

End the occupation of Iraq! Lift the criminal embargo!

Washington using occupation, blockade, in drive to establish protectorate in Iraq

BY GREG McCARTAN

Washington has now entered the fifth stage of its war drive against the Iraqi people. The goal of U.S. imperialism remains what it has been since early August: the establishment of a protectorate in Baghdad that can defend imperialist interests in the region.

The war drive is not over. It continues with bipartisan support in Washington. Despite

ade, and bring as much political pressure to bear as it can in order to set up a regime in Baghdad that is as close to a protectorate as possible.

U.S. government demands include fulfillment of United Nations Security Council resolutions establishing "peace and security in the region," and making Iraq pay enormous — and as yet undetermined — war reparations.

Bush announced these imperial rights and demands following the slaughter of tens of thousands of Iraqi troops during the invasion. Rejecting Hussein's decision to withdraw his forces from Kuwait, the administration ordered the bombing, rocketing, and shooting of the retreating troops. Unable to politically sustain such a one-sided bloodbath Bush

Continued on Page 8

News Analysis

some tactical differences, senators and members of Congress in the Democratic and Republican parties have accepted and promoted each step toward war since August.

The first stage of the war drive opened with the initial response by Washington to intervene with troops in response to the August 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. This was intertwined with the second stage — publicly announced on November 8, two days after elections for U.S. Congress — when Washington said it was doubling the number of forces sent to the region, including the heaviest armored divisions and substantially more war planes.

Stage three of the war drive began January 16 with the day-and-night bombing of Iraqi soldiers and cities. The fourth stage came six weeks later, on February 23, when Washington ordered the invasion of Iraq.

The fifth stage began with the suspension by Washington of the invasion-offensive before it had achieved its goal of replacing the regime of President Saddam Hussein. With each stage of the war drive — including Hussein's August invasion of Kuwait — terrible blows have been dealt to the oppressed and exploited peoples of the region.

For the U.S. rulers this final stage is the most difficult one in their seven-month assault. Through it they seek to inflict greater blows on the Iraqi people, the Palestinian people, and other oppressed peoples in the Mideast. But the imperialists will break their teeth in the attempt to achieve their goals.

With full backing from London, Washington has announced it will keep its occupation forces in southern Iraq, continue the block-

BY PETER THIERJUNG

A Chicago conference of some 500 high school and college students endorsed by acclamation a call for March 16 nationally coordinated activities to demand the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq and the Middle East.

The date had been chosen by meetings of the National Campaign for Peace in the Middle East and the National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East at meetings February 23-24.

The March 1-3 Chicago gathering was sponsored by the National Network of Campuses Against the War and involved many student activists from colleges in the Midwest. Students from as far away as California, New York, and North Dakota also attended. Students from more than a dozen high schools also participated.

The meeting began some 48 hours after U.S.-led forces slaughtered retreating Iraqi forces, occupied the south of Iraq, and U.S.

have Saddam Hussein still there, the man that wreaked havoc upon his neighbors."

"I still have a little bit of an unfinished agenda," Bush added.

Washington is demanding that the Iraqi government release all prisoners of war and Kuwaiti prisoners, renounce the annexation of Kuwait, and pay reparations to the Kuwaiti government.

In addition the U.S. president has threatened to prosecute Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Iraqi soldiers. "Nobody can be absolved from the responsibilities under international law on the war-crimes aspect," Bush stated.

British officials agree with the U.S. ap-

Continued on Page 9



Children in Baghdad collecting water at spot where their homes once stood

Students organize March 16 events to oppose U.S. war in the Mideast

President George Bush declared a temporary halt to the offensive.

"The discussions at the conference reflected the desire of activists to continue the struggle against Washington's intervention in the Middle East," said Aaron Ruby, a partic-

ipant in the conference. Ruby represented the National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East at the conference. He is also a leader of the Young Socialist Alliance.

