.

The organizations, meeting here as the U.S. ground invasion of Iraq began, planned a series of activities over the next six weeks to protest the war and win others to an antiwar perspective. The meetings came on the heels of a successful international day of student

protests against the war held February 21.

On February 25, the National Student and Youth Campaign held a press conference summing up the decisions of the meetings.

Jill Nichols, representing the Los Angeles Student Antiwar Network; Kate Morris, a member of the Bay Area Coalition Against the War; Chris Nisan, director of the Africana Student Cultural Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota; and West Davies from the Young Greens of Northern Florida spoke, representing the student and youth coalition.

'Need to be protesting'

Nichols summed up the sentiment of many of those present at the weekend meetings. "More than ever we need to be protesting because there is no longer any question that we are going to war," she said. "We have gone into a ground war regardless of the fact that a peace proposal was put on the table and accepted by Iraq."

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Join the campaign to get out the truth

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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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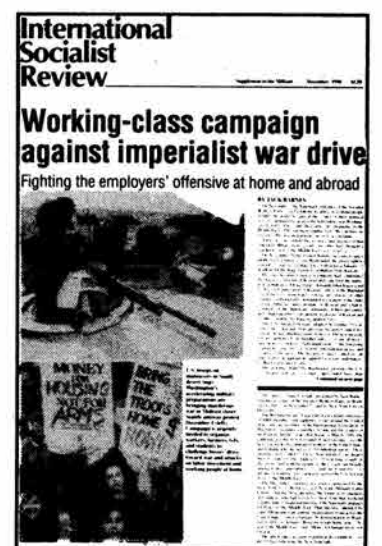
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Young Feminist Conference discusses war, women's rights

BY MARGARET HUSK

"Therefore, be it resolved:
"... that the Young Feminist Conference urges the National Organization for Women (NOW) to call for a national demonstration to combat the growing offensive against women's rights.

"... that participants in the NOW Young Feminist Conference are encouraged to organize campus antiwar actions on February 21.

"... that the Young Feminist Conference calls for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Saudi Arabia."

Excerpts from resolutions passed at the first National Young Feminist Conference, February 1-3, sponsored by the National Organization for Women.

AKRON, Ohio — More than 735 participants, the overwhelming majority college and high school women, gathered here February 1-3 for a conference of young feminists. The event was sponsored by the National Organization for Women. Many attending had heard about it through a recent campus speaking tour of NOW President Molly Yard or through campus NOW chapters, many newly formed.

Participants came from 45 states with some driving from as far away as Florida and others traveling from Alaska and Hawaii.

"I'm angered by so many of the things that are going on," said Beverly Stoutt from Takoma Park, Maryland. "We have to get together and do something."

Kim DeFranco, a 25-year-old social worker and activist against the war in the Middle East, said, "I heard about the conference from a friend in Washington, D.C., and I knew there would be others here active against the war."

Throughout the weekend, conference-goers discussed and debated how to advance the struggle for women's rights in the context of economic recession and war. They adopted some 25 resolutions.

Young women's right to abortion

On the first evening of the meeting dozens of women took the microphone in an open discussion session, chaired by members of the Young Feminist Steering Committee.

The right to abortion, the war in the Middle East, defense of lesbian and gay rights, sexual harassment and rape, economic injustice, and racism were some of the issues discussed in the session and at workshops throughout the weekend. Speakers included Suzanne De-

nevan, student body president at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, and Bridgetta Bourne, one of the organizers of a successful campaign for the rights of students at Gallaudet College, a school for the deaf.

One of the plenary sessions focused on the growing restrictions on abortion rights and efforts to combat them.

Participants viewed a video on the story of Becky Bell, a young woman who died as a result of an illegal abortion. Becky, 17, had turned to a back-alley abortionist rather than obtain her parents' consent for an abortion as was required by Indiana law. Bill Bell, Becky's brother, addressed the conference to speak out against the parental consent laws that restrict the right of young women to obtain abortions.

The conference adopted a resolution urging women's rights supporters to act to oppose parental consent laws in every state where they are raised.

Opposition to U.S. war

Since there was no workshop scheduled to specifically discuss the U.S.-led war in the Mideast, a special caucus meeting was convened. An informational statement criticizing U.S. foreign policy in the Mideast, written by Jennifer Goldberg, a member of the Young Feminist Steering Committee, and Sarah Springer, was distributed.

Many women urged the conference to take a strong stand against the war. "This is always their solution," said one woman. "We can't stand for them killing Iraqis in our name."

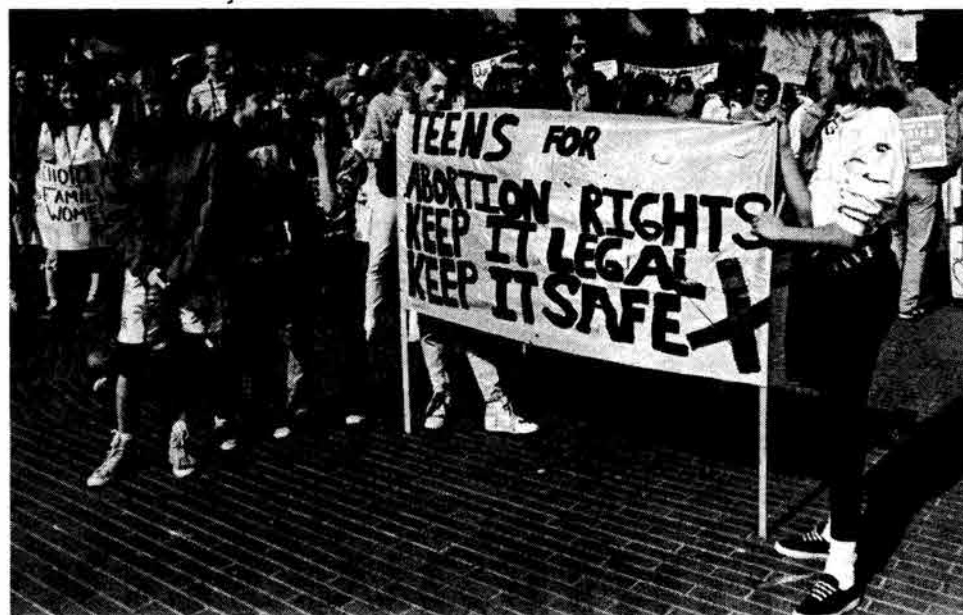
A participant from Detroit argued that "Victory to Iraq" should be the slogan of antiwar actions, saying that the slogan is "very popular among progressive people and in the Arab community."

Several others in the meeting disagreed. "Victory isn't possible in this war because the Iraqi people are suffering," said one person.

"If you really want to help the Iraqi people," said another participant, "you'll put forward slogans that can build a broad and united antiwar movement. Our demands must be clear and aimed at the U.S. government: Stop the war. Bring the troops home now."

Participants passed out leaflets with the call for the February 21 international day of student actions against the war. Two resolutions were passed: one urging participation in the actions and another calling for U.S. troops out of Saudi Arabia.

In a workshop entitled "Discrimination in Uniform: Issues of Women in the Military,"



Militant/Roberto Kopeck

Young women at San Francisco abortion rights march in October 1989. Those gathered for conference in Ohio discussed need to combat restrictions on abortion rights.

chaired by NOW Vice-president Patricia Ireland, a lively debate broke out about whether the U.S. troops in the Mideast are "our troops."

Some argued that not supporting the troops was a mistake made during the anti-Vietnam war movement and shouldn't be repeated.

"I know they are our brothers and sisters, who find themselves over there for whatever reason," said one woman, "but I'm concerned about calling them 'our troops'. I don't think the troops or the government's policy belong to us."

When someone asked the 50 or so young women and others attending the workshop how many of them had participated in anti-

war actions, nearly every hand in the room went up.

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

Most young women, when asked what brought them to the conference, said they wanted a chance to discuss women's rights and other political issues with women their own age. Most of the participants must have agreed because one of the resolutions adopted called for making the young feminist conference a yearly event.

Police in Canada launch assault on Natives' blockade

BY MAGGIE TROWE

MOUNT CURRIE, British Columbia — Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) staged an early morning attack on a Native blockade here February 9. Nine people were arrested and at least one was badly beaten.

Members of the Lil'wat People's Movement had set up the blockade near this town northeast of Vancouver to prevent the International Forest Products Company (Interfor) from continuing construction of a logging road in Lil'wat territory. The road, which is destroying ancient burial grounds and rock paintings sacred to the Lil'wat people, is being built to give Interfor access to old growth timber it plans to clear-cut.

The mountains of the area, home to many bald eagles, already bear the scars and erosion of extensive clear-cutting.

On February 1 the British Columbia Supreme Court granted the logging company

an injunction against the blockade. The Lil'wat People's Movement rejected the claim to jurisdiction over their land by the provincial or federal governments and is appealing the injunction on this basis in the Federal Court of Canada.

Following the RCMP raid, the Native organization appealed to supporters to come to Mount Currie to show solidarity with their struggle. In response, a roadblock was set up on the road leading to the Lil'wat rallying point by forces hostile to the Natives' struggle, including logging bosses and some workers employed by the forest industry. The Natives' opponents attempted to prevent supporters from passing through, and in some cases physically attacked them.

The Lil'wat People's Movement is reaching out for support and solidarity. Messages of support may be sent to Lil'wat People's Movement, Box 79, Mount Currie, British Columbia, V0N 2K0, Canada.



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Des Moines daily covers unionists' fight

BY SETH GALINSKY

Two Des Moines United Auto Workers members are winning wide publicity in their fight against government harassment for their antiwar views and political activities.

Priscilla Schenk and Harold Searcy, who work at Emco Industries, Inc. an auto parts plant, were interrogated at work January 18 by agents of the U.S. Secret Service and the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI).

After a front page article on the case appeared in the *Des Moines Register's* February 21 Metro/Iowa section, two state senators spoke on the floor of the Iowa legislature against the violation of Searcy and Schenk's democratic rights. Their call for an investigation into the harassment was published in the *Register* the next day. (See article below.)

National Public Radio and local Des Moines radio and television stations have also covered the fight.

The February 21 article showed the growing support for Schenk and Searcy. It quoted Charles Gifford, an official of the United Auto Workers union, who said the interrogation is an example of "law enforcement terrorism." Randall Wilson, legal director of the Iowa Civil Liberties Union, called it an "ugly incident," and added, "I think this is very dangerous to our society."

Schenk told the *Register* that the political police "came into the factory where I work and basically interrogated me about my political views. I have been real outspoken about the war. They started off reciting the charge that I was overheard threatening the life of the president and the governor," which she said was "absolutely not true."

The *Register* noted that both Searcy and Schenk belong to "People for Peace in the Middle East" and that Schenk is a member of the Socialist Workers Party.

"They asked me, 'Are you against the war?' and 'Who are your friends?'" Schenk

said. "I tried to leave the room, and the Secret Service guy put his hand on the door and said, 'You're not going anywhere.'"

Both the Secret Service and the Division of Criminal Investigation refused to answer questions from the *Register* on the incident. However, DCI Director Darwin Chapman stated, "Whenever the governor is threatened, it is something we take seriously."

The paper noted that "both workers said the allegations are ridiculous."

A picture of Schenk, wearing "No blood for oil" and "U.S. Troops out of the Middle East" buttons accompanied the article.

The following article by Victoria Rennig appeared in the February 22 edition of the *Des Moines Register* on the front page of the Metro/Iowa section under the headline "Inquiry urged into peace activists' allegations of harassment."

Two state senators have called for an investigation into the actions of agents of the Secret Service and Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation who are accused of trying to force two anti-war activists to detail their political activities and associates.

"I'd be interested in looking into this further," said Al Sturgeon, D-Sioux City, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. "That kind of stuff disturbs me because it appears to me that freedom of expression is the reason why we're in the Persian Gulf right now — the whole idea of protecting freedoms, including divergent political points of view."

Sturgeon's comments came after Sen. Larry Murphy, D-Oelwein, asked for a Judiciary Committee investigation into an incident last month.

Thursday morning on the Senate floor, Murphy read a newspaper account of the incident — minus the names and the city



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky
Priscilla Schenk (left), and Harold Searcy (right) were interrogated by police agents for their antiwar, political activities. Auto union official called it "law enforcement terrorism."

where it occurred — and asked Sturgeon where he thought it might have happened. "Baghdad?" Sturgeon asked.

Replied Murphy, "it happened right here in Des Moines by people on the payroll of the great state of Iowa."

Priscilla Schenk, 41, and Harold Searcy, 27, both of Des Moines, are members of People for Peace in the Middle East, an anti-war group. The two said they were working at Emco Industries, Inc. on January 18,

when two agents entered the business.

Schenk and Searcy say the agents told them they were acting on an anonymous tip that the two peace activists had been overheard threatening the lives of President Bush and Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad. The two said that they were questioned without legal counsel present and that they were embarrassed to have the incident occur at work.

Both workers denied the allegations and said they believe the agents were harassing them because of their activities against the Gulf war.

Sturgeon and Murphy said they would like to have the state agent and head of the Division of Criminal Investigation appear before the Judiciary Committee to explain the incident and any investigation that might be continuing. Officials of the investigation division and Secret Service have declined to comment on the incident.

Murphy said that because the division of Criminal Investigation did not want to respond to the media, maybe its officials would be more likely to answer to the body that pays their salaries: the Legislature.

"I'm very upset with this," Murphy said. "It's really kind of frightening."

Murphy told Sturgeon that he might ask the officials involved to "write an essay on the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and some of those other basic freedoms that I thought that we enjoyed in this country," to present to the committee.

Curtis supporters campaign at UN meeting

BY DEREK JEFFERS

GENEVA — An international delegation of supporters of Mark Curtis arrived here February 11 to bring the fight for his freedom to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Curtis is a union and political activist who was framed on false criminal charges and is serving a 25-year jail term in an Iowa state prison.

Daniel Retureau, delegate of the World Federation of Trade Unions, told the Commission that morning that "in a majority of countries we are far from having union rights respected. It is the United States of America which has signed almost none of the International Labor Organization conventions, where the employers can have striking workers replaced by others and often fire strikers."

"The repressive and judicial apparatus sometimes become the instrument of this," Retureau said, "either by handing down injunctions or organizing frame-ups, like in the case of Mark Curtis, a worker in the meat-packing industry in Iowa."

"On the basis of a rape accusation without proof he has been imprisoned for years and is a victim of hard and discriminatory prison conditions. But in reality this is for having organized political and union activities with Spanish-speaking workers whose language he spoke," the WFTU delegate said.

The World Federation is one of the largest international union organizations, and is one of dozens of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) accredited by the UN to attend and present its views before the Commission on Human Rights.

The Curtis defense delegation was led by Kate Kaku, Curtis' wife and a leading spokesperson for the defense effort on his behalf, and John Studer, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee based in Des Moines, Iowa. The committee was formed to organize political, legal, and financial support for the fight for Curtis' freedom. The delegation also included supporters from Canada, France, Britain, and Sweden.

Studer, Kaku, and Lynda Little, a leader of Curtis support work in Vancouver, Canada, were credentialed to participate in the meeting by the Indigenous World Association, a

NGO human rights group.

The defense team attended the session as part of a long-term campaign to win UN action to press U.S. authorities to release Curtis because the frame-up and attacks on his democratic rights in prison are violations of basic human rights.

The Human Rights Commission is an important committee of the United Nations. It is composed of delegates from 43 countries, elected to three-year terms. The UN voted this year to enlarge the Commission and 10 more members will be elected prior to the 1992 meeting. Over 70 governments, as well as UN-recognized national liberation movements, such as the Palestine Liberation Organization and the African National Congress of South Africa, send representatives to participate in the meetings.

The current session is taking place at the Palais Des Nations, headquarters of the UN Centre for Human Rights. The Centre organizes UN activities relating to human rights. Last year over 300,000 allegations of governmental human rights abuses were sent to the Centre.

Mideast war and Curtis fight

Members of the Curtis delegation met with dozens of government representatives, including Commission members and observers from other countries, UN Human Rights Centre staff members, and delegates from non-governmental human rights groups.

"Our aim is to make progress in bringing Curtis' case before the United Nations and expand the international outcry for his release," Kaku said in an interview.

"We feel that this case takes on greater importance today because of the U.S.-led war against Iraq. The U.S. government claims it is bombarding Iraq in the interests of 'democracy.' World attention must be focused on the reality of the widespread abuse of human rights inside the United States," she said.

"Workers fighting to defend their standard of living, Blacks and Latinos suffering the lash of racism, and opponents of government policy have become victims of 'U.S. democracy,'" Kaku said.

"Attacks on political rights in Britain, Can-

ada, the United States, and elsewhere are increasing because of the war. Iraqis and other Arabs are being interrogated and intimidated by the FBI."

"The fight to win freedom and political space for Mark is an important battle ground for all those who speak out against the U.S. government's war drive," she said.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is on a campaign to raise \$30,000 to cover the costs of sending the delegation of supporters to Geneva. For information or to make a contribution contact the committee at P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Tax-deductible contributions should be made payable to the Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc.

'New International' fund receives first contributions for new issue

BY CINDY JAQUITH

In anticipation of the forthcoming issue of the Marxist magazine *New International*, nine supporters have already sent \$550 in contributions to the New International Fund. The checks came from Honolulu, Hawaii; Cambridge, Massachusetts; and Los Angeles toward the fund's goal of raising \$75,000 by May 1.

The fund will finance the publication in March of *New International* No. 7, a special issue on the imperialist war of conquest against the people of Iraq. The \$75,000 will also make possible the subsequent publication of *New International* No. 8 and issues of its sister publications in Spanish and French, *Nueva Internacional* and *Nouvelle Internationale*.

The featured article in *New International* No. 7 is "The Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq," by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. Barnes shows that Washington's bipartisan march to war against Iraq was no historical accident. U.S. imperialism is fighting for position in the declining old world order, not giving birth to something new.

The issue also includes related material on

the war and a feature on "Che Guevara and the Building of Socialism," with articles by Cuban Vice-President and Communist Party leader Carlos Rafael Rodríguez; Cuban author and economist Carlos Tablada; *New International* managing editor Steve Clark; and the magazine's editor, Mary-Alice Waters.

In early February, in San Francisco, 75 people turned out for a Militant Labor Forum titled "The Opening Guns of World War III". The speaker was SWP National Committee member Norton Sandler. As part of the evening, the plans for *New International* No. 7 and for the New International Fund were reported. Participants pledged \$2,000 toward the fund that night.

Sandler spoke in Los Angeles as well, where supporters have already begun collecting and sending in donations to the fund.

Next week's *Militant* will print a scoreboard of the fund goals for supporters of the magazine in eight countries: Australia, Britain, Canada, France, Iceland, New Zealand, Sweden, and the United States.

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



N. Korea calls off summit talks to protest military exercises

Responding to the South Korean regime's insistence on proceeding with joint military exercises with the United States, the government of North Korea canceled an upcoming round of high level talks with the South slated for Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea. It would have been the fourth such summit since September 1990.

A February 18 statement by North Korea's delegation said military maneuvers, code-named by Washington as "Team Spirit," are "a racket to bring about a new war." The exercises are conducted annually and involve 45,000 U.S. troops permanently stationed in South Korea.

"The United States is also to blame for the situation on the Korean Peninsula being driven back to the pre-dialogue phase of confrontation," the statement said.

Soviet miners threaten strike as Kremlin announces price hikes

Miners in the Donbass coal region of the Ukrainian Soviet republic are demanding wage increases of more than 100 percent and threaten to strike if the government is not forthcoming. A miners' strike two years ago crippled the Soviet economy.

The demands come as the government of President Mikhail Gorbachev announced plans for sweeping price increases on consumer goods. A Kremlin official said the plan would cut government subsidies for goods by two thirds. Only medicine, fuel, and vodka will be exempt.

Moscow has deployed troops to more than 400 cities since the beginning of February to assume civil policing duties. The step strengthens the government's hand if protests greet the price hikes when they are implemented.

Talks on future of U.S. military bases in the Philippines stalled

Talks between the government of President Corazon Aquino and Washington on the future of U.S. military bases in the Philippines ended February 16 without an agreement.

The leases on Subic Naval Base, Clark Air Base, and four other U.S. military installations expire in September and lacking a new treaty, 40,000 U.S. troops will be required to withdraw by late 1992. Subic and Clark are being used as refueling stations and for logistics support to U.S. forces in the Arab-Persian Gulf.

Philippine government requests for \$825 million a year in compensation and a maximum seven-year lease have been rejected by Washington. Raul Rabe, a negotiator for Manila, has proposed a compromise to get talks going again. He has called on Washington to pay \$400 million in cash with the remainder to be financed by countries in the region, most likely Japan, Singapore, and Brunei.

Despite widespread Filipino sentiment against the bases, Aquino issued her first public statement in support of the continued U.S. presence, asserting that she was confident an agreement could be reached.

Headline stories in the news

- Some 2,000 survivors of the 1984 deadly gas leak at a Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, India marched through the city February 15. They were protesting a two-year-old \$470 million settlement between Union Carbide and the Indian government, which they said was inadequate. At least 3,700 people died and 20,000 were injured in the accident.

- A two-week strike by rail workers in Romania paralyzed economic activity in the country and forced the government to negotiate with the union. The workers demanded wage increases dating back to 1986. At the end of 1989, Romanians toppled dictator Nicolae Ceausescu who had imposed harsh belt-tightening measures to pay off debts owed imperialist countries. Courts declared the walkout illegal, but after 14 days labor minister Ion Aurel Stoica stepped in and negotiated a settlement.

- A representative of the Peruvian consulate in New York reported the number of people who have died as a result of a cholera epidemic in Peru may now be as high as 200, up from 86 last week. More than 15,000 have been infected and 300,000 others are considered at risk.

Garment workers boost sales drive

BY RONI McCANN

Members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) topped their goal of selling 74 copies of the *International Socialist Review*. Socialist workers in six out of 10 industrial unions are now over the top in getting out the special *Militant* supplement.

As the U.S.-led war against Iraq escalates more workers will be open to discussing Washington's war aims, in whose interests the war is being waged, and why working people should oppose it. These issues are at the center of the *International Socialist Review* articles. Next week unionists can shoot for achieving 100 percent of the supplement's goals.

This week's scoreboard reflects continuing progress in the campaign by members of 10 industrial unions to sell more than 2,000 subscriptions to the *Militant*, copies of the *International Socialist Review*, and Pathfinder's *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* book.

Achievements of the Week

Members of three trade unions, the ILGWU, International Union of Electronic Workers, and United Auto Workers are ahead of schedule in making their overall total goal.

Ruth Nebbia, a member of the United Transportation Workers (UTU) in Chicago reported: "*Militant* supporters here are planning a special push in the final week of the campaign."

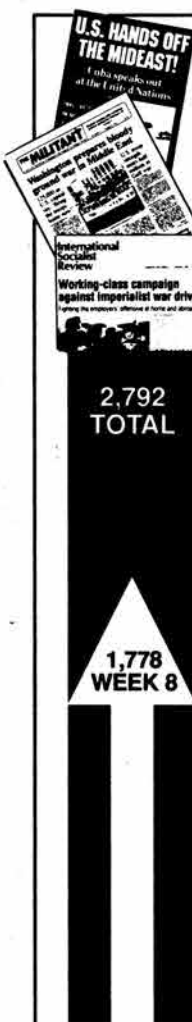
The scoreboard has been adjusted to reflect the results each union presently has, as reported by union members.

Part of the campaign being waged by them includes winning long-term readers among unionists by convincing them to renew their subscriptions.

This week 14 union members renewed their *Militant* subscriptions including three members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union and two members of the United Food and Commercial Workers union.

Just Off the Fax

UTU member Nels J'Anthony from Salt Lake City: "Altogether at Amtrak here, eight



SCOREBOARD				
Union	Total %Sold	Militant Sold (Goal)	Mideast Book Sold (Goal)	ISR Sold (Goal)
IUE**	93%	8 (23)	34 (41)	102 (91)
UAW	92%	14 (75)	49 (75)	166 (100)
ILGWU**	91%	12 (22)	29 (45)	87 (74)
UMWA	74%	4 (22)	16 (28)	50 (45)
UTU	67%	19 (77)	55 (105)	132 (127)
USWA	59%	15 (90)	27 (77)	159 (171)
UFCW	59%	34 (85)	25 (70)	130 (163)
OCAW	56%	11 (50)	61 (100)	95 (150)
ACTWU	51%	7 (38)	15 (41)	52 (67)
IAM**	50%	42 (170)	63 (170)	265 (400)
Total	64%	166 (652)	374 (752)	1238 (1388)
Should be	89%	580	668	1233

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

workers have subscribed to the *Militant*, 16 picked up copies of the *International Socialist Review*, and eight purchased the book *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!*

J'Anthony states that "reprints of Malcolm X's speeches in the *Militant* have caught the attention of some of my coworkers" often leading to discussions about what the revolutionary leader had to say about imperialist war.

J'Anthony said that members of his union local had been involved in many solidarity activities with striking workers over the past year which "has had an important bearing on

being able to maintain an open debate about the war."

"Amtrak officials are constantly encouraging support for the war," said the railworker. "Although the majority of my coworkers at Amtrak support the government's actions, there are a number who oppose the war or are coming to question it." He described the experience of one coworker who had visited bookstores in the area searching for a book that explained the facts about the war. "When I showed him the *International Socialist Review* and the *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* book he got copies of both."

Antiwar meetings call local, regional actions

Continued from front page

"There is no need to be silent any longer — to hope through our silence peace will come about," Nichols said. "Even if it ends we will continue to oppose the war. Because if the American people come to believe that the United States can at any time, at its will, go into a country and overcome it, we will do it again."

Some 400 peace activists, unionists, students, and young people met at the Miles C.M.E. Church for the National Campaign meeting. The National Campaign organized the 125,000-strong demonstration against the war in Washington, D.C., on January 26.

Considerable discussion took place at the meeting over what demands the coalition should put forward. Some participants in the meeting argued for the demands of a ceasefire and negotiations. It was raised that not having these slogans would alienate Blacks and the labor movement. Others argued against this perspective and said the focus should be calling for the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

After debate and discussion the group decided on the demands: "Stop the bombing"; "Stop the war"; "Bring the troops home now"; and "Money for human needs, not for war."

Throughout the meeting the participants exchanged experiences in building antiwar actions in many areas of the United States and around the world. Most expressed confidence that wider backing for protests could be won, despite existing prowar sentiment.

The next day 170 students, youth, and their supporters gathered for the conference called by the National Student and Youth Campaign. The Student and Youth Campaign had called for the antiwar actions held February 21, the date of the assassination of Malcolm X. The discussion at the meeting took place while the young people were fresh from organizing these successful actions.

A highlight of the meeting was the numer-



Militant/Selva Nebbia

February 21 demonstration against the war in New York City

ous report-backs from these actions. Initial results indicated that students on some 250 campuses in 34 states and the District of Columbia held rallies, teach-ins, or marches on that day. Similar activities were held in Canada, France, Japan, Norway, the Philippines, and Switzerland.

After a thorough discussion, the coalition endorsed the actions called by the National Campaign. The students also decided to organize locally coordinated student and youth activities against the war on April 4, the anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King.

To broaden the outreach and win more organizations and individuals to active op-

position to Washington's Mideast war, the meeting also called regional conferences to follow the April 6 actions. The conferences will take place in cities where the demonstrations are held.

After a discussion on demands, the meeting decided to retain those adopted at their founding conference on January 27: "Stop the war", "Bring the troops home now", "Fight racism", "No legal or economic draft", "End all occupations in the Mideast", and "Develop a sustainable energy policy".

The conference discussed fund-raising, outreach and media work, and at the end of the day elected an interim steering committee of 16 organizations.

Thousands join in February 21 antiwar protests in U.S.

Students and youth on more than 200 college and high school campuses and in cities across the United States held marches, rallies, teach-ins, speak-outs, picket lines, and other activities on February 21, an international day of protests against the U.S.-led war in the Middle East.

Protests were also organized in other countries, including Canada, France, Japan, and the Philippines.

The students and youth demanded an end to the war against Iraq and called for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. and other foreign troops from the Middle East.

Thousands of youth participated in the U.S. protests. In New York City, 1,000 marched on city hall, federal plaza, and Wall Street. Five hundred marched through downtown Chicago. More than a 1,000 participated in a teach-in and other antiwar activities at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, and nearly 300 participated in events at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

Four hundred students rallied at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. A speak-out against the war at Evergreen College in Olympia, Washington, attracted some 300 students. Activities involving hundreds of students were held on campuses across northern California. Teach-ins, speak-outs, and rallies were also held on at least 15 campuses in the greater Los Angeles area.

High school students were an important component of the protests in some areas. Students at several Philadelphia high schools organized activities on their campuses and then participated in an evening march downtown.

On some campuses supporters of the war organized to counter the student protests.

News stories on the February 21 actions were featured in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and on local radio and television broadcasts.

The antiwar actions coincided with the anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X and in many areas Black student organizations that had planned commemorations and antiwar groups collaborated or merged events.

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

February 21 was targeted for internationally coordinated protests by two January 27 student and youth conferences, one held in Washington, D.C., and the other in Berkeley, California. More than 1,500 youth from across the United States attended the twin conferences, which were sponsored by the National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East and the Western Student and Youth Action Network Against the War.

For information on future activities call

the National Student and Youth Campaign at (202) 462-1801 and the Western Student and Youth Network at (415) 642-4018.

Below we feature area reports on the February 21 protests. Additional reports will appear in next week's *Militant*.

BY CINDY JAQUITH

PHILADELPHIA — Students at the Friends Select School in nearby Moorestown, New Jersey, petitioned their high school principal and won the right to hold an all-day teach-in February 21 in place of classes.

One of the student organizers of the event, Janell Kapoor, said that both pro- and antiwar speakers were invited, to spark a debate in the student body. Some 160 students participated, listening to panels on the draft, the Vietnam War, the history of the Mideast, and the economic crisis here at home.

Students at Philadelphia's High School for the Creative and Performing Arts held an after-school meeting February 21 to found an antiwar group. Fifteen students attended, said Damary Burgos, who is 17. She reported that six high schools in the metropolitan area now have functioning antiwar groups.

February 21 activities also took place at Temple University, Swarthmore College, the University of Pennsylvania, and La Salle University. The largest of the actions was at Temple, where some 200 students gathered for an outdoor rally sponsored by the Temple Act for Peace. An antiwar committee was formed at Temple February 6.

Student activists from throughout the city gathered in the late afternoon for march through downtown. A dozen college and high school campuses were represented in the crowd of 200. They chanted a variety of slogans, including "Hell no, we won't go, we won't fight for Texaco"; "No blood for oil"; "What do we want? A cease-fire"; and "Support the troops, bring them home."

At a rally at the Liberty Bell, Kapoor from Friends Select School stressed the need to educate more students about the facts of the war. "It was so great at our teach-in to see people questioning," she said.

Francisco Picado, a leader of the Young Socialist Alliance, spoke on Malcolm X. "They tell us this is 'our' war, that we should get behind 'our' flag. But Malcolm X rejected this patriotic framework," he told the crowd.

"Malcolm never looked at the world through 'American' eyes. He didn't believe in the 'we' of the imperialist rulers," Picado said.

BY NELSON BLACKSTOCK

LOS ANGELES — Students from at least 15 campuses in the greater Los Angeles area held teach-ins, speak-outs, and rallies February 21 to demonstrate opposition to the U.S.-led war in the Middle East.

The meetings ranged in size from more



Militant/Cindy Jaquith

March through downtown Philadelphia on international day of student antiwar protests. Rallies, teach-ins, and other events were held on some 200 campuses nationwide.

than 300 at the University of California at Santa Barbara, to 200 at both the University of California at Los Angeles and Occidental College, to two dozen at Santa Monica College and the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

A citywide rally sponsored by the Los Angeles Student Antiwar Network and held at the University of Southern California capped the day's events. More than 250 attended the event.

Joanna Joyce, a student at Saddleback Community College in Orange County, explained in an interview how she had taken the initiative to organize the school's first antiwar protest, which attracted 200 students.

"Most students were like me, looking for a way to express their opposition to the war," Joyce said. "Others, who hadn't necessarily made up their minds, stood quietly around the edge of the crowd listening carefully."

Some 150 students attended a speak-out at California State University at Northridge, where they heard Rudolfo Acuna, a professor and well-known Chicano leader. Acuna urged them to recognize that while their numbers may be small now, their ranks will grow as the war continues.

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

NEW BRUNSWICK, New Jersey — Scores of students gathered at the campus student center at Rutgers University here for a noon speak-out against the war. Several students voiced their opinions during the open-microphone event.

John Gowen, a student and an antiwar veteran, said he was angry because one of his professors charged that peace activists were helping prolong the war.

"If I thought my silence would save just one life today, I would not speak," Gowen said. "If American flags and yellow ribbons could bring the dead back to life, I would wave and wear them all day and night. But they won't. Yellow ribbons will not replace lost limbs, or mend the broken hearts of those who have sons or husbands there. It's a cruel hoax."

Denise Gayle, a 21-year-old Black student, explained that she had eight cousins stationed in the Gulf region. She said her cousins were more interested in coming home, than in being "supported."

"I'm sure that Malcolm X on this day would be very concerned about these African-American soldiers who have to come back to this hell hole," she said referring to the racism and the effects of the economic crisis faced by Blacks.

Another student, Art Dupras, a member of the Student Action Union and a spokesperson for R.U. [Rutgers University] for Peace and Justice, had a different view. "The best way to support our troops is to bring them home," he said in an interview. "I usually wear a yellow ribbon and an orange ribbon. Yellow means I support the troops, but orange means I don't support the policy that has them over there." He explained that orange symbolizes the effects on GIs of Agent Orange chemical weapons used by the United States during the Vietnam War.

BY JEANNE LAWRENCE

CHICAGO — A crowd of 500, mostly college and high school students, assembled at the Federal Building here February 21. They marched to the offices of Pan American World Airways to protest the airline's ban-

ning of Iraqi nationals from their flights. From there, the students went to the Israeli Consulate to express their solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people. The march concluded at the offices of the *Chicago Tribune* to protest the media's cooperation with Washington's censorship of war coverage.

Mounted police attempted to provoke demonstrators throughout the march. While demonstrators attempted to cross the street to assemble at the Israeli consulate, police surrounded them on all sides with horses, wagons, and police cars. No arrests were made, but police removed the march's marshalls who had linked arms to prevent demonstrators from being separated by traffic.

Contingents carrying banners came from Northwestern University, the Progressive Student Network, the National Network of Campuses Against the War, Chicago Area High Schools Against the War, Gage Park High School, Columbia College, Illinois Benedictine College, the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, Young Koreans United, Filipino Students, and the Palestine Solidarity Committee.

Debates and forums were held at the University of Illinois here throughout the week, including on February 21. Events were also organized at several other area campuses. Antiwar events at the University of Wisconsin in Madison and Milwaukee together attracted more than 100 students.

BY SHEILA OSTROW

PROVO, Utah — More than 1,000 students participated in events here at Brigham Young University sponsored by the Coalition Against War in the Middle East.

A three-hour "mini-symposium" attracted more than 700 students. The speakers, mostly professors, spoke on several topics, including international relations, the politics of imperialism and racism, the war's environmental impact, and why women should oppose the war.

Sam Rushforth, an ecology professor, said that the \$400 million spent each day of the war could prevent the deaths of more than 14 million children in the world who die of starvation and disease every year.

The keynote speaker, Hugh Nibley, an ancient scripture scholar in the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints, received a standing ovation at the end of his speech, which opposed the war.

After the symposium, activities moved to the Checkerboard Quad on campus where there was music, poetry and literature readings, and an open microphone. Many students took the opportunity to express their views against the war, including a student who is an officer in the national guard. Hundreds of students passing by stopped to listen to the speeches.

A speak-out later in the afternoon featured J.D. Callhoun, a student who spoke on Malcolm X's legacy; and Andrew Pulley, a GI during the Vietnam war who organized GIs to oppose that war. Pulley, a leader of the Socialist Workers Party, exposed arguments for the war in the Middle East, including calls to "support the troops."

The day ended with a candlelight vigil. Many of the more than 50 people there expressed appreciation to the coalition for organizing the day's events. One participant who had been a student during the Vietnam War noted that antiwar activities had not been organized on the campus when he went to school at Brigham Young.



Militant/Robin Mace

New York student antiwar march. February 21 protests coincided with the anniversary of assassination of Malcolm X, gunned down in 1965.