Continued on Page 10

U.S. forces control southern Iraq after slaughter of retreating troops

BY SETH GALINSKY

U.S. and British military forces now occupy a large swath of southern Iraq. A temporary halt to the invasion offensive operations was declared by U.S. President George Bush after ordering a brutal four-day slaughter of tens of thousands of retreating Iraqi soldiers. The imperialists are continuing their drive to set up a subservient regime in Baghdad.

After the defeat of Germany in World War II, the United States and its allies imposed occupation governments on the German people. "There was a definitive end to that conflict," Bush said in a March 1 press conference.

But in the case of Iraq, he continued, "We

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

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

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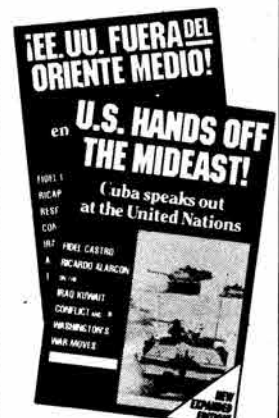
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Socialist candidates build antiwar actions

BY JOHN CHARBONNET

MORGANTOWN, West Virginia — Clare Fraenzl and Dick McBride, Socialist Workers Party candidates for Morgantown City Council, have centered their campaign on getting out the truth about Washington's war against Iraq and building opposition to the U.S. aggression.

Clare Fraenzl is an underground coal miner and member of the United Mine Workers of America Local 6159 in southwestern Pennsylvania. Dick McBride is a member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 347 at Morgan Shirt in Morgantown.

Their campaign has received significant television and radio time. The *Dominion Post* and the main local television station covered the press conference where Fraenzl and McBride announced their candidacies.

The candidates actively built and participated in the February 21 student antiwar protest held in Morgantown. The action drew 250 people and was part of an international day of student protests.

Two days prior to the demonstration, hundreds of students at West Virginia University in Morgantown walked out of classes to protest proposed cuts in funding and services at the university's medical school and medical center.

Many speakers at the February 21 antiwar protest demanded that money spent on the war be used instead to maintain funding for the medical center.

In a campaign statement passed out at the protest, the socialist candidates explained that "along with the war, new attacks are being prepared on wages, working conditions, social services, health, and education," as well as "increasing attacks on democratic rights."

Fraenzl and McBride's statement also urged those present to help "put a voice of opposition to U.S. imperialist war" on the ballot. Campaigners collected signatures on nominating petitions. In order for Fraenzl and McBride to be on the ballot, the candidates and their supporters need to collect 250 signatures.

After the protest, the two candidates spoke at a Young Socialist Alliance-sponsored reception attended by 30 people. McBride condemned the U.S.-led war as an "imperialist war of conquest."

In addition to helping build the February 21 protest among students, the socialist candidates and their supporters also campaigned at mine portals, distributing literature to coal miners.

At the entrance to Consolidated Coal's

Robinson Run Mine in Harrison County, West Virginia, Fraenzl and McBride found that a number of miners were interested in discussing the war.

One miner, a Vietnam veteran, told Fraenzl he supported the war, but urged the socialists to "keep fighting for what you believe in," adding that "you people are right about most things."

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

In a letter to the base commanding officer at Fort Hood, Texas, Mary Selvas, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Houston, expressed her solidarity with the recent protests of guardsmen stationed at the base.

"The Socialist Workers Party defends the rights of GIs in the service to express their opinions, read what they choose, and participate in organized political activities," Selvas explained.

More than 130 soldiers, members of the Louisiana National Guard, left the Fort Hood base on February 5 to protest the conditions they faced. Most or all had returned by February 8.

As part of Washington's war moves, the guardsmen, members of the 256th Infantry Brigade, were called up in December. In

January, the brigade was moved to Fort Hood. The 256th brigade is one of three "round out" brigades that under Pentagon plans would be deployed along with active army divisions in Saudi Arabia.

According to the February 7 *Houston Post*, the guardsmen complained they had been forced to undergo unreasonable training. In addition, the soldiers raised they were not getting enough food, pointed to inadequate medical care, and said they were not allowed enough time off for church services.