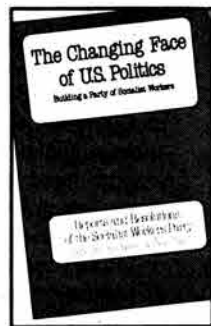
PATHFINDER

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

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



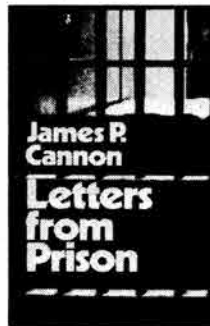
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Building a Party of American Workers
The proletarian party and the trade unions, by Jack Barnes, 346 pp., \$18.95



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



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BOOKS TO UNDERSTAND WASHINGTON'S WAR



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U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations, also available in Spanish, is an irreplaceable tool in the fight against the U.S.-led war.

Featured in the book are statements by Cuban Ambassador to the UN Ricardo Alarcón and President Fidel Castro that rebut the pretexts and arguments used by Washington to justify its unilateral acts of aggression. 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 1990 and 10 UN resolutions adopted on the Gulf crisis.

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

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

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

500 students protest war in New York capital

BY RONI McCANN

ALBANY, New York — Chanting slogans and holding up signs that expressed their opposition to the U.S.-led war against Iraq, some 500 spirited, mostly high school and college students, marched through the streets of the state capital February 21.

"What do we want? Troops out! When do we want it? Now!" and "New World Order — Same Old Slaughter!" students chanted as they marched up and down streets near the capitol building. A banner from Bard College at the head of the protest read, "Student Action Against the War." After several hours the protesters converged on the steps of the capitol for a lively rally that lasted into the evening.

Taking part in the demonstration were students from several Albany-area high schools including Oneonta and Bethlehem,

the State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany, Vassar College in nearby Poughkeepsie, and Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson. Albany-area members of the Emergency Committee to End U.S. Intervention in the Middle East also joined in the protest.

Assembling at the downtown SUNY campus, the students heard several speakers, led chants, sang along with a musician playing antiwar songs, and welcomed arriving campus contingents before hitting the streets.

Amy Minbiole, a leader of the campus group Coalition to End the Gulf War, a sponsor of the action, was one of the speakers. She drew a loud response from the crowd when she said, "Cable News Network announced this morning that students have declared February 21 an international day of protest against the war. So as we — from Albany, Vassar, Bard, Bethlehem High

School — prepare to march we know that students on campuses across the country, in Canada, France, and the Philippines are marching with us!"

Many participants carried hand-lettered signs that read: "Stop killing innocent civilians!", "Stop Bush's war!", "U.S. out of the Middle East!", and "\$ for jobs, not war!" Some placards called for a cease-fire or protested the lack of press coverage of the civilian carnage from the U.S.-led air war.

After ringing the capitol twice, the marchers filed into the capitol square for a rally. Veronica Cruz of the Emergency Committee to End U.S. Intervention in the Middle East chaired the event. Speakers included Doug Bullock of the Solidarity Committee of the Capital District, a spokesperson from the Islamic Center of the Capital District, and several students from participating campuses.

Ann Pope of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) saluted revolutionary leader Malcolm X on the 26th anniversary of his assassination. She called on rally-goers to question "why men and women are fighting a war in the Persian Gulf when there's a war right here at home."

The crowd enthusiastically responded to remarks by Eli Pedrini, a high school student from Oneonta. Pedrini challenged the U.S. government's justifications for waging a bloody war of conquest against Iraq.

"The U.S. government claims they care about human rights," he said. "If they do, why don't they liberate El Salvador or South Africa?"

"Why do they invade Grenada, Libya, Panama, Cuba, and Vietnam?" he continued to the applause of the crowd. "It seems to me that the U.S. government tries to play world cop when it is in their interests."

Pedrini said U.S. President George Bush "calls this war a 'just war'."

"Just war? That's a term like all the others they use, like 'anti-missile missiles' and 'friendly fire'."

The high school student compared the billions Washington has spent on the war to the fact "that they couldn't even cough up

\$1 billion over the last 10 years for AIDS research."

"Now is the time," he concluded to the cheers of protesters, "to pull the troops out!"

Students reach out

Interviews with high school and college students revealed their determination to reach out to organize those opposed to the war, educate others on Washington's war aims, and engage in debate and discussion with as many fellow students as possible.

Students at Oneonta High School formed the United Student Awareness Coalition two weeks ago. The dozen activists are planning a teach-in at the school March 1.

Marolin Heinz and Aaron Greenhill said they are calling friends and contacts at high schools in the area to bring more youth into the streets to protest the war.

"We are an educational group," Heinz said. "It is good to try and discuss the war with everyone we can. We are calling people, trying to get them to organize groups in other schools."

Asked why she was opposed to the war, Heinz said that it "is not our business to tell Saddam Hussein what to do." U.S. forces "should withdraw from the Middle East," she said.

"We need a war on racism, disease, and poverty," Greenhill added. "I think the U.S. is killing for the wrong reasons — it's the politicians and their greed."

Sarah Warden from Bethlehem High School said "more marches and teach-ins are needed. A lot of people don't know what is going on. They watch the news and that is all censored." The students said that protest actions were an important way to counter the media's presentation of the war.

"The war is morally unjustifiable," Warden said. "They are killing innocent civilians for oil."

Another Bethlehem student, Maile Ray, objected to Washington's refusal to accept "peace proposals presented this week." She said that she came out "to protest ground troops being put into action."

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Washington uses its war against Iraq to alter character of UN human rights body

United Nations Human Rights Commission meets in Geneva.

BY JOYCE FAIRCHILD

GENEVA, Switzerland — Washington, backed by its imperialist allies, has used its war against the Iraqi people to reshape the current session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission and press the foreign policy goals of the U.S. rulers.

Two days after U.S. military forces began their massive bombing of Iraq and Kuwait, the administrative director of the Centre for Human Rights issued a special circular announcing stepped-up security in the UN complex. The Centre is where the Human Rights Commission meets. The January 19 circular reviewed the tightened requirements for access to the grounds and demanded that "any suspicious moves or circulation of persons on the Palais grounds or any other event" be immediately reported to UN police.

When the commission session began January 28, U.S. government representatives moved to use it as a forum to promote their massive bombing and military preparations for a ground invasion of Iraq.

With a delegation of the emirs of Kuwait as point men, Washington insisted that the agenda be reorganized to suit its propaganda needs. The Kuwaiti delegation demanded, and received, a special point scheduled for the following week entitled the "Human rights situation in occupied Kuwait."

"Today, we are witness to armed conflicts following the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait," Jan Martenson, the under secretary general of the United Nations for Human Rights, told the delegates when he officially opened the six-week-long meeting.

French representative Stephane Hessel argued that "this session of the commission takes place at what is perhaps the most menacing period since the United Nations was created."

He was echoed by Caroline Bilkey, an official from the government of New Zealand, who attacked Iraq, stating that "the commission is meeting at a time when the fundamental principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights are being flouted and ignored by a member of the commission."

At the same time, the U.S. government has attempted to stop those opposed to its war from challenging it at the commission session. Whenever criticism is raised, U.S. delegates argue that this is not the proper place to debate the war. Such debate should be

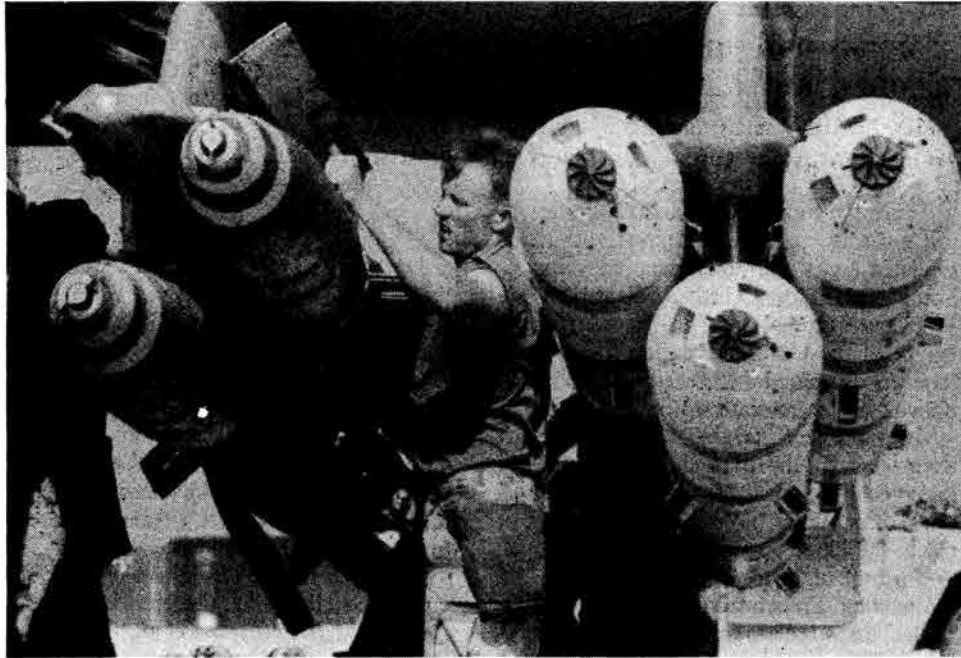
confined to the UN Security Council, they say.

Moves to alter agenda

Using the mantle of UN backing for its war, Washington is also arguing that the entire character of the commission's deliberations should be permanently altered. The commission, U.S. Ambassador Morris Abrams charged February 12, "concentrates its energies, year after year, on a select few, leaving little time to discuss problems elsewhere. Torture, which should be at the core of this commission's work, gets two days —

As part of this drive, U.S. representatives attacked recent UN resolutions that declare that the "right to development" is a basic human right for people in all countries of the world, especially the underdeveloped semi-colonial world.

"The right to development, I believe, is little more than an empty vessel into which vague hopes and inchoate expectations can be poured," UN ambassador Abrams stated. "But ideas have consequences. And this idea is a dangerous incitement because it implies that fundamental freedoms cannot be fully realized until all people enjoy



Loading 500-pound bombs to be used against the people of Iraq. When the UN Human Rights Commission began January 28, U.S. government representatives moved to use it as a forum to promote their massive bombing and military preparations for a ground invasion of Iraq.

two days! — of discussion. Israel, the occupied territories, and South Africa get two weeks."

If there were any doubts of what comes under the heading of "torture," U.S. delegate John Crook told the commission February 14 that the biggest culprit is "the government of Iraq" which "both in Kuwait and in its own territory, has perpetrated appalling kinds of physical and psychological torture."

To turn world scrutiny away from apartheid in South Africa and Israeli repression of the Palestinian people, and to justify its wars through examination of Iraqi "torture" in Kuwait, the U.S. delegation is pressing to organize many of the priorities and structures of the United Nations to make it a more pliant instrument for promoting U.S. foreign policy objectives.

the right to development."

Abrams called for the need to "assess the work of this commission, which does not reflect today's human rights priorities. It should be an occasion to consider reorganizing the work of the UN's human rights priorities." He said, "It should be an occasion to consider reorganizing the work of the UN's human rights bodies, so that duplication and wasteful redundancies are eliminated."

Abrams called for the abolition of the UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, which he claims "does not reflect the wishes of this commission."

Delegates speak out against U.S. war

Some delegates, including representatives of governments or human rights groups ac-

credited to participate in the commission, have spoken out to protest the U.S.-led aggression in the Middle East and the attacks against political and economic rights that accompany it.

Cuban vice-minister of foreign relations Raul Roa Kouri, leader of the Cuban delegation, took the lead in exposing the hypocrisy of Washington's claims that it is leading a war for "democracy."

In contradiction to its professed championing of human rights, Roa described the impact of the actual practice of the U.S. government inside the United States: "A society which is plagued by profound inequalities, where the original population is confined to reservations — in fact, concentration camps — and deprived of their land, in violation of treaties and the 'sacrosanct' right to own property; where ethnic and other minorities are forlorn and millions of human beings live under the official poverty level; where the right to health, education, shelter and labor are considered not as rights but as lofty aspirations whose realization is assured by no one."

This government, Roa said, "has used the invasion [of Kuwait and Iraq] as an opportunity to establish a foothold in the Gulf. This unnecessary war has been imposed on the international community by virtue of manipulation and antidemocratic practices. Cuba cannot condone the killing of children, women, and elderly in Iraq," he said.

The Cuban vice-minister also pointed to the devastating impact that the U.S. war will have on the economies in the semicolonial world, which are already saddled with massive foreign debts and suffer discriminatory trade restrictions. "The sudden increase in oil prices, as a result of the gulf conflict," he said, "adds to the problems which block economic growth in a majority of developing countries."

The representative of the observer delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea echoed these sentiments, stating that Washington should no longer misuse international forums for its political purposes and should "refrain from acting as the international judge on human rights."

"My delegation extends prayers to the Arab and other peoples suffering loss of life, and injuries and destruction of their homes in the fatal bombings in Iraq," a representative of the International Indian Treaty Council, a nongovernmental organization based in the United States, stated. "The U.S. policy of indiscriminate taking of life and crimes against innocent humans has not changed since before the massacre of Wounded Knee, South Dakota, a hundred years ago, or at My Lai, Vietnam, on March 16, 1968."

U.S. goal to restructure Middle East

"It can be anticipated that the U.S. and their 'allies' will ultimately perpetuate and impose division of the Arab nations of the Persian Gulf in an attempt to better extract the mineral resources and profits they desire and deny the Arab people in the region of their rights to self-determination," the treaty council representative pointed out.

"We, the indigenous peoples, had our Indian nations raped and divided too by arbitrary political boundaries imposed upon us in the past."

The treaty council also explained that the U.S. war was being accompanied by an intensified attack on political rights in the United States, adding "we are very concerned that the present Middle East war will be used to justify an acceleration of the attack on Indian lands and resources."

Even delegates of countries allied with Washington were compelled to admit that the war will engender racist and political attacks. French government representative Paul Bouchet told the commission that "manifestations of xenophobia pose a serious threat to social peace in the country, and it is feared that the situation in the Gulf would aggravate the problem."

On February 14 the delegate of Iraq took the floor under a point-of-order to report on the bombing of an air raid shelter in Baghdad that had resulted in hundreds of deaths of innocent civilians the day before. Kenneth Blackwell, chief of the U.S. delegation, asked for the right to reply. He cynically brushed the carnage aside, stating, "War is hell."

Kuwait exiled emirs start handing out contracts for country's reconstruction

BY RONI McCANN

Allied countries looking to get a piece of the action when it comes time to rebuild Kuwait aren't waiting until after the war to begin squabbling over the sought-after booty.

According to the Kuwaiti Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, Fahd al-Hasawi, a near \$2 billion reconstruction effort to restore water, electricity, sanitation, and petroleum production is planned. Even before a massive ground offensive begins, much of Kuwait has been destroyed from weeks upon weeks of relentless bombing.

"A very large percentage of contracts is going to American companies," al-Hasawi told *Business Week*. Of the 171 contracts awarded by the Kuwaiti emirs in exile so far, 70 percent have gone to U.S. firms. And the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers just landed a \$46 million contract to manage the entire rebuilding project. Al-Hasawi said this is because "America is helping us with all its might and all its children."

Washington has deployed more than half a million troops to Saudi Arabia and heads the alliance waging the war of imperialist conquest against Iraq.

The government of Britain, Washington's

Much of Kuwait has been destroyed by weeks of bombing.

main imperialist ally in the war, has committed tens of thousands of armed forces to the region. Like Washington, it is maneuvering to see that it gets as big a chunk of the postwar business as possible.

"Americans are very good at looking after their own interests," said Peter McGregor, director-general of the British Export Group for the Construction Industries. "I don't feel confident the Americans will make sure we get some business," he added.

In an attempt to do just that, Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and eight businessmen recently paid a visit to the Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheik Saad al-Sabah in Saudi Arabia to discuss reconstruction contracts. A promotional brochure boosted Britain's "enthusiasm and commitment" to making a major contribution "to the rebuilding of Kuwait equal to the role of the British armed forces

in the liberation of the emirate."

Legislator Keith Mans recently raised this issue in the British Parliament. His opinion, he told Associated Press, is that British companies should get work even if its foreign competitors offer better terms. It could be considered a partial substitute for direct payments by Kuwait to Britain for its troops, he said.

"The U.S. won't be responsible for the whole rebuilding process," warned British Industry Secretary Peter Lilley. "The Kuwaitis have said they specifically welcome U.K. [United Kingdom] companies."

Other imperialist powers and regional governments say they are not getting a very big slice of the pie at this time.

"In the postwar period," said Paul Jabber, vice-president for the Middle East at Bankers Trust Co. in New York, "U.S. and British contractors will probably be favored over others, including the Germans and the Japanese."

Business Week reported that not only are French companies not gaining contracts with Middle Eastern governments, they have recently lost a few.

U.S. and allied invasion forces drive deep into Iraqi territory

Continued from front page
of the conflict, U.S. government officials revealed that the date and time of the invasion was decided two weeks ago.

Goal is to overthrow Hussein

Although the U.S. government continues to claim that its only goal is to force the Iraqi army out of Kuwait, Washington's real war aims are more openly stated by some each day.

"Are we ready to leave any kind of Iraq in the hands of Saddam Hussein and his merry band of cutthroats, the worst thing to happen to the fertile crescent since Nebuchadnezzar?" wrote *The Wall Street Journal* in a February 25 editorial. "Long-term peace would be best served by apprehending the Iraqi revolutionary council to make its members stand trial for the heinous acts of their troops and their own war policies."

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said February 24 on ABC-TV that "the restoration of peace and stability in the Gulf would be a heck of a lot easier if he [Saddam Hussein] and that leadership were not in power in Iraq."

Asked by a TV reporter if the U.S. government intended to carry out the equivalent of the "de-Nazification" of Germany after World War II, Baker said that is a "political aim" of Washington.

U.S. allies in the Middle East have been even more direct than Washington. In Egypt, which has 40,000 troops in the Gulf, government officials have said Hussein must be removed.

"His staying would be an insult to the Arabs, a stab to peace, and a blemish on humanity," wrote Salah Montasser, editor of the government-owned magazine *October*. The magazine published a picture of Hussein with his face in the cross hairs of a rifle's telescopic sight.

Referring to Hussein, Avi Pazner, an aide to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, said, "If this man stays in power there can be no peace in the Middle East."

Plans for an occupation government

Democrat Les Aspin, chairman of the Armed Services Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, said that he expected coalition forces to hold "all of Iraq south of Basra."

Washington already has plans for replacing the Iraqi regime with an occupation government.

A few days before the start of the invasion, Maj. Chris Batchelder, a specialist in military government with the 3rd Armored Division, told journalists in Saudi Arabia that the United States has a plan for a joint civilian-military government for Basra and all captured areas.

"Don't worry about Kuwait; it's a piece of dirt," said Maj. Dan Grigson of the 101st Airborne. "We're going after the Iraqi army. Once we destroy them, Kuwait will be free."

Full backing from allies

The U.S. decision to invade was backed by the governments of Britain, France, Italy, and Germany and other coalition allies.

British Prime Minister John Major told Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that Iraq had been given ample opportunity to withdraw.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl said the German government "stands firmly and steadfastly at the side of its allies and partners, who are fighting in the Gulf for the just cause of the liberation of Kuwait."

Backing the invasion French President François Mitterrand said that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had chosen "a kind of political and military suicide."

Moscow, though, took its distance from the assault. "The Soviet Union expresses regret that a most realistic chance to secure a peaceful outcome of the conflict and achieve the goals set by the United Nations Security Council resolutions without further casualties and destruction has been passed up," said an official statement.

However, Soviet presidential spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko told reporters, "Today Iraq has lost this chance to make use of this goodwill." He added, "Not only during these days but during these past months, this opportunity was available to Iraq."

The invasion received bipartisan support

in Washington, regardless of any hesitations or divisions within U.S. ruling circles beforehand.

"The ground war, like the air war, has been well planned," stated Sen. Sam Nunn, Democrat from Georgia and chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. "I am also confident that we will succeed," he added. Nunn had previously raised tactical differences with Bush's war plans. Two other Democrats, U.S. Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell and U.S. Rep. Richard Gephardt, House majority leader, also endorsed the assault.

Scope of the assault

On the opening day of the invasion the allies flew 3,000 sorties, one of the highest since the start of the war. The bombing caused fires so intense that one Saudi pilot who had just returned from a mission said, "Kuwait looks like the gates of hell."

There are more than 700,000 soldiers in the anti-Iraq coalition, equipped with thousands of tanks and other armored vehicles. Some 533,000 are U.S. troops, about the same number that were in Vietnam at the height of the U.S. intervention there. They face an estimated 545,000 Iraqi troops in Kuwait and southern Iraq.

An estimated 200,000 U.S. and British troops are the heart of the forces directly involved in the ground assault, which follows a six-month-long blockade and 39 days of round-the-clock bombing of the Iraqi people.

The bulk of the forces, some 170,000 U.S., British, and French troops and 2,400 tanks, pushed into southern Iraq, deliberately avoiding combat with Iraqi troops based around Kuwait.

'We own this piece of desert'

A *New York Times* reporter traveling in a U.S.-approved pool wrote from Iraq that more than 2,000 U.S. troops from the 101st Airborne Division established a base — 20 miles in diameter — at least 50 miles inside Iraq in the largest helicopter-borne operation in military history.

The new installation, now called Cobra Base, will serve U.S. forces that plan to attack positions in Iraq's Euphrates River valley. The Euphrates slices right through the middle of Iraq.

"We own this piece of desert," 1st Lt. Phil

Johnson, a Ranger pilot who landed at the base, told the reporter.

French troops and tanks to the west of Cobra Base were heading north as were heavy M1-A1 tanks from the U.S. 24th Mechanized Infantry Division and the VII Armored Corps to the east.

British troops from the 1st Armored Division were heading towards Nasiriyah, a large Iraqi city north of Basra on the Euphrates River, near the ruins of the ancient town of Ur.

U.S. paratrooper units were dropped into Iraq to cut off units of the Iraqi Republican Guard from Baghdad.

Two divisions of U.S. Marines were involved in the land assault of Kuwait. In addition, a 31-ship amphibious assault group of 30,000 U.S. Marines was poised to land on the beaches of Kuwait City. Two battleships, the *Wisconsin* and *Missouri*, hurled more than 1,000 rounds from their 16-inch guns.

More censorship

Defense Secretary Cheney, in a short press briefing late on the evening of February 23, confirmed the start of the ground war and announced a comprehensive blackout of battlefield news.

Claiming that "even the most innocent-sounding information" could undermine the allied war plans, Cheney said that daily press briefings by U.S. military commanders in Saudi Arabia had been suspended for the time being.

The next day, however, at a press conference in Saudi Arabia, General Schwarzkopf gave out some information on how the U.S. military saw the progress of the invasion. He claimed it was "a dramatic success" and that U.S. casualties were "remarkably light." More than 5,500 Iraqi troops were taken prisoner, he added.

But the military command continued to black out information on allied and Iraqi casualties and on resistance by the Iraqi forces.

'Lucky as hell'

U.S. Marines Robert Grady and William Noland had firsthand experience in battles with Iraqi troops during the stepped-up skirmishes in the days leading up to the ground assault.

Iraqi shells turned their Humvee truck into

As we go to press . . .

Baghdad radio announced on February 25 that President Saddam Hussein had ordered Iraqi troops in Kuwait to "withdraw in an organized manner to the positions held prior to August 1, 1990."

"This is regarded as a practical compliance with Resolution 660," the statement continued, referring to the United Nations Security Council resolution condemning the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

The Iraqi government also requested that the UN impose a cease-fire so that the Iraqi forces can retreat in safety. The call for a cease-fire was backed by the government of the Soviet Union.

White House spokesperson Marlin Fitzwater gave Washington's response in a terse statement later that evening.

"We continue to prosecute the war," he said. "We have heard no reason to change that."

Rejecting calls for a cease-fire, Fitzwater stated, "We will not attack unarmed soldiers in retreat, but we will consider retreating combat units as a movement of war." Iraqi soldiers should "simply lay down their arms and walk out," he said.

It is not enough for Iraqi troops to withdraw from Kuwait, Fitzwater stressed. The Iraqi government must pay "compensation to Kuwait and others."

The British government also rejected the call for a cease-fire.

As of February 25, allied commanders said they had taken more than 25,000 Iraqi soldiers as prisoners.

The massive bombing of Iraq continues. Enormous explosions rocked Baghdad on February 25 and 26, even after the announcement of the start of the withdrawal. According to Reuters, smoke from the air raids in the Iraqi capital was so dense that it blotted out the sun and made temperatures fall.

S.G.

a smoldering ruin. The two marines leaped from the truck just before the missiles they were transporting exploded. Grady later wrote on his helmet, "Lucky as hell."

Speaking about the Iraqi forces Noland said, "We learned they are not as weak as everybody is making them out to be. They've still got a fighting force."

Marine division Lt. Col. Jan Huly, Grady and Noland's commander, said, "Some will desert and go the other way, and some won't fight very hard and then will surrender to us." But the Iraqi response to the U.S. incursions, he noted, "tells us some are going to fight very strongly to the end."

Most powerful weapons unleashed

For days before the start of the invasion, allied forces had escalated incursions into Iraqi and Kuwaiti territory. They unleashed the most powerful weapons in the U.S. arsenal, short of nuclear bombs.

The use of fuel-air explosives, which suck oxygen out of the air; parachute-dropped "daisy cutters," the most powerful nonnuclear bomb in the arsenal; and antipersonnel cluster bombs accelerated over the last few days.

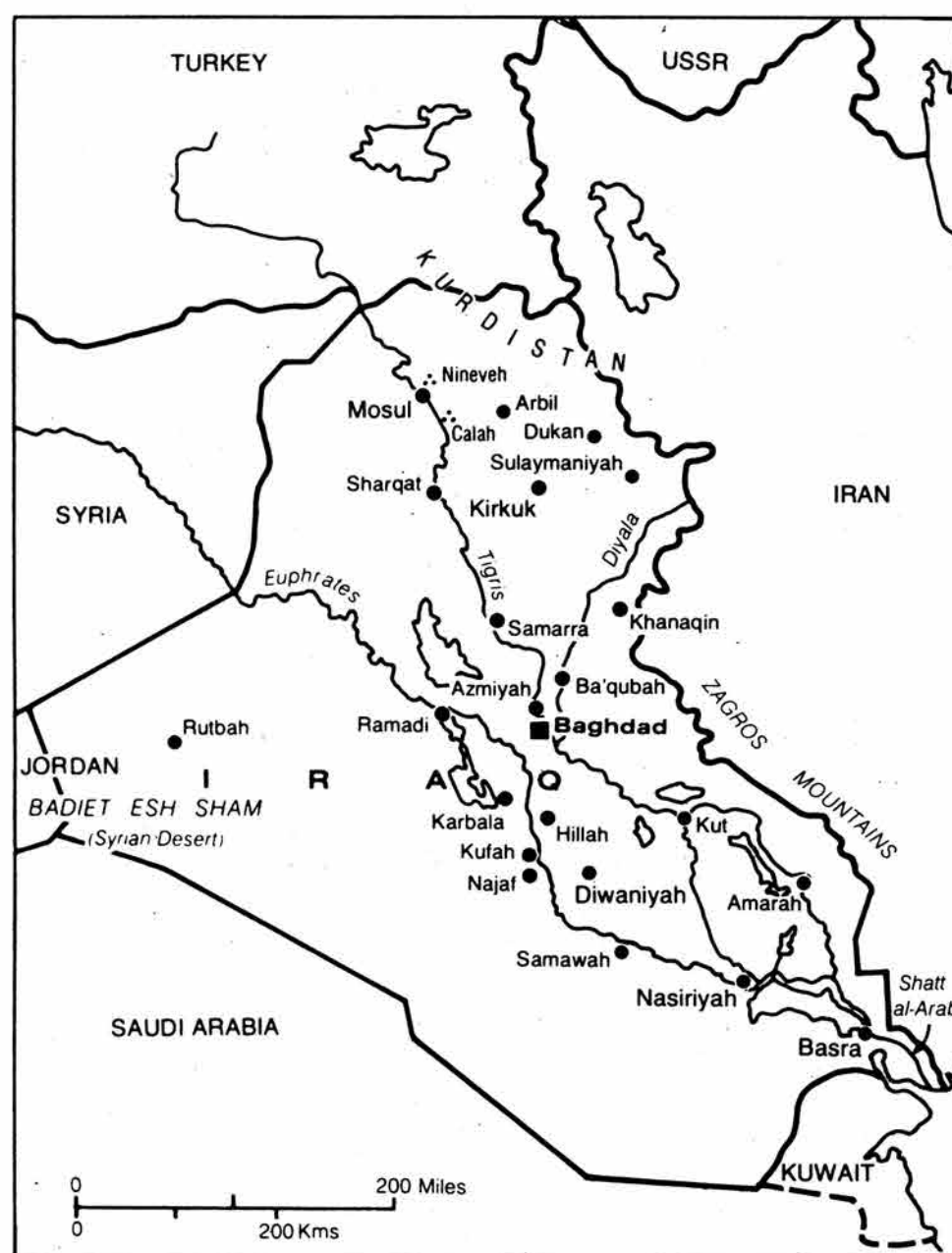
On February 22 U.S. commanders said they were dropping napalm on Iraqi positions. While U.S. Lt. Comdr. John Tull claimed it was only being dropped on petroleum-filled trenches, a high-ranking Marine officer told Associated Press that the napalm was being used against Iraqi troops "just like in Vietnam."

Napalm — jellied gasoline — burns with an intense heat and sticks to anything it touches, including human flesh. Dropped on openings to bunkers it can suffocate those inside.

In the words of *New York Newsday*, napalm "gained a kind of diabolical notoriety during the Vietnam War" when the substance was dropped on Vietnamese civilians. One of the war's most famous photographs, a naked Vietnamese child screaming in agony from napalm burns after a U.S. military attack on her village, became a symbol of U.S. government brutality around the world.

Reporters in Baghdad said the Iraqi capital was attacked once again by allied warplanes half an hour before Bush's February 23 noon deadline. According to Reuters seven unusually large blasts rocked the Iraqi capital.

Allied air strikes also pounded Basra and other southern Iraqi cities. The bombing could be heard across the border in Iran.



Bush: Soviet plan short of UN demands

BY RONI McCANN
AND SELVA NEBBIA

The response by Washington to independent political initiatives pursued by the Soviet government in the days leading up to the invasion of Iraq follows the pattern of the past seven months.

In its drive to conquer Iraq, every military and diplomatic move made by Washington has been designed to escalate the war and force an unconditional surrender of the Iraqi regime.

On February 22 the Soviet Union announced that Iraq had agreed to withdraw from Kuwait and accept a proposal that could head off such a U.S. assault.

In politely rejecting the proposal, U.S. President George Bush reminded Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that "coalition allies are committed to enforcing the United Nations resolutions" calling for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait.

Soviet proposal

The Soviet proposal was presented to Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Moscow on February 18. Nine days earlier Gorbachev had issued a statement warning that "the logic of the military operations and the character of the military actions are creating a threat of going beyond the [UN] mandate."

After two consultations in Moscow, the Baghdad regime accepted the proposal, which included a "full and unconditional withdrawal" from Kuwait. The withdrawal would begin on the second day after the fighting stopped and be completed within a fixed timetable.

After two-thirds of Iraq's forces were withdrawn, the UN-sanctioned economic blockade of Iraq would end. When all Iraqi forces had left Kuwait, all other UN resolutions against Iraq would lapse. All prisoners of war would be released immediately after the cease-fire.

'Campaign remains on schedule'

Upon receiving a summary of the Soviet proposal, White House spokesperson Marlin Fitzwater issued a statement thanking Gorbachev but reaffirming that "our military campaign remains on schedule." President Bush said the Soviets' efforts were "useful" but he had "serious concerns" about their proposal.

On February 20 Washington told Moscow the proposal was unacceptable and demanded Baghdad withdraw its troops from Kuwait within a few days, leave its tanks and heavy armaments behind, and accept the conditions of all UN Security Council resolutions on the Gulf war.

Washington's demands also meant Iraqi President Saddam Hussein would have to agree to the restoration of the Kuwaiti monarchy and accept liability for property damages as outlined in Security Council Resolution 674 and for war crimes committed by its army.

The U.S. government has pressed hard on the reparations issue. A similar devastating tax was placed on Germany after World War I. The country ended up paying some \$5 billion to the allied victors.

Kremlin spokesperson Vitaly Ignatenko responded to the U.S. demands February 22, saying Moscow had sent new proposals to Baghdad. They included beginning an Iraqi withdrawal 24 hours after a cease-fire and totally completing the pullout in 21 days.

But Bush had already issued an ultimatum to Iraq: begin a massive withdrawal of its forces from Kuwait within 24 hours or face an allied air, sea, and land assault. Bush set a deadline of noon on February 23 for Iraq to comply. Spokesperson Fitzwater added that Iraq must complete its military withdrawal from Kuwait within a week.

Gorbachev telephoned Bush and government officials in Britain, Italy, France, Germany, and Egypt, urging they postpone the invasion for "a day or two" and "integrate" the U.S. and Iraqi plans for ending the war in a UN resolution. The *New York Times* reported that the allies "responded almost unanimously. . . it was too late for changes; that Iraq had failed to meet the deadline."

At a February 23 UN Security Council meeting called at the Soviet Union's request, Britain's representative, David Hannay, said he was "skeptical" about any new integrated peace proposal. U.S. representative Thomas Pickering said, "The Soviet proposals fall short of what we need because of the time



Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush

deadline and the conditionality." Pickering argued that the Security Council should not try to arrange a negotiated solution, saying "the Security Council is for resolutions."

Just hours after the noon deadline passed, the White House issued a statement saying, "The withdrawal proposal the Soviets discussed with Tariq Aziz in Moscow was unacceptable because it did not constitute an unequivocal commitment to an immediate and unconditional withdrawal. Thus, the Iraqi approval of the Soviet proposal is without effect."

Upon hearing the news February 23, Ignatenko said Iraq "has lost the chance" to halt the invasion. The Soviet spokesperson said the Kremlin "will not express condemnation" of the allied assault.

The course taken by Moscow represents a big shift in U.S.-Soviet relations. The Soviet government closely collaborated with U.S. diplomatic initiatives in the UN Security Council through November 29, when the UN body approved Resolution 678.

Representing the Soviet Union, Eduard Shevardnadze, then Soviet foreign minister,

cast a vote in favor of the resolution. It gave the diplomatic green light to Washington to launch its war against Iraq.

The shift since then reflects the fact that Gorbachev faces an increasing political and economic crisis at home and the prospect of the establishment of a regime subservient to Washington on its doorstep in Iraq.

The attempt to play an independent political role in the Mideast could have led to Moscow regaining some political influence in the region. A successful diplomatic effort would have given Gorbachev some political leverage in dealings with Washington in the future.

The rejection of the Soviet plan received bipartisan backing in Washington.

"This is the kind of sensitive period in which it is very important for the United States to speak with a single voice," said Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman David Boren, a Democrat. "Saddam Hussein . . . knows his number is up," said Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole, a Republican.

"Saddam Hussein started this and he can end it," declared Dole. "The president is

absolutely right to drop this ultimatum on Saddam."

Washington's allies in the war against the Iraqi people also lined up behind Bush's ultimatum.

"Nothing has yet happened that would incline us to agree to a cease-fire or a pause in the conflict," British Prime Minister John Major told members of Parliament February 19. "If Saddam Hussein wants to avoid a land battle, he knows what he must do. He has to withdraw unconditionally and immediately from Kuwait and implement UN Security Council resolutions in full. Until and unless he does that, the conflict will continue."

At a February 19 meeting, the war committee of the Canadian cabinet turned down Gorbachev's plan. Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said that while he did not question Gorbachev's "good faith," the proposal did not meet many of the requirements set out in Security Council resolutions.

Mulroney said "the government of Canada is joining with the allies, as we have since the beginning, in pursuing the objectives the alliance has."

Speaking before the Security Council, 20 minutes after the U.S. deadline for Iraq's unconditional surrender had passed, Cuban UN Ambassador Ricardo Alarcon called the Soviet proposal, and the announcement of Iraq's acceptance of its terms, a "positive outcome."

"This implies a fundamental obligation for this council to get down to work immediately to determine the specific steps and actions it should take to make it possible for this plan, for a peaceful settlement of the conflict, to be carried out as speedily as possible, and in the most appropriate way," he said.