Sgt. Victor Giglio explained that he was expected to know things that in the regular army would be the duties of someone with at least nine years' experience. "Me, I'm just a 20-year-old sergeant who's a tank commander," Giglio said. "If we go on a training mission and we mess up, it's like we failed. This is supposed to be training."

In response to the protest, Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the House Armed Services that the three brigades have "fine soldiers" but they need "tough training for what could be a very, very difficult environment."

Capt. Richard McMahon, a judge advocate at the Barksdale, Louisiana, air force base, indicated that the soldiers could face penalties.

"If they were engaged in a movement and they failed to show up for that, it's desertion," Captain McMahon said and explained the penalties for desertion in time of war can range up to the death penalty. "If they just left and they didn't have the intent to desert, it's AWOL [absent without leave]," McMahon said that the penalty could include prison time.

"Everyone who left knew that [penalties] were a possibility. We were willing to risk that to get some time off. We were just that desperate," said Sgt. Thomas Baker of Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

Responding to the military's threat to punish the soldiers, Mary Selvas demanded the "soldiers be treated humanely, that they not be penalized for their actions, and that a serious investigation be held to address their grievances."

Selvas and her campaign supporters have widely distributed the statement at recent protest actions against the Mideast war. "At a rally on February 16," Selvas reports, "a number of individuals took the campaign statement and were glad to see someone responding to the GIs complaints." She said the Veterans for Peace took several copies of the statement and put them on their literature table.

"We gave out copies of the statements at the Army Reserve center in Houston," Selvas said and explained the statement was also distributed outside a number of factory entrances to people going to work.

"Reactions were mixed," the candidate said. "Some obviously took the statement to read without agreeing with it at the outset."

Northeast 'farmers' backs are to the wall'

BY JAY RESSLER

MONTPELIER, Vermont — Seventy farmers and political activists participated in a conference here February 8-9 on "Reaping What We Sow: A Regional Conference on Biotechnology, Food Safety, BGH and the Future of Farming in the Northeast."

The conference was hosted by Rural Vermont and cosponsored by the National Farmers Union, National Farmers Organization, National Family Farm Coalition, Women Involved in Farm Economics, and other area farmer organizations.

Tim Atwater of Rural Vermont opened the conference by explaining that working farmers are struggling to survive. Prices for farm goods "are too low and farmers' backs are to the wall," he said. "Unless something changes soon there will be a mass exodus" of working farmers from their farms, he warned.

There has been a 23 percent drop since last August in the price New England dairy farmers receive for a gallon of milk — from \$1.30 to \$1. Cost of production stands at \$1.21 per gallon. Milk production has climbed by 6 percent, putting additional downward pressure on prices paid to farmers.

Participants in the conference said the decline is in part a result of the 1990 Farm Bill. Dave Carter, national secretary of the National Farmers Union, quoted U.S. government sources who predicted ruination of large numbers of working farmers over the

next three to five years.

A major theme of the conference was the impact of biotechnology on dairy farmers. Bovine growth hormones (BGH) are presently under review by the Federal Drug Administration. When injected into cows, BGH is said to increase milk production by 25 percent.

Some conference participants argued this would accelerate overproduction of milk and lead to more farm failures. One farmer said, however, that he would use BGH because "I need every drop of milk I can get."

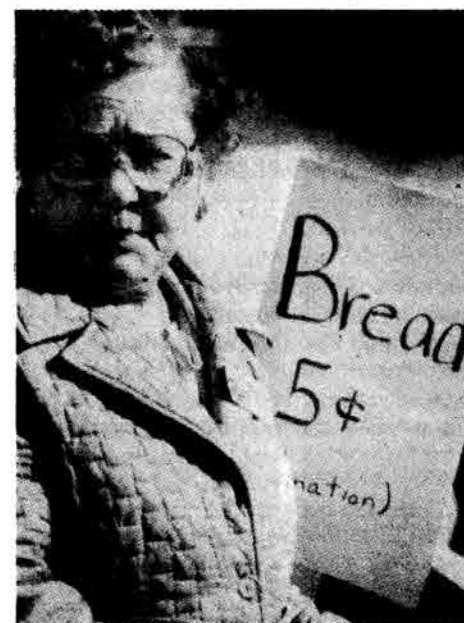
Members of the New York Farmers Union and Empire State Farm Alliance reported that farmers are meeting county-by-county to discuss the crisis they face. Several felt protests were needed to highlight the plight of farmers in the area.