With word that the ground war had begun, the Security Council abandoned any pretense of working out a compromise to halt it.

As he was leaving Security Council consultations, Yemen's UN Ambassador Abdalla al-Ashtal said "the Security Council is the first victim of the ground war."

Bombing ravages cities across Iraq

BY SETH GALINSKY

U.S. and allied forces entered the sixth week of their 24-hour-a-day bombing of the Iraqi people by escalating the air war assault.

"Our pilots are flying their missions, peace talk or no peace talk," said a high-ranking U.S. military commander in Saudi Arabia February 20, referring to the talks between the governments of the Soviet Union and Iraq on Baghdad's withdrawal from occupied Kuwait.

The U.S. command announced the anti-Iraq coalition flew 2,900 air sorties into Iraq and Kuwait that day, bringing the total to more than 86,000 since the start of the bombing. Participating in the air war are forces from 10 countries: the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates.

In Tehran, Iran, the newspaper *Jomhuri Eslami* reported February 19 that Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, Saadoun Hammadi, told Iranian officials that 20,000 Iraqis were killed and 60,000 wounded during the first four weeks of the war. No breakdown was given for military and civilian casualties. On February 16, the Associated Press reported that Iraqi officials said most of the deaths were civilian. An Iraqi Red Crescent report five days earlier had put the number of civilians killed at 7,000.

'Horrendous casualties'

When asked about the reports by Hammadi, U.S. Marine Brig. Gen. Richard Neal stated that, "Iraq has suffered very much from the campaign." The 34 days of bombing have inflicted "horrendous" casualties, he added. Neal said he hoped that the reports of Iraqi casualties are "a signal that they've had enough."

Although Lt. Gen. Thomas Kelly denied that attacks on Baghdad have intensified, foreign correspondents in the Iraqi capital said that bombing on February 18 was one of the heaviest since the start of the war on January 16.

Reporters at the Rashid hotel heard U.S.-launched cruise missiles pass nearby every 10 minutes for two and a half hours. The

explosions from the missiles shook the hotel.

Aside from direct deaths due to the bombing raids, the lack of electricity, running water, and fuel are causing a large-scale disaster. In Baghdad, many people have been forced to use horse-drawn carts due to a lack of gasoline.

Many hospitals are short of medicine and surgeons operate by candlelight. The sewage system in Baghdad is overflowing. When the weather heats up in the next few weeks the possibility of epidemics will increase.

Iraqi officials say that 50 children die a day in Baghdad due to the conditions.

"They die from what is technically known as cold injury," Dr. Kohosha Aboona, head of maternity care at the al-Aluia hospital told a reporter from the Spanish newspaper *El Mundo*. "Every day, mothers come along with their children, and when you touch them they're frozen. It's like putting your hand in a refrigerator."

The problem is aggravated by the lack of electricity for incubators.



Flatbed truck removing bodies of Iraqis killed by relentless U.S. bombing. The bombing has inflicted "horrendous" casualties, according to a U.S. general.

Cuba and the fight against racism — an answer to Carlos Moore

BY DON ROJAS

Carlos Moore, an Afro-Cuban writer who left Cuba in 1963, has recently been touring the United States promoting his book, *Castro, the Blacks, and Africa*. This volume was published in 1988 by the Center for Afro-American Studies at the University of California at Los Angeles, with funding from the Ford Foundation.

Moore's speeches, like his book, are part of the campaign of lies and provocations against the Cuban revolution and its communist leadership that has been waged for 30 years by supporters of Washington's foreign policy. His main theme is built around the charge that Cuban society today is racially polarized and that Cuban President Fidel Castro and other top government leaders are "paternalistic" and "manipulative" toward Black Cubans and Black people in Africa and the Caribbean.

The book has won plaudits from some well-known Afro-American and Caribbean writers and academicians, whose comments are cited on the back cover. Alex Haley, author of *Roots*, describes Moore's book as an "unprecedented insight into the little known racial facets of Cuban politics." Novelist and poet Maya Angelou urges, "This is a book to read, to study, quote from and to share."

In the book's foreword, Jorge Domínguez, professor of government at Harvard University, claims it is "one of the most significant books available on contemporary Cuba." Moore's judgments, he adds, will be unpopular with many defenders and with many opponents of Cuba's revolutionary government. "The former will dislike the truth that there is racism in Cuba today; the latter will dislike the truth that there has always been racism in Cuba," Domínguez contends.

These commendations are undeserved as can be shown by an examination of Moore's book.

Erroneous view of Cuban revolution

Moore's entire framework reflects an erroneous view of the social forces that made the Cuban revolution and have benefited most from it. He states that the overthrow of the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in January 1959 "was essentially a victory of the anti-imperialist segment of the white Cuban middle class." White students "were the vanguard of the fight against Batista," he claims, and a "wide sector of the middle and upper white bourgeoisie" welcomed Castro's coming to power.

While Moore admits that most Black industrial and agricultural workers backed the revolution, he asserts that they saw Castro as a "White Redeemer" and were seduced by promises of full employment and racial integration. Throughout the book Moore states or implies that Black Cubans, as well as Black Africans, were "seduced" or "manipulated" by a crafty Castro.

Blacks weren't the only ones seduced, Moore contends. "To the land-hungry white peasantry Castro took care to project himself as a native 'Robin Hood' with land reform as the magical word," he writes.

Moore's "seductionist" theory sharply contradicts the truth about the class character of the Cuban revolution. The revolution began as a popular, democratic struggle against U.S. imperialist domination and the tyranny of the capitalist regime headed by Batista. It was the decisive weight of the working-class opposition to the Batista tyranny — manifested in growing urban resistance and a general strike that was combined by the July 26 Movement leadership with the peasant-based guerrilla army campaign that swept Batista's regime aside.

As growing numbers of workers and peasants took the lead in the unfolding revolution in 1959, it became increasingly anticapitalist. Working people set up their own government, which by the end of 1960 had overthrown capitalist property relations and bourgeois social prerogatives.

Don Rojas served as press secretary to Grenada's Prime Minister Maurice Bishop in 1982-83. He is also the editor of *One People, One Destiny: The Caribbean and Central America Today* (Pathfinder, 1988). Currently, he is the executive editor of the *Amsterdam News*, published weekly in Harlem in New York City.

By establishing state property relations in the strongholds of industrial production and a monopoly of foreign trade, Cuba's working people — Black and white — opened the door to transforming themselves from passive subjects to active agents of their own historical process. It created the possibility of being able to move toward building a society on the principles of social and economic justice, that is, toward socialism.

Achievements of Cuba's working people

Experience quickly proved that the program of the revolutionary leadership headed by Castro was not demagoguery to fool workers and peasants, either Black or white. A radical land reform was carried out, illiteracy was abolished, free and decent health care was guaranteed, unemployment was virtually wiped out, and the outlawing of racial segregation and discrimination was enforced.

For more than three decades Afro-Cubans, the vast majority of them workers and farmers, have greatly benefited from the revolution's social achievements. Today, Black Cubans are healthier, better educated, more skilled, more politically conscious, and more confident than toiling Blacks in Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Nicaragua, Panama, Jamaica, Guyana, Haiti, or the United States.

Along with other Cubans, Blacks enjoy the lowest rate of infant mortality in Latin America and the Caribbean, a rate that is superior to the average rate faced by Blacks in the United States.

The typical Black Cuban can expect to live into his or her mid-70s. However, in one of the most telling indictments of the deepening social crisis in capitalist United States, a National Center for Health Statistics report released November 28 stated that the life expectancy for all Blacks in the United States has dropped substantially in the last four years — to 69.2 years.

Fighting racism

All Cuban working people have also benefited from the gains made in combating racism.

Slavery existed in Cuba until 1886, when it became the next to last country in the Americas to abolish this evil institution. Under the domination of U.S. imperialism for the first half of the 20th century, legal racial segregation, which had become institutionalized in the United States, was reinforced in Washington's Caribbean protectorate.

On the eve of the 1959 revolution, segregation was deeply embedded in capitalist Cuba and was used by the capitalist employers to help keep Cuba's working people divided. There were "whites only" clubs, restaurants, schools, hotels, beaches, recreational centers, libraries, and housing areas. Discrimination in job hiring and advancement was especially pernicious and whites occupied most of the top jobs.

Within weeks after coming to power, Cuba's revolutionary government outlawed institutionalized discrimination against Blacks and vigorously enforced measures to bring about racial equality. It shattered the racialization, widely repeated in the United States at the time, that Jim Crow segregation could only be done away with gradually.

In two landmark speeches in March 1959 Castro explained these steps. The first was a nationally televised speech on March 22, and the second was a televised news conference on March 25.

In the second presentation he stated, "Virtues, personal merits, heroism, generosity, must be the yardstick by which we judge men, no matter what the color of their skin."

The Cuban leader also stated that prejudices cannot be fought with laws alone. Political education is necessary as well. He blasted "those who call themselves revolutionaries yet they are racist and those who consider themselves to be quite cultured but are still racist."

The actions of Cuba's new government were watched closely by Blacks in the United States. The Feb. 12, 1959, issue of *Jet*, a weekly magazine published in the United States and widely read by Blacks, reported, "As the Castro government's first move to end segregation in Cuba, Gov. Morales

Hernandez ordered the closing of private clubs in the province of Santa Clara unless the premises were opened to Negroes. . . . The action followed a rally protesting continued segregation of Negroes in the city of Santa Clara. . . .

"Gov. Hernandez ended an age-old segregation policy in the city park. Formerly Negroes were barred from walking in the central section of the city park."

Moore, however, belittles the significance of Castro's pronouncements and the government's concrete actions. "Essentially, Castro's speeches reconfirmed two permanent features of his approach to race relations: a commitment to an integrationist stance steeped in white liberal paternalism and a firm refusal to allow the racial question to escape that framework," he writes.

Moore claims that while the young revolutionary government banned racial discrimination, it permitted racism itself to "remain a sort of discretionary ethical question."

"Implicit in this policy was that Cuba's new white leadership tacitly condoned white supremacy but frowned on racial segregation," he states.

Leaving aside the false assertion that Cuba's revolutionary leadership was all white, it is astounding to believe, as Moore apparently does, that a leadership "steeped in white liberal paternalism," which backs "white supremacy," and thinks racism is a matter of taste, could unite millions of working people in a struggle to overthrow a capitalist dictatorship, establish and defend a government of workers and farmers, expropriate the genuinely white supremacist capitalists, rapidly outlaw segregation and discrimination, and inspire and mobilize more than 300,000 Cubans — many of them Afro-Cubans — to play a central role in defeating South African troops in Angola, putting, as Castro stated, the future of the entire revolution on the line to do so. If Moore's contentions were true, it would be the first time in history that a leadership with such reac-

tionary characteristics accomplished such revolutionary feats.

What is Moore's evidence?

He asserts that the "integrationist" framework of the revolutionary regime has led it to repress the indigenous culture of Blacks. Under the subtitle, "Castro's Racial Tokenism," Moore writes, "The breakdown of racial segregation within such a narrow context, however, left only one way open to Cuban Blacks: uncritical adoption of the cultural outlook and life style of the politically dominant Hispanic revolutionary elite."

Moore sees politics in Cuba as fundamentally a conflict between Blacks and Hispanics. The problem with this narrow, middle-class nationalist approach, however, is that both Blacks and Hispanics are socially stratified. What is the "cultural outlook and life style" of Hispanics? Before the revolution the dominant national culture in Cuba was that of the capitalist rulers. It was based on the exploitation of workers and peasants — both Black and Hispanic — and many forms of privilege and inequality, including racism.

Moore himself admits that a minority of Blacks who were lawyers, teachers, doctors, and other professionals tended to be much less supportive of the revolution as it developed than the great majority of Blacks who were workers and peasants.

The revolution meant working people — Black and white — were no longer under the domination of the capitalists, and the opportunity was opened for them to begin breaking from all aspects of capitalist ideology and culture.

The communist leadership headed by Castro has explained the importance of learning and absorbing Cuba's revolutionary traditions, which involved both Blacks and whites in struggle against slavery, Spanish colonialism, and U.S. oppression. It also stresses the revolutionary legacy of the toilers in Latin America and the rest of the world.



Verde Olivo/J. González
Hundreds of thousands of Cuban volunteer troops played a decisive role in defending Angola's independence against military aggression by apartheid South Africa.

In one of his speeches celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Cuban revolution in 1989, Castro explained that the Cuban revolution "is the fruit of centuries of struggle by the peoples, the efforts of the working class since the last century, the fruit of the Paris Commune although it wasn't victorious, the fruit of the October [1917 Russian] revolution, the fruit of the struggle of all peoples to create a world without slavery and exploitation of man by man, a world of true justice." (*In Defense of Socialism*, Fidel Castro, Pathfinder, 1989).

This is the "culture" of Cuba's working people, Black and Hispanic, and of their communist leadership. It's neither "Black" nor "Hispanic."

The vestiges of bourgeois habits, customs, and prejudices, however, are not eradicated overnight. One measure of the advances in the transition toward socialism is the progress in getting rid of these trappings from the past social order.

Since abolishing legal segregation, how well has Cuba's communist leadership done in wiping out racial prejudices and discriminatory practices that were so integral to capitalist Cuba?

Moore thinks the record is poor and not getting any better. He cites the repression of Afro-Cuban religious groups. Admittedly, in the earlier years of the revolution the practice of African religions and the formation of "Black power" groups were viewed with apprehension by the government and restrictions were imposed. But in the 1980s this began to be corrected as a more open approach was instituted.

Today, there is growing interest in uncovering and promoting the contributions of Afro-Cubans to the country's cultural and political development. In some Cuban academic circles, for example, a popular current pursuit is investigating and chronicling the activities of the more than 50 Cuban branches of Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association, which had a mass following among Blacks in the Caribbean and the United States in the 1920s.

Even Moore cannot pretend to ignore this positive shift in approach toward Afro-Cuban religious and cultural activities. Instead, he acknowledges it but simply explains it away by dubbing it "a suspicious new policy." This is consistent with his overall refusal to examine the content and consequences of the Cuban government's policies. Instead he attempts to analyze the motives behind them. This only leads to replacing objective criteria with his own arbitrary subjective ones in evaluating the progress Cuba is making in eliminating racial prejudices.

Renewal of leadership

This is shown in another question Moore discusses — the disproportionately small number of Blacks in leading positions in the Communist Party and the government. This is genuinely a problem in Cuba. But it is also one which Castro has addressed and some action has been taken. In a report to the Third Congress of the Communist Party in 1986, the Cuban leader explained that the time had arrived for carrying out "a deep-going renewal" of more than a third of the Central Committee.

This translated into a further proletarianization of the party leadership through an expansion of the number of Blacks, women, and youth in the central committee, the political bureau, and other leading bodies of the Communist Party and the revolutionary government.

"We can't leave it to chance to correct historical injustices," Castro said. "To really establish total equality takes more than simply declaring it in law. It has to be promoted in the mass organizations, in the youth organization, in the party. And that's why we said in the report that we should reflect the ethnic composition of our society, that we can't leave the promotion of women, Blacks, and mestizos to chance. It has to be the work of the party; we have to straighten out what history has twisted." ("Renewal or Death," in *New International* No. 6).

Moore charges that this is "symbolic" and "self-serving."

"Has the Caudillo set himself up before the unruly white, male, and elderly Hispanic-Cuban bureaucracy as the advocate of



Fidel Castro with Malcolm X in 1960. "I love a revolutionary," Malcolm X told a New York rally in 1964, referring to Che Guevara, another leader of the Cuban revolution. Guevara was in the United States at the time and had been invited to the event but was unable to attend. He sent greetings instead that concluded "United we will win!" Malcolm X called Guevara "one of the most revolutionary men in this country right now."

the 'have-nots' in terms of the power structure?" he asks. Here, again, Moore urges us to psychoanalyze Castro's intentions, rather than look at the merit of the action and its results.

Cuba's foreign policy

Moore applies the same methodology to the Cuban government's foreign policy, especially in relation to Africa. In the considerable number of pages devoted to this topic, Moore alleges that Cuba's Africa policy has been motivated by a search for opportunities to situate the Caribbean island as a major player on the world's political stage and to establish Castro as a world leader.

Using formulations that echo those of the U.S. State Department, he charges that Cuba's foreign policy is "interventionist" and "bent on pursuing confrontation with the U.S. by exporting the revolution" to Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Furthermore, he claims that much of Cuba's policy is determined by Castro's character traits and personal ambitions, his "messianism" and self-image as a "caudillo."

Cuba's communist leaders, however, have explained repeatedly that they don't believe socialist revolution can be exported from one country to another through force of arms, but that it must be carried out by the toilers in that country. And this is how they have conducted themselves in countries where Cuban troops have been deployed.

From Angola to Ethiopia, Cuban troops helped beat back imperialist or imperialist-orchestrated military attacks on sovereign nations that had just carried out social revolutions or successful anticolonial fights. Even though victories in these conflicts helped improve the relationship of forces for working people in Africa, they were not used as stepping stones by Cuban troops to try to impose socialism through military action.

Since the 1960s, tens of thousands of Cuban volunteer doctors, teachers, engineers, construction workers, and soldiers have responded to requests for help from various African, Latin American, Asian, and Caribbean countries. The efforts of these Cuban internationalists have contributed enormously to the liberation and all-round development of these countries.

In return, Cuba has asked for nothing and has taken nothing. No *quid pro quos* have been attached to this humanitarian assistance. Yet, Moore conveniently ignores the significance of this internationalist solidarity.

Most striking was the participation of hundreds of thousands of Cuban volunteer troops in Angola over 14 years. They played a decisive role in defending Angola's independence and territorial integrity against military aggression by apartheid South Africa and the mercenary UNITA army of the U.S.-backed terrorist Jonas Savimbi.

By their concrete deeds Cuban internationalist volunteers helped strike a massive blow against racism in southern Africa and won worldwide acclaim from opponents of apartheid. Thousands of Cuban troops, Black and white, fighting side by side with their Angolan brothers and with the freedom fighters of the South West Africa People's Organisation and the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), died in the trenches of southern Africa. Africa's soil is still moist with their blood.

Nowhere in his book does Moore honor

this sacrifice of the revolutionary Cuban people. In fact, he argues that the Cuban presence in Angola posed a very serious danger to African countries because Castro was toying with the idea of attacking South Africa. "Conceivably, Pretoria's ability to employ atomic weapons against black Africans," Moore states, "would not deter Cuba's Caudillo from initiating a conflict in Southern Africa, were it to Havana's advantage."

This is certainly not the view of ANC leader Nelson Mandela, who thanked Castro and the Cuban government for its positive role in southern Africa.

"We have benefited tremendously from the lessons of the Cuban people and what Cuba is doing, especially in Africa," said Mandela on March 22 in Windhoek, Namibia. "The South African army would still have been in Angola... had Cuba not helped Angola at the [1988] battle of Cuito Cuanavale."

Stanford University professor St. Clair Drake, cited on the back cover of Moore's book, says "the section on Che Guevara in Africa is fascinating." In that section Moore attempts to describe Che's support to liberation fighters in the Congo (today Zaire) in the mid-1960s. He concludes that the prominent leader of the Cuban revolution failed to understand or be sensitive to cultural traditions and practices of his African comrades-in-arms. "The conclusions Guevara drew from his prolonged stay in the heart of the black continent," Moore contends, "were Eurocentric and even racist."

But Thomas Sankara, one of the most outstanding revolutionary leaders from Africa in this century and the president of Burkina Faso until he was murdered in 1987, had a different appreciation of Guevara. In a brief speech in October 1987, Sankara said that "from the north to the south, Africa remembers Che Guevara."

"Fearless youth — youth thirsty for dignity, thirsty for courage, thirsty for ideas and for the vitality he symbolizes in Africa — sought out Che Guevara to drink from the source, the life-giving source that Che's revolutionary heritage represented to the world," said Sankara.

Cuba's relationship to Grenada

I can speak personally about the policies of the Cuban government toward the revolutionary government of Grenada during the years when Maurice Bishop was prime minister. As Bishop's press secretary I had occasion to closely observe the relationship between Fidel and Maurice as well as relations between other state and party leaders of both countries. I must honestly state that these relations were always conducted on the basis of principled, fraternal support and mutual respect. We treated each other as revolutionaries equals.

As representatives from a country with a much smaller population than Cuba and where the population was virtually all Black, we did not feel patronized by our Cuban comrades. They always insisted that their role was not to force their way of doing things on us but merely to share their experiences as well as the lessons they had learned from their victories and setbacks along the road of building their revolution. And that is the way they acted.

They would always tell us with sincerity that Bishop was the most popular foreign

leader with the Cuban people. Many Afro-Cubans said to us that they felt a special pride in identifying with Bishop as a young, dynamic, Black revolutionary from a sister Caribbean island. They would affectionately refer to him as Fidel's "younger brother."

It therefore came as no surprise to us that thousands of Cuban working people, Black and white, wept openly in the streets of Havana and other cities upon learning of Bishop's brutal murder on Oct. 19, 1983. Or that of all world figures, it was Fidel Castro who spoke out most immediately, with feeling, and in an uncompromising manner, publicly condemning the assassins of Maurice and defending the imperishable accomplishments of the revolution he led.

In February 1986, George Louison, a former minister in Bishop's revolutionary government, and I were paid a surprise visit in our Moscow hotel room by Castro and Jorge Risquet, a member of the Political Bureau of the Cuban Communist Party. We were all in Moscow as guests at the 27th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Castro said to us that he came by to simply reassure all Grenadian patriots that the Cuban people had not forgotten them and that Cuba would continue to offer its solidarity and support — the defeat of the Grenada revolution and the U.S. occupation of the island notwithstanding. I can state that this modest yet profound gesture of friendship will always be appreciated by Grenadian revolutionaries.

Continuing fight against racism

After the overthrow of the Bishop-led government in Grenada, I lived for three years in Cuba and was able to get a first-hand feel for much progress has been made since 1959 in eliminating racial prejudices and discrimination.

During that time, I met several white Cuban revolutionaries, some in high leadership positions, who are racist in their personal attitudes and outlook toward Blacks. I met others who are not racist but who are defensive on the question of Cuban race relations. I met far more, however, who were willing to openly discuss and debate the race question.

I witnessed how interracial couples are needlessly harassed by police and security guards in the vicinity of hotels and clubs. I was disturbed by how Black youth are disproportionately labeled as trouble-makers and antisocial elements by Cuban authorities. I felt I had an obligation as a supporter of the revolution and as an internationalist to communicate my concern about these matters to Communist Party leaders.

On the other hand, I also witnessed growing racial harmony, particularly among the generation of Cubans born after the revolution's triumph, as well as a heightening of pride among Black Cubans who are fully committed to the revolution. The social attitudes of young Cubans — white and Black — are more open, more progressive than those of previous generations and this certainly must be credited as a conquest of the revolution.

Stereotypical racial thinking, however, has not been overcome after 32 years of revolution. Blacks are still considered superior athletes and musicians. Many Cuban mulattoes still prefer to define their racial identity with whites rather than with Blacks.

Continued on Page 12

By Malcolm X

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ALABAMA

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The Deepening Crisis in the Soviet Union and the Fight for National Sovereignty. Speaker: Betsy Farley, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America. Sat. March 2, 7:30 p.m. 111 21st St. S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Youth Oppose the War. Speakers: Susi Goldberg, LA Student Coalition, student at LA County High School for the Arts; Daraka Larimore-Hall, high school activist in Santa Barbara; Alternative Youth Brigade; Chito Quijano, North American representative, League of Filipino Students; Héctor Salazar, anti-war activist; Nkululeko Sowazi, secretary, African National Congress Southern California chapter; Nell Wheeler, chairperson, Young Socialist Alliance; representative, General Union of Palestinian Students. Sat., March 2, Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

San Francisco

Students and Young Workers and the Fight Against the U.S.-Led War in the Middle East. Speakers: Ana Kalmar, Laney College Students for Peace; Toriya Smith, student, San Francisco State University; Heather Randall, national executive committee, Young Socialist Alliance, participant in January 27 National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East conference in Washington, D.C. Sat., March 2, 7:30 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

CONNECTICUT

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Rally for Peace. Every Sun., 1:30 p.m. At the corner of Dixwell and Whitney, across from Hamden town hall. Sponsor: Hamden High School Youth for Peace.

FLORIDA

Miami

Cuba/South Africa: After the Battle. First Miami showing of video explaining Cuban role in defeat of South Africa forces in Angola. Sat., March 9, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Blacks in America's Wars. Speaker: George Williams, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 9, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

International Women's Day and the Fight Against Imperialist War. Speaker: Carol Burke, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 9, 7 p.m. 545 W Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018.

IOWA

Des Moines

The Working-Class Campaign Against the War. Speaker: David Novak, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Des Moines City Council. Sat., March 2, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

The Fight for Women's Rights — 1991. Sat., March 9, 7:30 p.m. 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA

Austin

GIs, Veterans, and the Fight Against the War. Speakers: Jon Christenson, Vietnam War veteran, poet; Peter Hartwig, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 9, 7:30 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (507) 433-3461.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Celebrate International Women's Day. Speakers: Linda Badran, Palestinian Women's Association; Nancy Saboori, peace activist; representative, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sat., March 9, 7:30 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (314) 773-4709.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

The Fight for Women's Rights Today. Speakers: Pat Leamon, Socialist Workers Party campaign director, member, United Steelworkers Local 3141; Rachel Murray, representative, Students for Choice, University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Sat., March 2, 7 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (402) 553-0245.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Youth Speak Out Against War. Sat., March 2, 7:30 p.m. Party to follow. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$4. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Defend the Right to Abortion. Speakers: Jackie Osborne, National Organization for Women; Diane Shur, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., March 3, 5:30 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cleveland

The Opening Guns of World War III. Speaker: James Harris, national committee, Socialist Workers Party; staff writer, the *Militant*. Sat., March 2, 7 p.m. Open House to follow. Class 1: **A Revolutionary Antiwar Perspective in Power: What We Can Learn from Cuba's Opposition to Washington's War in the Middle East.** Sat., March 2, 2 p.m. Class 2: **The Communist Manifesto.** Sun., March 3, 11 a.m.; refreshments, 10 a.m. 1863 W 25th St. Donation: \$10, weekend; \$5 forum only. Sponsor: Militant Forum. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Stop the Bombing! Stop the War! Bring the Troops Home Now! End Sanctions Against Iraq! Discussion. Mon., March 4, 6:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Defending Democratic Rights and the U.S.-Led War in the Middle East. Panel Discussion. Sat., March 2, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E Madison. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum.

Tel: (206) 323-1755.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

Malcolm X on the Fight Against Imperialist War. Speaker: Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 9, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E Madison. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

GIs and the Fight Against the Vietnam War. Speaker: Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., March 10, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E Madison. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

Morgantown

The Mideast War Today and Lessons of the Korean War. Speakers: John Hennen, student, West Virginia University; John Williams, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 2, 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Malcolm X: The Fight Against Imperialism and Its Wars. Video. Sat., March 2, 4 p.m. 19 Terry St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: 02-692 0319.

BRITAIN

London

U.S. and Britain's War Against Iraq: A Roundtable Discussion. Speakers: former soldier who served two terms of duty in Northern Ireland; participant in February 21 national student demonstrations in the United States; trade unionists; working farmer from Yorkshire; Brian Grogan, Communist League candidate for parliament; others. Sat., March 2, 6 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 71-401-2409.

Manchester

Communists and the Fight Against Imperialist Wars — The Lessons of World War I. Speaker: representative, Communist League. Fri., March 8, 7:30 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel:

Cuba and fight against racism

Continued from Page 11

I witnessed, as well as personally experienced, racial discrimination, both subtle and overt. But I am not convinced, as Moore is, that today's revolutionary Cuba is a racist society or that its communist leadership practices racism.

What I am convinced of, however (having also lived and worked in the United States, Eastern Europe, and the Caribbean and having been victimized by racism in all those regions), is that only through the struggle to deepen the revolution's working-class and internationalist roots and advance toward socialism can racism be fully uprooted in Cuba.

Today, there is a struggle taking place in Cuba, launched by the leadership of the Communist Party in 1986, to correct the growing bureaucratic mismanagement, declining productivity and work morale, corruption, favoritism, and other abuses that were increasingly removing working people from the center of the revolutionary process.

A social layer of relatively privileged bureaucrats and administrators with bureau-

061-839 1766.

CANADA

Montréal

A Video-Film Presentation: The Frameup of Mark Curtis. Sat., March 9, 7:30 p.m. 6566, boul. Saint-Laurent. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

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

Toronto

The Mideast War. Opening Guns of World War III. Speaker: Steve Penner, executive secretary, Communist League. Sat., March 2, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (416) 861-1399.

Vancouver

Defend Framed-Up Unionist Mark Curtis. Speakers: Lynda Little, recently returned from UN Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva; Francis McQueen, member, Amnesty International; Norah Hutchinson, board member, Canadian Abortion Rights Action League, National Democratic Party women's rights activist; others. Sun., March 3, 2 p.m. Langara Student Union Building, Langara Campus, 100 West 49 Ave. (west of Main) Sponsor: Supporters of Mark Curtis. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Cuba Today. Speaker: Alex Muir, participant, Australasian work brigade to Cuba. Sat., March 2, 7 p.m. 157a Symonds St. Sponsor: Socialist Forum. Tel: (9) 793-075.

Wellington

Launch of the Communist League Election Campaign. Speakers: Patrick Brown, Communist League candidate for Wellington City Council; representative, Young Socialists. Sat., March 2, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation: \$5. 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.

cratic attitudes and practices was living in comparative ease. Their self-seeking outlook only served to foster and reinforce inequalities and prejudices, including retrograde views toward Blacks.

Castro explains that the transition to socialism can't be administered but "is essentially a political task and a revolutionary task, it must be fundamentally the fruit of the development of consciousness and educating people for socialism and communism."

It's not accidental, but natural, that the struggle to renew the leadership of the Communist Party and other mass organizations in Cuba with more Afro-Cubans, women, and youth would be part of this process.

Unlike Moore, who is obsessed throughout the entire 472 pages of his book with how easily Blacks in Cuba and Africa are duped, I am confident that the struggle of working people — Black and white — to take command over the administration of their state and economy will prevail. And that this is the road to rooting out the stubborn remnants of racism in that Caribbean country.

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

—THE GREAT SOCIETY—

You better believe it — Jonathan Bush, a nephew to the prez, expects to serve as a medic in the Mideast. He's sure that the risk he may face



Harry Ring

will not alter his uncle's position on the war.

Nobody loves a "quitter"? — Last fall, at California's Camp Pendleton, Marine Pvt. Michael Balaskovitz declined Gulf duty and offered to withdraw from the service.

A sergeant called him before an assembly of 500 marines and asked if there were any other "quitters" who wanted to be sent "back to their mommies." Eight marines stepped forward. Along with Balaskovitz, seven were court-martialed. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, they're now known at the base as "The Magnificent Seven."

Pious folk — A billboard for Buck's gun store in Daytona Beach, Florida, exhorts: "Pray for peace but keep bombing!"

Role model — We're late in reporting it, but the fall 1990 issue of the magazine of the New Mexico State Police Association featured a photo of a painting honoring highway cops.

For his model, the artist chose a portrait of Hitler. Responding to protest, the editor and the artist assured there were no Nazi overtones. It was merely intended "to make the police feel good about themselves."

"Taking care" of GIs — Federal regulations require "informed consent" from those being used in tests of new drugs. A month before the Gulf war erupted, the regulation was "temporarily" set aside so that experimental drugs against chemical and biological weapons could be used on GIs.

The environmental prez — The head of the Environmental Protection Agency pointed to 600 companies

as the biggest contributors to the 1.4 billion pounds of poisonous waste belched into the atmosphere each year. He called upon them to voluntarily reduce their pollution, explaining that the Bush administration does not want an "adversarial relationship" with business.

To poorly situated people — The Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico have the slowest mail delivery rate of any area served by the U.S. Post Office. The reason for this, claims the Caribbean postmaster general, is "poorly addressed mail."

Might give the kid a complex — Saks Fifth Avenue is pushing quality rings, bracelets, and pierced earrings for infants (sterling silver,

\$75 to \$255). One designer explains that such items are for "those occasions when you put nice clothing on your child and you don't want to top it off with a piece of junk."

Over the surgeon general's warning? — The Lorillard cigarette company, whose product is not quite as lethal as cluster bombs, is adding a yellow stripe to its ads.

Fresh approach — Faced with a challenge to the use of "fresh" in its Citrus Hill Fresh Choice orange juice, Procter & Gamble dutifully added "from concentrate" to the label. The disclaimer is printed in orange on the orange container.

British cite 'national security' in jailing of Arabs

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — More than 170 Arabs here, mostly Iraqis and some Palestinians, have been served with deportation notices by the British government since September 1990. About 80 have already left the country "voluntarily." More than 80 remain imprisoned pending deportation.

Among those detained are 34 university students whom the British government is now calling "prisoners of war." The government claims they are military reservists or Iraqi Army officers on academic leave.

The government asserts the deportations and detentions are necessary to defend "national security." There are some 7,000 Iraqis now living in Britain.

An aide to Prime Minister John Major denied criticisms that the deportation and detention policy is unfair. "You have to think which way you are going to err," he said. "You know, excuse me, but there are people trying to blow us up and we can't rule out there may be links between Iraqis and the I.R.A. [Irish Republican Army]."

Alison Stanley of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants said in an interview that the government is using provisions of the 1971 Immigration Act to carry out their attack on democratic rights.

No right to appeal

Under the law there is no right of appeal to British courts for those deported or detained in the "interests of national security." Further, the government does not have to file any specific charges.

Detainees are not allowed legal representation. Their only recourse is to a three-member panel known as "the three wise men." They may not call witnesses or cross-examine government officials. They are not even allowed to hear the reason for their deportation or the findings of the panel. The panel's recommendations are not binding on the government.

Six Arabs who had been detained were released after the panel reviewed their cases. Appeals from 12 others were rejected.

One of those detained, Abbas Cheblak, a Palestinian writer, was released after a campaign on his behalf won widespread support, including from two Conservative Party Members of Parliament.

Cheblak has lived in Britain for 16 years. He works for the Arab League and is a member of the Arab Committee for Human Rights. He opposes the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"For the first two days we had not even an inkling of what lay behind our detention," Cheblak, who was in jail for three weeks, wrote in an account for the *Manchester Guardian Weekly*. Then he saw a newspaper that claimed British security services had supposedly broken a seven-person Palestinian terrorist group.

"I realized suddenly that we were those seven," he said, referring to other Palestinians whom he had met in prison. "But this was very strange, as the authorities never interrogated us, they never searched our homes, and no one was ever asked about his links to the others."

"Here we are in a democratic and free society," wrote Cheblak. "Yet suddenly I found myself completely helpless and defenseless, held in prison and threatened with the destruction of my future without any reason given, without any legal defense."

Two detainees, a Palestinian couple, were

deported on the basis that one of them was a "blood relative of an internationally known terrorist."

The "prisoners of war" are being held in Rolleston camp, a disused military camp, where they are kept in cramped conditions, 12 to a hut.

The other prisoners were originally held in Pentonville and Wormwood Scrubs prisons in London, where Black and student organizations have organized solidarity protests. The international Red Cross said it was

"disappointed" with the prison conditions. A number of prisoners have since been moved to Full Sutton prison in Yorkshire, away from their families, legal representatives, and solidarity actions.

In a related move, which allows the police greater powers of spying and harassment, all Iraqi nationals resident in Britain have been instructed to register with their local police force. Registration costs £36 (\$70).

On January 19, using the Immigration Act, the British government decreed that all Iraqi

nationals are to be denied entry or re-entry into Britain. All applications for visas or visa extensions for Iraqis already here will be denied as well.

Under parliamentary procedure, the government implements the rules by informing the House of Commons, or "laying a paper" in the House. If opposition members of parliament "pray against them" — that is, if they object — a debate will begin. But no one from the opposition has taken measures to force such a debate.

Hollywood films: propaganda for U.S. war

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Hollywood is doing its part to whip up war fever and racism against Arabs. New movies with Iraqis as the bad guys will soon hit the silver screen and Arab-Americans in the United States are bracing for stepped-up attacks as a result.

- Actor Rob Lowe will star in *Desert Shield* by 21st Century Film Corp. Lowe will play the part of a Navy SEAL sent to destroy chemical warheads in Iraq.