BY MAUREEN McDOUGALL MARTIN

DENVER — Farmers and ranchers from across Colorado traveled to the capital here February 20 to protest the crisis facing working farmers.

They sold loaves of bread for a nickel apiece to show how much they receive for the wheat in each loaf. Other products and the prices farmers receive for them were also on display: a bag of potato chips for two cents, a box of corn flakes for twelve cents, and a can of pinto beans for three cents.

Loren Felzin drove to the protest from her cattle ranch. The 72-year-old farmer said, "It's



Farmer Loren Felzin said that farmers "all over the nation are in desperate trouble."

kind of depressing, but it's a message we've just got to get across: farmers in Colorado and all over the nation are in desperate trouble."

"It is a crisis time for many farmers," said John Stencel, president of the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, noting a big drop in cash receipts for farm products in the state this year.



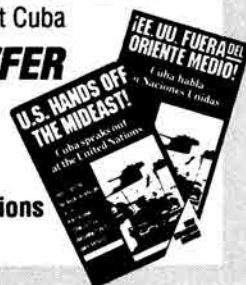
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Curtis case wins new support during UN meeting in Geneva

BY JOYCE FAIRCHILD

GENEVA — An international delegation of supporters of Mark Curtis brought his fight for justice to the annual meeting here of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Curtis is a union and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, framed on false criminal charges of rape and burglary for his efforts to strengthen his union and defend immigrant coworkers. He is in the third year of a 25-year sentence.

"We've found that human rights activists around the world increasingly see the fight for justice for Mark Curtis as among the most important and prominent campaigns in the United States," said John Studer, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and a participant in the delegation to the three-week long meeting.

"Curtis' fight has also attracted special attention because of the U.S. war in the Arab-Persian Gulf, which has created greater interest in the status of human rights inside the United States," Studer said.

Curtis' supporters have been campaigning over the last year to bring the fight for his freedom to the attention of the UN body, and to the governments and non-governmental human rights groups that attend its meetings.

Many groups accredited to appear before the UN Commission have called for action on Curtis' behalf. Last August, Kate Kaku, Curtis' wife and a leader of the defense campaign, made a formal presentation before the commission's Sub-Commission on Protection of Minorities and Prevention of Discrimination, asking that the UN protest her husband's victimization as a violation of basic human rights.

Over the last year, representatives of the World Federation of Trade Unions, the American Association of Jurists, the International Indian Treaty Council, and the Latin America Peace and Justice Service have also raised the case.

Kaku and Studer led the Curtis effort at the Commission. The delegation included supporters from Canada, France, Britain and Sweden. Studer and Kaku were delegated to the meeting by the Indigenous World Association, a UN accredited non-governmental organization.

Cuban presents Curtis fight

Miguel Alfonso Martínez, representing the government of Cuba, took the floor to address the issue of human rights in the United States under the commission's debate on agenda item 10: "The question of the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment."

"For a long time, the commission has been preoccupied, legitimately, with the frequent occurrence of reprisals that occur in many countries against groups or individuals that fight for their rights," Martínez stated.

"Particularly relevant in this sense have been the actions that have taken place over many years in the United States against fighters for human rights and basic freedoms; especially against the indigenous peoples or the ethnic minorities such as Blacks or those of Latin American origin.

"The criminal justice system and the judicial process in the U.S. have repeatedly served as instruments to present many political activists, before internal and international public opinion, as common criminals, and to condemn them to long sentences behind bars," he continued.

"Leonard Peltier, Geronimo Pratt, Mark Curtis, Alejandrina Torres and Filiberto Ojeda are some of the most well-known examples of this type," he concluded.