- *Desert Storm*, a David Carradine thriller, shows Iraqis plotting to wipe out Israel. Originally the film was called *Shield of Honor* and the forces of evil were Libyan, but when the war hit, Concorde Pictures shifted the setting.

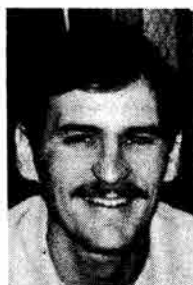
- Cannon Pictures is hoping to rake in profits with *The Human Shield* which depicts an Iraqi officer taking revenge against a U.S. colonel by kidnapping his brother. According to the filmmaker, the Iraqi's ire was touched off when the U.S. officer slashed his face in an attempt to stop him from killing an old woman and a child.

- *Target U.S.A.* will unravel an Iraqi terrorist plot.

Casey Kasem, a well-known radio personality who is a member of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, said, "Arabs are dehumanized so thoroughly [by Hollywood] that killing an Arab is very much thought of as something that can be tolerated."

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

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



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

Arab-American organizations have consistently spoken out against both film and television Arab-bashing. But PBS' *Sneak Previews* film critic Michael Medved disagrees with the criticism. "There is a disproportionate representation of Arab people in terrorism," he told *U.S.A. Today*. "It would be absurd to have a terrorist threaten to blow up a plane and have his name be Smith."

Recently NBC was forced to make an apology for the *Santa Barbara* television series storyline about Arabs, harems, and white slavery.

As Washington prepared and launched its

war in the Middle East over the last several months, racist attacks against Arabs have escalated.

Several Arab-owned stores and restaurants in Los Angeles and Detroit have been set afire. Arab-American leaders receive regular death threats. An Iraqi flag was burned on the lawn of a Lebanese family in Dearborn, Michigan.

Some 60 people in Blissfield, Michigan, helped scrub clean the walls of a Palestinian-owned Dairy Queen on January 19. Vandals had spray painted "U.S.A. No. 1" on the walls. At the end of January the shop was burned to the ground.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT
Published in the interests of the Working People
March 7, 1966 Price 10c

The following call in support of the International Days of Protest, March 25-26, against the war in Vietnam, has been issued by the Supporters of the *Bring the Troops Home Now Newsletter*.

For 25 years the people of Vietnam have fought for their independence against foreign powers — against Japan, France, and the United States. They are fighting for the right to run their own country, the same right that the American people fought for in 1776. But today the United States government stands in opposition to the vast majority of the Vietnamese people, and to the very same principles upon which our own country was founded.

President Johnson has landed 200,000 American men on Vietnamese soil in order to "settle" the affairs of the Vietnamese, and his perspective is to double that number by the end of the year. The U.S. troops, however, do not bring "freedom and democracy" to Vietnam. On the contrary, they are engaged in a horrible campaign of destruction against the Vietnamese people and their country.

Daily bombing raids are conducted against both South and North Vietnam and they often spill over into Cambodia and Laos as well.

Americans have no more right in Vietnam than the British had in America at the time of our own revolution. Johnson and his administration have consistently pursued a policy designed in effect to assure that the U.S. would determine the future of Vietnam

rather than the Vietnamese, and this has led the U.S. into a war whose sole purpose is to prevent the people of Vietnam from choosing their own way of life. That is why the war is so brutal and oppressive. It is a war against the Vietnamese people.

THE MILITANT
Official Weekly Organ of the Socialist Workers Party

March 8, 1941

The question of the "war aims" is raised but little these days. Somebody writes a letter about it to the *New York Times*. Or an isolationist senator grasps at it for a moment in his search for telling arguments.

What are "war aims" anyway?

The Nazi war aims are made plain enough. German imperialism has embarked upon a drive to master the continent of Europe and eventually, the colonies of Asia and Africa, and all the world's seaways and market places.

Britain's war aims are likewise quite clear. There is a half-truth in Churchill's answer that Britain's aim is to save itself. For the British Empire, the world's most powerful military-economic-political unit up to the present generation, is passing from the scene. The British rulers of the world are trying desperately to hold on to their slipping power. They know they must cede and they prefer to cede to the United States rather than to Germany.

The war aims of American imperialism are necessarily the counterpart of Germany's — for American finance and industry intends for itself the crown of world dominion. The German challenge to that intention has to be taken up and removed and the U.S. has to embark more "plan-fully" upon its career as No. 1 power in the world.

Next step in fight against war

Hundreds of activists and representatives of organizations met in Washington, D.C., on the weekend that the U.S. government launched its invasion of Iraq. They called for local protests across the country on Saturday, March 16, and for regional actions on Saturday, April 6.

The April date falls two days after the 23rd anniversary of assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., which will be marked by commemorations and activities across the country. Before being gunned down, King became an outspoken opponent of the U.S. war in Vietnam.

The call to action on March 16 and April 6 offers the best opportunity for all those opposed to the war to unite forces, step up activities to educate wider sections of the population, and mobilize the greatest possible numbers in the streets to call on Washington and its allies to end the slaughter and bring the troops home.

These protests build on the accomplishments of the national demonstrations in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco in January that involved tens of thousands.

They also build on the successful student international day of protest held February 21. The scope of the student actions and the opportunities opened up by them for all opponents of the war point to the potential of the March and April actions.

The *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and the *Los Angeles Times* and the other big-business press downplayed the accomplishments of the February 21 protests. Their coverage attempted to make it appear that the protests were ineffective or as the *Post*'s headline said, "A Faint Antiwar Cry."

But the opposite is true. It was the first time since

Washington began preparing for war in the Middle East that such internationally coordinated protests had been held. The actions involved thousands and had an impact.

The February 21 activities, many of them teach-ins, panel discussions, and debates, offered a means to educate about the true nature of Washington's war aims.

The actions became a focus for activists to appeal to those confused about the war or wavering under the pressures of patriotic onslaught.

They served to stimulate discussion and debate, which the bipartisan support for the war and the media's prowar propaganda aim to put a lid on.

The February 21 protests offered a concrete way for young people to get involved. They were a vehicle to draw in fresh forces who had not yet found a way to act on their antiwar convictions.

Through building the actions, students and youth met activists from other areas and began to form networks to share information and news, and plan future activities. This process helped break down isolation between groups and individuals spread across the country.

All of these gains register the success of the February 21 protests. The challenge now is for everyone opposed to the war — students and youth, unionists, GIs and reservists, farmers, political activists, and others — to embrace the March 16 and April 6 protest dates.

Building protests on these dates is the best next step toward involving larger numbers of young people, students, and working people — in and out of uniform — in actions demanding a halt to the war.

End attacks on abortion rights!

Working people and defenders of women's rights should oppose the attempts by numerous state governments to push back and curtail a woman's right to choose abortion.

Participants at the recent Young Feminist Conference registered the scope of this assault and pointed to the need to defend abortion rights through visible protests.

The fact that more than 700 people, most of them young, attended the conference is one reflection of the potential to fight the attacks and push them back.

Many of the restrictive measures adopted by, or pending in, state legislatures center on limiting access to abortion for young women. The state governments take aim at working-class and teenage women, who have the most to lose from enactment of "parental consent" laws, cuts in federal funds for abortions, and other measures.

Some state governments are hesitant to take on abortion rights or have been forced to adopt legislation upholding a woman's right to choose, as in Maryland this past week. This shows that the widespread support for abortion rights is taken into account by the ruling rich in determining how far and fast to press their assault.

Defending abortion rights remains on the cutting edge of the fight for women's rights as a whole. The right of women to choose if and when to have a child is essential for their winning full equality and being able to exercise economic independence. Without this right women cannot fully participate on an equal footing in the work

force and in social and political life.

As Washington steps up its war in the Mideast, it is also waging a war against the living standards, working conditions, and social and democratic rights of working people at home.

As part of the rulers' offensive on democratic rights, the U.S. Supreme Court recently dealt a blow to school desegregation, ruling school districts could be released from federal court-ordered busing plans. Likewise, attempts to undermine abortion rights constitute a central part of this offensive against working people.

Fighting to unify working people is an essential component of the working class being able to defend itself from the general offensive of the employing class.

A vigorous response should meet any attempt by state governments to limit or nearly outlaw abortion. Such a course, as followed in Florida in 1989, can push back reactionary legislation. Florida abortion rights supporters mobilized thousands and thwarted attempts by the state government to impose abortion restrictions.

Gains made in limiting access to abortion not only constitute a setback for women, but the working class as a whole. Such victories for the government help sap the fighting power of the labor movement and will only serve to further divide working people. Labor must champion abortion rights and join with other supporters to counter these reactionary moves.

Defend Iraqi people!

Continued from front page

thrown by a popular revolutionary upsurge in 1979.

The proimperialist regime of the shah, together with the U.S.-backed government in Israel, acted as a bulwark of reaction in the Arab-Persian Gulf region. They sought to insure that the enormous human and natural resources, especially the vast oil reserves, in the Mideast were controlled to the greatest extent possible by the imperialists, not the people of the region.

The overthrow of the shah by the people of Iran was a significant setback for Washington and helped shift the relationship of forces in the region against imperialism.

Now the tiny handful of billionaire ruling families in the United States and Britain are attempting to put back in place a similar setup. They aim to reverse the gains registered with the Iranian revolution and be in a position to assert their imperial prerogatives at will.

The Anglo-American alliance hopes to emerge from the war with a triangle of a protectorate regime in Iraq, a new regional role for the Egyptian government and armed forces, and a strong Israel.

As Washington drives toward this goal, working people around the world are paying a steep price for the votes cast by representatives of the Soviet government in favor of

U.S.-initiated United Nations war resolutions.

U.S. President George Bush has simply stated that every recent Iraqi and Iraqi-Soviet proposal for a negotiated settlement falls short of the demands contained in the UN resolutions.

Politely rejecting the first several Soviet moves to broker a cease-fire, Washington is also dealing a blow to Gorbachev's attempts to assert an independent policy in the region. The Soviet regime is seeking to recoup its loss of influence in the Mideast through the proposals around an Iraqi withdrawal. It hoped to use the political influence gained out of such a deal as a lever to further the needs and interests of the ruling stratum in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet initiatives and the U.S. government's success at shunting them aside mark a sharp shift in what had been built up over the last several years in U.S.-Soviet relations and a big setback to the Gorbachev regime.

Events of the past few days have made Washington's war aims clearer to millions around the world, as well as the stakes for working people in opposing them. Joining in upcoming protests against the invasion and discussion and debate on the real goals of imperialism is how young and working people can best defend the Iraqi people from the terrible defeat Washington is seeking to inflict upon them.

How a young Black rebel became a socialist

BY DOUG JENNESS

When young workers or students first get interested in socialism and start looking around for things to read, they are often drawn to accounts of how others were won to socialism.

This is particularly true if they can find something by people who have remained committed to socialism for many years and have proven to be competent and steadfast fighters for working people.

An excellent thing to read along this line is a 45-page pamphlet by Andrew Pulley called *How I Became A Socialist*. Pulley, an auto worker and a member of United Auto Workers Local 5960, is currently the Socialist Workers Party candidate for city council in Detroit. He is well-known in

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

that city and around the country in the fight against the imperialist war in the Mideast, especially among those active in veterans' organizations.

Pulley has run for office on the SWP ticket many times, including for vice-president in 1972, mayor of Chicago in 1979, and president in 1980. And he is a veteran of many labor fights and struggles against racism, including the fight for affirmative action quotas in the steel industry at the end of the 1970s.

The pamphlet by Pulley was a central piece of literature in the SWP's 1980 presidential campaign. It was so popular among socialist campaigners, especially in the Young Socialist Alliance, that when the campaign was over the YSA reprinted it as a Young Socialist publication. It is still in print and is distributed by Pathfinder (410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014) for \$2.50.

Pulley begins with his childhood in Mississippi. He was born in 1951 when the South was still dominated by the Jim Crow form of legal segregation. His grandparents, with whom he lived, were sharecroppers until he was eight. Then they became farm laborers working for a pittance. Andrew, like other Black children, worked in the fields after school and when school wasn't in session.

Woven into his personal narrative is a description of what was happening in the country and the world in the 1950s when he was growing up. These were developments that he was generally not conscious of at the time, he writes, but they profoundly transformed the world he was going to become part of in his teens and adulthood.

Pulley points out that the ruling capitalist families in the United States had come out of their victory in World War II believing the world was their oyster. They hadn't reckoned on the revolutionary conquest in China that swept out the pro-imperialist regime dominated by capitalists and landlords. Then came the civil war and revolution in Korea and Washington's military intervention. "For the first time in history," Pulley writes, "the American Goliath had failed to win a war — and the people they could not subdue were colored people!"

"The reverberations were felt among Black people everywhere, including in Leflore County, Mississippi," Pulley states. "I, of course, was only dimly aware of these world events. But others were inspired and encouraged to act against the oppression we faced."

When he was 12, Pulley moved with his grandmother and others in his family to Cleveland. The hope was that conditions would be better. "But, initially, we actually lived in worse conditions," Pulley recalls. "The size of our large family, which had boosted our total income in Mississippi, was a liability in Cleveland. We had to live on welfare."

From the time he was 15, Pulley recounts, he had frequent confrontations with school authorities. This soon also led to run-ins with the cops and with a gang of whites, who wanted to keep a neighborhood park off-limits to Blacks.

A turning point came in Pulley's life following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. The young rebel joined with others in his high school to protest this criminal act. Pulley was arrested and faced the choice of a jail term or signing up for the army, which he did two weeks after his 17th birthday.

In the army he met up with other Black militants like himself, and he ran into a young socialist from Georgia, who explained "that the employing class introduces racist prejudices into the working class in order to keep the oppressed and exploited weak and divided." For the first time Pulley heard tapes of speeches by Malcolm X. "When I heard the tapes," Pulley writes, "I regretted that I had been ignorant of the man when he was alive. He articulated the things I felt so deeply."

An important chapter of Pulley's story is the formation of GIs United Against the War at Fort Jackson in South Carolina. This group conducted educational activities against racism and the Vietnam war. Pulley along with seven others became nationally famous when they were framed up and court-martialed for their activities. A broad national defense effort led to the discharge of the eight from the army. By then Pulley had been won to socialism and joined the Young Socialist Alliance and the SWP.

Soldiers in New Zealand and U.S. buy 'Militant'

Supporters of the *Militant* in Christchurch, New Zealand, are making a special effort to reach armed forces with the truth about the war in the Arab-Persian Gulf. Salespeople recently went door-to-door in a neighborhood where air force personnel live.

One young man who said he would go fight if called up bought a *Militant*. He said he had still not

of workers and farmers in uniform in the United States, supporters of the paper went to a small shopping center near Fort Dix in New Jersey.

Two soldiers, a young man from Dallas, Texas, and a woman from Boston, Massachusetts, had just completed their basic training and were on their way to Saudi Arabia. "I just want them all to come home," the man said, referring to the troops

sylvania, rest area on their way to the January 26 antiwar protest in Washington, D.C. Many passed by a *Militant* sales table set up to get the paper into the hands of demonstrators.

Seven subscriptions to the *Militant* and one to *Perspectiva Mundial* were sold, including three to high school students. Seventeen copies of the *International Socialist Review*, one copy of *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!*, two books by Malcolm X, and 103 single copies of the *Militant* were sold as well.

Some of the sales were to people who said they were gathering information to share with others in local antiwar groups. They were seeking facts they could use in further discussions to win more people to oppose the war. They also were impressed with the *Militant's* full coverage of ongoing antiwar activities in this country and around the world.

A high school student from Erie, Pennsylvania, had helped organize a peace vigil at his school before the start of the bombing. He subscribed to the *Militant* and bought a copy of *Out Now! A Participant's Account of the Movement in the United States Against the Vietnam War*.

"I need this material for my students," said a college professor in Montréal, Canada, at a demonstration of 325 people on February 2. The demonstration called for an end to the war and to attacks on the Arab community. The professor bought a copy of *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!*

A few days before, 300 people met at Concordia University to discuss and protest anti-Arab attacks, which have increased as the war has escalated.

During the two events, three peo-

ple took advantage of the *Militant's* package deal — a 12-week subscription, a copy of the special supplement, and *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!*, all for Canadian \$20. In addition, 23 single copies of the *Militant*, three *International Socialist Reviews*, several books, and three copies of *L'Internationale* (a quarterly magazine in French) were sold to participants.

Militant supporters in Manchester, Britain, found increased interest in sales at plant gates, on the job, and in working-class communities the week after the U.S.-led bombing of Iraq started.

In Leigh, an industrial town in the Lancashire coalfields, they sold 26 *Militants* and 15 *International Socialist Review* supplements. Many of the sales were to young people between the ages of 14 and 18.

A good number of those offered the paper said they were against the war, but felt they could do little to stop it. One 19-year-old reservist in the British armed forces said the aggression is a "capitalist's war." He bought the paper and the supplement.

One woman, whose son is in Saudi Arabia, refused to buy a *Militant*, preferring to think her son was risking his life "for a cause." But, she added, "I fear he won't be the same lad when he comes back."

Twenty-one workers bought the *Militant* at the Schlumberger manufacturing plant here over the course of the first week of the bombing. Sales at the factory gate helped spark discussions inside the plant.

Supervisors in the plant tried to end the discussions to no avail. "It's disgusting — all those young people dying for oil and the arms indus-

try," said one worker.

A Jamaican-born worker picked up a copy of the *Militant* at the plant gate a few weeks later. It was the first time she had bought the paper. Later she approached a *Militant* supporter who works in the plant and said, "I was so pleased to see you there this morning. I didn't know there was anyone else who shared my views on the war."

"All the governments who are siding with America in this war are only in it for one thing: they want a slice of the cake when the fighting is over," she said.

Militant salespeople set up a stall outside a concert of the popular Irish republican folk group called the Wolfe Tones. Seven *Militants* and nine *International Socialist Reviews* were sold, many to young Irish workers recently arrived in Britain.

The concertgoers had a wide variety of views on the war. Some of the Irish youth who oppose the British occupation of Northern Ireland thought the U.S. and British presence in the Gulf was similar. But others expressed a wish "to get out there and kick Saddam's ass," saying it was "a totally different situation than that of Northern Ireland."

Nine members of the National Union of Mineworkers bought copies of the *International Socialist Review* along with the *Militant*. These included four miners from the Bickershaw coal mine.

"They wouldn't be there if the Iraqis grew carrots," said one.