U.S. war and attacks on rights

Curtis supporters met with delegations from 25 countries over the three weeks, explaining his fight and appealing for support.

The delegation members found special interest in reports of violations of human rights in the United States from delegates of Arab countries and nations with large Islamic populations.

Studer and Kaku met with the delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran. Kia Tabatabaee, the Iranian ambassador to the UN, told them that his delegation would support their efforts to advance the fight for Curtis. He introduced them to other

delegations he thought would be especially interested in the case.

The delegates of Yemen, Iraq, Jordan, and Mauritania also met with defense leaders and extended their support to the committee's effort to publicize the case. One delegate made a \$200 financial contribution to the defense committee.

Many other governments, as well as human rights groups in attendance, were interested in the situation in the United States because of reports of attacks on political rights being carried out in the name of the war effort.

Amnesty International released a special report during the session entitled "Human Rights in the Shadow of War," which pointed out that "States must not be permitted to condone by their selective silence the human rights violations committed by their allies and to condemn violations by others for propaganda purposes. When that happens, the shadow of war is cast far beyond the battlefield, and in distant lands the jailers, torturers and killers sense the slackening of international concern for human rights."

The report details victimizations against antiwar activists in Egypt, Turkey, the United States, Britain, and territories occupied by Israel.

"Each of these cases is a matter of concern to Amnesty International, but taken together they give rise to great disquiet," the report concludes. "The fear is that such measures will be tolerated and eventually become systematic for as long as the war and its aftermath persist. We must prevent this happening."

Meetings with UN delegates

Defense committee leaders met with delegates from 10 African countries. Their first meeting was with Kojo Amoo-Gottfried, the chief representative of Ghana, who was elected vice-chairman of the commission and who served as chairman of the African group at the session. Amoo-Gottfried said he had first heard of Curtis at a UN Conference on crime and the treatment of prisoners, held in Cuba last September. Kaku and Studer attended the event. Amoo-Gottfried said he also had been urged by political contacts in the United States to support the case. He pledged to bring the case to the attention of other delegates from Africa and introduced the defense advocates to a number of them.

A delegate from Kenya was particularly impressed with the fact that Curtis' rights had been violated because of his efforts to strengthen his union. He gave defense delegation members the names and addresses of the leaders of the Central Organization of Trade Unions in Ghana to contact and involve in the defense campaign.

Curtis supporters also met with delegates from Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Libya, Gambia, Madagascar, Ethiopia, Algeria, and Senegal.

The representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea urged Kaku to keep fighting for Curtis' earliest possible release.

Meetings were also held with representatives from the governments of Colombia, Australia, France, and Denmark. Two dozen other governmental delegations took packets of information on the case for review.

Human rights leaders support Curtis

Defense committee leaders also met with dozens of representatives from human rights organizations credentialed to attend the session by UN-recognized non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Some were already supporters of the defense committee, including Ramón Custodio López, chair of the Human Rights Commission of Honduras; Robin Gibson, of the World Council of Churches; Antonio González Gómez, head of the International Indian Treaty Council delegation; and Juan León Alvarado, a Guatemalan human rights activist credentialed by the International Association Against Torture.

Kaku and Studer also met with dozens of NGO leaders who were not yet involved in the fight. Nelsa Curbelo, the General Coordinator of Latin America Peace and Justice Service, led that group's delegation to the Commission. Curbelo, from Ecuador, is a leading human rights figure in Central and South America. After hearing about the Curtis fight, Curbelo signed on as an endorser

of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Jean-Jacques Kirkyacharian was the head of the delegation of the Movement Against Racism and for Friendship Among People (Mrap). Mrap, which is headquartered in France, sent a message last November urging the Iowa parole board to grant Curtis his freedom.

Kirkyacharian told Kaku and Studer that since the outbreak of the U.S.-led war against Iraq, his organization has been inundated with calls from Arabs in France who have been victims of racist attacks. He told them that Mrap decided to support the Curtis defense committee. He also said that the group would be honored to help sponsor Curtis defense delegates to speak at future UN sessions.

Elias Khoury represented the Union of Arab Jurists, a human rights organization of lawyers with more than 200,000 members in 17 countries. Before the Commission he condemned the brutal U.S. attacks against the peoples of Iraq and Kuwait. He endorsed the defense committee and asked for additional material to use in future presentations.

Kawaipuna Prejean, a native activist from Hawaii and delegate of the International Indian Treaty Council, who made a powerful presentation to the Commission on the fight for justice for Leonard Peltier, also endorsed the defense committee.

Other support won

Studer met with María Alexiú, president of Fedefam, the Federation of Associations of Relatives of the Disappeared and Detainees. The organization has affiliates throughout South and Central America. Other members of the delegation, including leaders of the Human Rights Commission of El Salvador (non-governmental), Co-Madres, and the Office for the Defense of Human Rights and Legal Assistance in El Salvador, sat in on the meetings.

Alexiú endorsed the Defense Committee and worked with Studer to prepare an article to go into the next issue of the Fedefam bulletin, distributed to all the members of the associations. It asks members to support the defense effort and to write to the Iowa Parole Board urging that Curtis be freed.

Many other NGO leaders met with defense committee supporters to learn about the case, including Adib Al Jadir, president of the Arab Organization for Human Rights; André Jacques, representing Christian Action for the Abolition of Torture; Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, a Nobel Prize winner from Argentina and head of the delegation of the Interna-



Militant/Joyce Fairchild

Cuban delegate Miguel Alfonso Martínez speaking before UN human rights meeting in Geneva.

tional League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples; Miho Yamanaka, secretary of the International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism, based in Japan; and Renée Bridel, delegate of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers.

Many human rights leaders at the meeting were impressed with international labor involvement in the defense campaign, including the endorsement of the National Union of Mineworkers of South Africa and a statement made before the commission by the World Federation of Trade Unions.

Human rights officer assigned to Curtis

On February 15 Kaku and Studer met with María Francisca Ize-Charrin. Ize-Charrin is the human rights officer assigned by UN Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuellar to follow Curtis' case at the UN Centre for Human Rights.

Under UN procedures, Ize-Charrin has already circulated two confidential reports on abuses of Curtis' human rights to members of the commission, along with a request for a response from the U.S. government.

The defense committee leaders reported to Ize-Charrin that Curtis has faced harassment from prison authorities because of his outspoken opposition to the U.S.-led war in

Continued on Page 12

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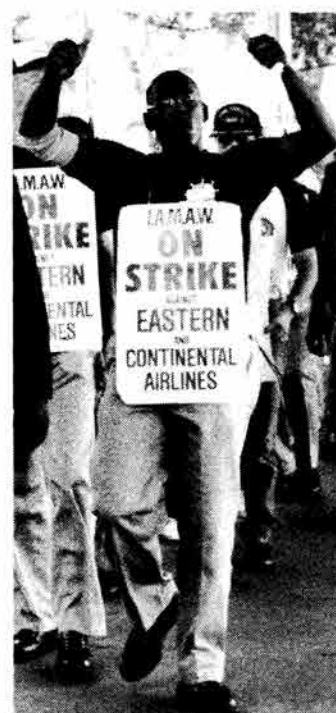
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Marxist magazine will be timely in debate on war

BY CINDY JAQUITH

The new stage of Washington's war drive in the Mideast makes more timely the upcoming issues of the Marxist magazine *New International*

entitled "The Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq," and related material on the communist antiwar policy. *New International* No. 8 will

ers, especially those who have already purchased the *International Socialist Review* supplement to the *Militant* on the "Working-class campaign against imperialist war drive." Many of these same forces will be deeply interested in the communist course that Guevara championed and fought for in Cuba and its importance for understanding what is happening in the Soviet Union today, as well as the collapse of the Stalinist parties and regimes in Eastern Europe.