Brigid Rotherham from New Zealand; Kay Sedam, from New York; Michael Pennock, from Pittsburgh; and Helen Arthur, Helen Warnock, Pamela Holmes, and Pete Kennedy, from Britain; contributed to this article.



GETTING THE MILITANT AROUND

made up his mind on whether he supported the war.

A woman married to an airman responded immediately to the headline "No blood for oil."

"This is an issue that I feel very, very strongly about," she said. "I think that the United States was looking for an excuse to go in." While her husband does not share her views, he has his doubts about New Zealand armed forces participation in the U.S.-led assault on Iraq, she added.

A week earlier, a young soldier took advantage of the special subscription offer of \$5 for 12 weeks for servicemen, while attending a teach-in about the war. He decided to attend the antiwar event after buying and reading the book *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*, published by Pathfinder.

already in the Gulf. They bought a copy of the *Militant* and the *International Socialist Review* supplement with its article "Working-class campaign against imperialist war drive."

"It's terrible what the U.S. government is doing in the Middle East," said a reservist originally from Jamaica. "They felt that if they could get away with it in Panama they should try it in the Middle East."

"They fill you full of all kinds of propaganda and you feel you can't do anything about it. I just act like I agree and wait for the time when I can get out of here," he said.

In spite of his feelings on the war, the reservist did not buy a copy of the paper. He felt that if the army brass found out, they would make life harder on him.

Dozens of buses from the midwestern part of the United States stopped at the Breezewood, Penn-

LETTERS

Railworkers and war

In mid-January, Conrail management sent out a notice requesting that "all railroad personnel be alerted to note any persons on or about our property who appear to be acting in a suspicious manner and, in particular, if said persons have satchels, firearms or other materials on or near them." Conrail police should then be notified.

The notice came out in response to the U.S. rulers' cries of sabotage being committed in this country. An engineer trainee on my crew hauling empty coal hoppers to Harrisburg said, "That could be anyone on the Port Road."

This is true. Any kid dashing out to set a soda can on the rails before an approaching train, anyone working along the tracks carrying a brown bag lunch, any game hunter with a rifle cradled in his arms, any railroad buff with a video camera raised to his eye can be suspect.

Railroad workers sometimes haul military equipment — we have no choice about the cargo we carry. And Conrail officials are doing their part to create a climate of distrust and fear because they support the U.S. war in the Arab-Persian Gulf. A hostile, suspicious atmosphere will make it harder for us to have friendly discussions about war and peace.

Railroad workers need to understand the connections between the war, the deepening recession, the attacks on our health benefits, and the increasing mileage traveled before earning a basic day's pay. We should not support United Transportation Union officials who are urging rail unions not to strike while the United States is at war. Concession contracts will benefit the company — not us. Not striking will not stop the war. Organizing UTU contingents at antiwar protests will.

Glova Scott
Baltimore, Maryland

War and AIDS budget

In addition to being opposed to Washington's imperialist war against Iraq, I went to Washington, D.C., on January 26 for a more personal reason. Along with thousands of others, I am angry at the billions being pissed away at a time when AIDS research is struggling on a shoestring budget.

The entire federal AIDS Clinical Trials Program has cost \$428 million — about a half-day budget for this war! Take a year's AIDS research budget and throw in all cancer and heart disease research money for a year, and it totals about three days' cost of this war.

I was disappointed that in your coverage of the January 26 demonstration, you missed mentioning one of the louder contingents. Behind an ACT-UP banner, AIDS activists chanted, "Fight AIDS, not Iraq!" The *Militant* continues to drag its feet in

keeping its readers informed about AIDS-related developments.

Craig McKissic
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Like Scud missiles

This war will hit everybody hard, as if we were on the front lines. President Bush is only worried about making history and he should be punished for crimes against humanity.

We need money for health care, not warfare. The problems with AIDS is so immense it's like our government aimed Scud missiles at defenseless Americans and forgot to send the Patriots in.

Our government sends Israel three billion dollars each year and is now spending money on warfare. So demand a halt to the war and use the money to feed the poor.

A prisoner
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania

Civil disobedience

I think that the increase in civil disobedience and vandalism related to the antiwar movement should be condemned.

As you know, we need an organized, focused movement; we need to educate people; we need to get people involved and introduce them to mass action.

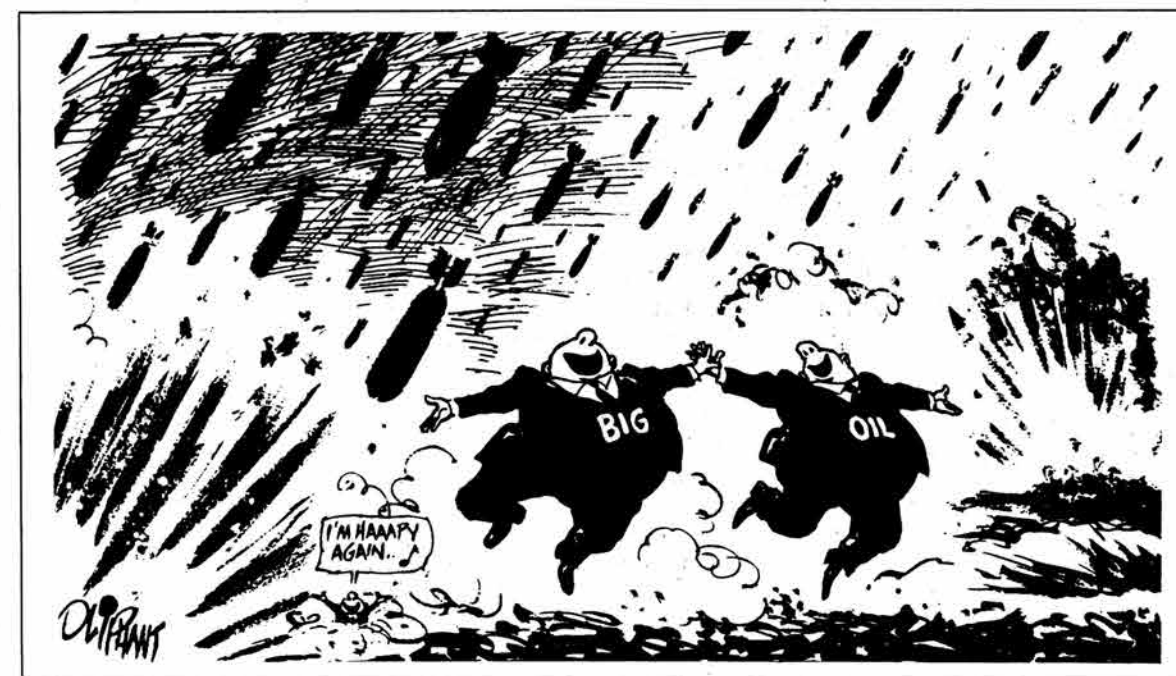
I don't know if the rest of the country is getting bad press for the actions of a few, but I hope someone at the *Militant* addresses this issue.

Keep up the good work!

J.Y.
Boulder, Colorado

Double standard

Today in the United States there is much flag-waving, much playing of martial music, and much play given to aggressive speech-making.



SINGING IN THE RAIN.

There is much attention given to the lives of Americans lost. There is no recognition given to the hundreds of Iraqi citizens who have died. There is no attention given to the thousands of refugees who have lost all they own.

Iraq has been branded and vilified as an international outlaw. Iraq had been blockaded and its economy ruined. Today its capital has been destroyed by bombing and its people terrorized.

I see much anger directed against those of us who are today in the streets asking for a change in direction and wonder why this anger is directed at us. We are for money being directed toward providing homes for every man, woman, and child in this country. We are for the creation of a society which cares for its children and young people.

Because those things that would make America strong, and of which I would be very proud, are being neglected — this is why I cannot be proud of my country. Because the present war is being fought under false pretenses and because it is wrong: these are reasons I and millions more oppose it.

We support the troops as people, as individuals, as victims. But we can never support the crimes they are called upon to commit. We say bring the troops home now! We call for the respect of national sovereignty by all nations. We call for re-evaluation of our national priorities.

Ed Meredith
Caneyville, Kentucky

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.

'News' forced into talks with union

BY NANCY ROSENSTOCK

NEW YORK — For the first time since labor contracts expired at the *Daily News* last March, officials of the nine striking unions held a joint negotiating session with top company executives February 15. As they met, the strikers were also mapping out plans to press the fight to defend their unions.

Twenty-three hundred workers were forced out on the street by the company after they refused to buckle to intimidation and steep concession demands.

Since the lockout began, many working people in the city have refused to buy the paper and have encouraged others to do the same. Plummeting circulation, combined with rallies and leafleting by the strikers, resulted in major advertisers quitting the scab press.

Daily News management has admitted it is losing between \$750,000 and \$1 million a day printing the paper with supervisory personnel and others who have crossed the union's picket lines.

James Hoge, the publisher of the *Daily News*, boasted for weeks after the lockout began that the company would quickly rebuild the paper's readership and break the strike. But he admitted the damage the

strike had done when he announced January 16 that the walkout would either be resolved or the paper closed.

Strikers press fight

Around the corner from the big *Daily News* printing plant in Brooklyn is the hall of the Roofers union. The hall serves as an organizing center for the picketers at the newspaper's Brooklyn plant, who are mainly pressmen, mail handlers, and drivers. Picketers stop in before and after picket duty for coffee and to share experiences.

On the morning of February 13, 75 strikers attended a meeting at the union hall to organize visiting newsstands in Brooklyn that carry the scab paper. The meeting, organized by the Allied Printing Trades Council Boycott Committee, featured rank-and-file activist Dan McPhee, a pressman who helped to organize a similar effort in Queens. The Allied Printing Trades Council is the umbrella organization for the nine striking unions.

McPhee explained how strikers in Queens have organized themselves into daily teams that start early in the morning and visit newsstands that carry the *Daily News*.

The effort has been very successful. On February 11, strikers piled 3,000 unread cop-

ies of the *Daily News* in front of the *News'* main building on 42nd Street in Manhattan. The papers had been obtained by strikers visiting 600 newsstand dealers, all of whom signed statements addressed to Hoge authorizing the striking unions to cancel delivery of the paper and to return all the delivered copies.

Based on the success of the teams in Queens, McPhee outlined similar plans for Brooklyn. "What we need is visibility," he explained to the other strikers.

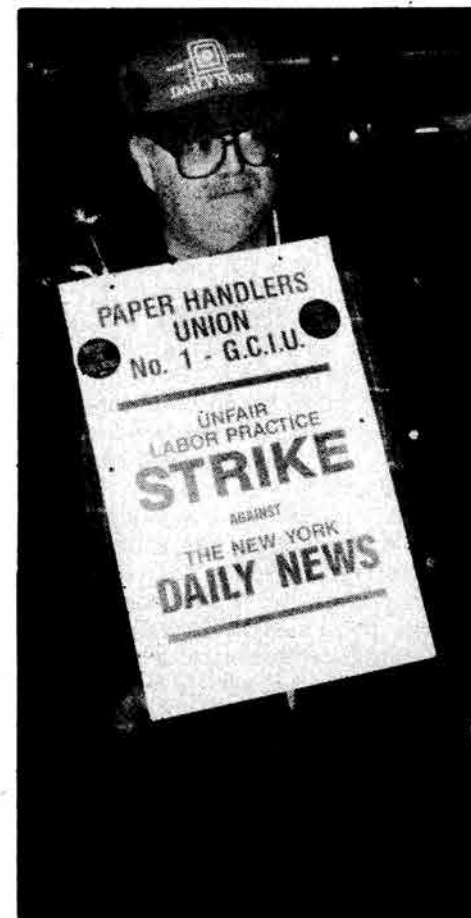
Strikers are also continuing to leaflet at stores that advertise in the scab paper, a campaign that continues to get results. The *Guild Strike News*, the daily publication of the striking Newspaper Guild, reports in its February 14 issue that after four months, Buy-Rite Liquors has decided to stop advertising in the *Daily News*.

Talks between management and the unions are expected to continue with federal mediator William Usery, a former secretary of labor. The *New York Times* reported February 20 that Hoge said he would stop demanding the union agree to "management rights" in determining work rules, but would push for a more than 50 percent reduction in the number of workers running the presses.

Usery, Hoge, and union officials all said

that wide differences continue to exist between the company and the union.

Following a February 19 meeting, the board of the Tribune Co., the owner of the paper, issued a statement saying, "No formal decision relating to the *Daily News* has been made, but time is very short."



Militant/Marc Lichtman
Striking *Daily News* workers have refused to buckle to steep concession demands.

Socialist candidate in antiwar debate

BY JACQUIE HENDERSON

CHICAGO — James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Chicago, was one of four participants in a February 13 debate on the war in the Middle East. Held at the University of Illinois at Chicago, the program included two speakers in favor of the war and two opposed.

The Young Socialist Alliance sponsored the meeting. Fifty students came to hear the different views presented and participate in the discussion.

Craig Goldsmith, a student at the university, was the first speaker. He explained that he didn't really think of himself as prowar but felt that "what we are doing over there is justified."

Continuing on the same theme, Bert Dalmer, assistant editor-in-chief of the *Chicago Flame*, the campus newspaper, said he did not consider himself prowar or antiwar, but rather "pro-American and anti-Hussein." Dalmer explained he didn't want Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to be left to "steamroller the entire Middle East."

"I feel sanctions could have worked well," said Dalmer. "However, the United Nations met and decided that it was justified for the countries to go in militarily."

Kuwait must be liberated, he said. "It is a shame we have to go around policing the world," he continued, expressing the desire to see the "UN or something else" play this role. "But if we don't [police the world], who the hell will?" he asked.

Bob Bossie, a Catholic priest who had recently returned from the Middle East, described the aggression as a "war against a people." Bossie went to Saudi Arabia and Iraq as part of a Gulf peace team.

"I was in Baghdad after the bombing of that milk factory the U.S. government told us wasn't a milk factory. I visited the bombed factory. Here is a bag of milk from there," he said, displaying a sample.

"Civilians are under attack. There are 16 million people in Iraq. Most of them are poor people, Third World people. They are the ones being made to suffer in this war," Bossie said.

The last speaker was socialist candidate Warren, a member of the United Steelworkers of America. He said he considered the invasion of Kuwait "a criminal act" by the government of Iraq.

"But the massive military assault mounted by the U.S. government and its coalition partners is a crime of a completely different scale," he continued. "This assault has nothing to do with freeing Kuwait."

"The question has been raised, who will free Kuwait and Iraq? This is a legitimate question," Warren said. "The answer is that working people in the two countries will free themselves."

"In their planning and organizing of this massive military onslaught since August, an assault unprecedented in human history, they never even considered a negotiated settlement on Kuwait," Warren said of Washington and its allies.

Referring to Dalmer's arguments earlier in the meeting, the socialist asked, "Don't you think the people of the Middle East are capable of figuring out who their enemies are? Don't you think they can see that the rich who rule in their own interests are the enemy? But they face an even greater enemy — the U.S. government and its allies with all their military force."

Workers in the United States have no interest in fighting against working people in the Middle East, said Warren. "They are no different from us. I grew up in Memphis, Tennessee. I'm no different from a worker who grew up in Baghdad."

He predicted that far from being a quick war, "It will be a long and costly war, born out of the growing crisis of capitalism. And it is only the beginning of a series of wars for which we will be asked to sacrifice our



Militant/Cappy Kidd
James Warren, socialist candidate for Chicago mayor and a Steelworkers union member, said war against Iraq is a crime.

sons and our daughters."

At the same time, Warren pointed out, it will be working people at home and abroad who will put an end to this and the future wars of capitalism.

A discussion period followed, with different viewpoints expressed. Many students stayed after the end of the formal meeting to talk further with the panelists.

States become battleground in abortion rights challenges

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

On February 18 the state of Maryland passed legislation designed to protect a woman's right to choose abortion. The bill was then signed into law by Gov. William D. Schaefer. The move is one among many by states to either restrict or defend abortion rights.

Concerned that the U.S. Supreme Court might eventually overturn legalized abortion, some abortion rights supporters waged a year-long effort to get the Maryland legislation passed. The bill grants adult women unrestricted access to abortions up to the time a fetus is able to survive outside the womb.

"By securing a woman's right to choose, the Maryland Legislature is taking a necessary and vital step toward safeguarding the health and lives of Maryland women," said Kate Michelman, director of the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL).

While the law protects the right of adult women to choose abortion, the bill contains a clause requiring at least one parent be notified when the patient is a minor. At the same time, however, doctors would be allowed to ignore the requirement if they consider it to be in their patient's best interests.

Pointing to the clause, Karyn Strickler, director of the state chapter of NARAL, called it "a step backward," and explained the requirement could force some teenagers to seek illegal abortions.

Within the same week, the Michigan Court of Appeals struck down a ban on state funding for abortions for poor women. The ban, approved by Michigan voters, had been in effect since December 1988.

The ruling resulted from an American Civil Liberties Union lawsuit on behalf of a 15-year-old who was denied funding for an abortion by the Michigan Department of Social Services. The teenager became preg-

nant after being gang-raped in 1989.

While the recent actions in Maryland and Michigan widened abortion rights there, legislation introduced in most states would place restrictions on abortion.

On February 21 the North Dakota House of Representatives voted to ban abortions except in cases of rape, incest, or when the woman's life is endangered. The bill will now go before the state senate.

In addition, the North Dakota legislature is considering proposals to require a 24-hour waiting period prior to the operation and to allow a father to block an abortion.

Recently, Utah's governor signed a bill that eliminates abortion except in cases of rape or incest, where the pregnancy threatens "grave damage to the pregnant woman's medical health," or to prevent the birth of a child with "grave defects."

In Missouri, Louisiana, Alabama, and South Carolina bills banning most abortions are expected to be introduced.

Upcoming bills in Iowa, Wisconsin, Kansas, New Mexico, and New Hampshire will focus on restricting abortion by requiring parental notification or consent for minors.

In Ohio, Mississippi, Nebraska, and Michigan, legislation requiring doctors to tell patients the effects of abortions, mandatory waiting periods, or other procedural obstacles are likely to be introduced.

Since the July 1989 U.S. Supreme Court decision allowing state legislatures to set restrictions on abortion rights, hundreds of abortion bills have been introduced into state legislative sessions. Most of these bills impose deep restrictions, or some form of limits on abortion.

In 1990 alone, some 350 antiabortion bills were filed in 41 states.