The \$75,000 fund drive will help defray the costs of producing *New International* Nos. 7 and 8, plus issue No. 9, scheduled for publication later this year, which will carry the political resolutions adopted at the 1988 and 1990 conventions of the Socialist Workers Party. Money raised will also finance the publication of parallel issues of *Nueva Internacional*, the Spanish-language sister magazine, and *Nouvelle Internationale*, the magazine in French.

The scoreboard at the right shows the tentative fund goals that supporters of *New International* have adopted in eight countries. The drive lasts until May 1. Thus far, \$72,300 has been pledged and \$1,455 collected.

Supporters of *New International* will integrate circulation of issues Nos. 7 and 8 with soliciting contributions to the fund. The number of young people, coworkers, farmers and farm workers who help raise the \$75,000 will be an important measure of the success of this effort.

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International and the \$75,000 fund drive that accompanies them.

With allied troops occupying the southern portion of Iraq, as the imperialists seek a way to impose a regime in Iraq they can control, discussion and debate over Washington's goals and the consequences for the oppressed and exploited take on added importance.

At the center of the working-class campaign against imperialism and war is the communist literature that antiwar fighters need to effectively counter the propaganda designed to disorient and derail opposition to Washington's war aims.

Two issues of *New International*, instead of one as previously planned, will now be off the press in the coming weeks, reports editor Mary-Alice Waters. "There was just too much good material," Waters noted. "We couldn't get it all into one issue, so we've decided to bring out two."

New International No. 7 will be devoted completely to the war, featuring an article by Jack Barnes

feature articles by and about Ernesto Che Guevara and his contribution to the Cuban revolution and Marxist continuity. In addition to material by Guevara not available in English, the magazine will include contributions by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice-president of Cuba; Carlos Tablada, Cuban economist and author; Steve Clark, managing editor of *New International*; and Mary-Alice Waters.

The young people who stepped forward in recent weeks to organize protests against Washington's slaughter of the Iraqi people are among those who will be most open to the Marxist explanation of the class forces at work in the Mideast today contained in *New International* No. 7. A thirst for deeper understanding of the roots of imperialism was noticeable during the activities students carried out February 21, a day of international antiwar actions. Campus teach-ins were among the most heavily attended events of the day.

Supporters will take the magazine to workers and working farm-

SCOREBOARD

Area	Goal
Atlanta	\$2,200
Austin, Minn.	750
Baltimore	900
Birmingham, Ala.	1,750
Boston	1,500
Charleston, W.Va.	1,400
Chicago	2,600
Cleveland	1,600
Des Moines, Iowa	1,000
Detroit	2,100
Greensboro, N.C.	750
Houston	1,500
Los Angeles	6,000
Miami	1,200
Morgantown, W.Va.	1,250
New York	7,000
Newark, N.J.	3,800
Omaha, Neb.	750
Philadelphia	2,000
Phoenix	750
Pittsburgh	1,900
Price, Utah	600
St. Louis	2,000
Salt Lake City, Utah	1,700
San Francisco	3,500
Seattle	2,250
Twin Cities, Minn.	1,750
Washington, D.C.	1,250
TOTAL U.S. GOALS	\$55,750
Australia	500
Britain	6,500
Canada	4,250
France	1,000
Iceland	300
New Zealand	3,000
Sweden	1,000
TOTAL OVERALL GOALS	\$72,300

Cuba, Soviet Union set terms for bilateral trade

BY RONI McCANN

The governments of Cuba and the Soviet Union recently set terms for bilateral trade covering basic products between the two countries.

Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas discussed the pact in an interview that appeared in the February 8 issue of

Granma, the newspaper of the Communist Party of Cuba.

Unlike previous accords the agreement is for one year and is based almost entirely on world market prices.

Talks between the two countries on 1991 trade began in May of last year. Agreements were signed on December 29

with details to be subsequently worked out.

Cabrisas headed the Cuban delegation at the talks which took place in Moscow and lasted ten days. On January 19 Soviet Ambassador to Cuba Yuri Petrov announced that terms had been set.

Trade between the countries covers two major blocks of products: basic items such as oil, grain, sugar, citrus fruit, and nickel whose exchange will be centralized between the two governments; and other products such as machinery, which will be traded directly between enterprises. Until now the Cuban government carried out trade with 62 Soviet institutions. It will now deal with some 25,000.

Cabrisas explained that trade cooperation accords have previously been negotiated on a five-year basis. The current pact, he said, "will be transitional for 1991 and it will be determined later if they should be extended for a longer period of time."

In addition, Cabrisas said, "The Soviet side insisted constantly that [the prices of goods] should be based on world market prices while we had the view that in the case of certain products such as sugar, the so-called world market price does not really reflect the conditions in which the product is traded."

The terms decided on are all based on international market prices. A preferential rate for sugar was maintained which is less than the price Cubans received in 1990, but more than the world market price.

Traditional trade arrangements will remain in effect until March 31, 1991. After that the payment can only be made in U.S. dollars, according to Acan-EFE news agency in Spain.

Details of the final agreement provisions published by Acan-EFE include the shipment of 8 million tons of crude oil and 2 million tons of petroleum-based products to Cuba in exchange for 4 million tons of sugar. This means that for every ton of sugar, Cuba will receive 2.5 tons of oil. In past years the rate was one ton of sugar for 3.8 tons of oil.

Cuba also agreed to pay 10 percent of transportation costs and convert its debt to the

Soviet Union from rubles into U.S. dollars.

The trade accords come at a time of increased hardships for the Cuban people due to shortages of goods and faltering deliveries of products from the Soviet Union as well as Eastern European governments. To help lessen the impact of the shortages the Cuban government has taken a series of steps over the past several months including increased rationing of basic food items and other goods, a reduction in the printing of newspapers, and energy conservation measures.

Foreign trade minister Cabrisas said that while the implementation of the agreements will be the best evaluation of their impact on the Cuban economy, "we can't yield in our drive for greater productivity and rationality, aimed at doing more with less."

Join the campaign to get out the truth

Order your bundle of 'International Socialist Review'

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

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

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

Bundles of the supplement may be ordered for \$1 each for 10 or more, a 33 percent discount. Single copies are \$1.50 each. Shipping is included. Just send in the coupon below.

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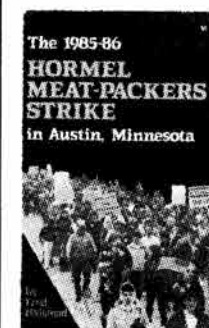
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The 1985-86 *Hormel Meat-Packers' Strike in Austin, Minnesota* presents the facts about the Geo. A. Hormel & Co.'s union-busting attack on the workers at its Austin plant, and about how the Hormel workers fought

back and won support from unionists and farmers across the country.

Every unionist facing takeback demands and other attacks will want to read this story. 44 pp. \$2.50.

Available from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12, or by mail from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please add \$1 for handling.



U.S. Senate committee quashes Puerto Rico referendum bill

A U.S. Senate committee killed legislation February 27 that would have led to a referendum in Puerto Rico on whether the colony should be independent or become the 51st U.S. state. The Caribbean island has been a U.S. colony for 93 years.

During committee hearings, senators challenged the referendum proposal asserting that if Puerto Ricans opted for statehood, the U.S. government would have to extend welfare benefits to a majority of the island's residents. They also claimed that Puerto Ricans may not be ready to fully become a part of the United States because of their language, culture, and traditions.

The racist assertions forced some senators to take their distance from the committee's proceedings. "We saw the most shameful display of negativism I have yet to encounter in 15 years in the Senate," said New York Senator Daniel Moynihan.

N. Korean army on combat alert as U.S. military exercises begin

The supreme command of the North Korean army has ordered its troops to take up "combat mobilization" positions. The action came February 26 as joint military exercises between the United States and South Korea, called "Team Spirit" were launched.

"This is a legitimate self-defensive step to cope with the new war provocation moves of the United States and the South Korean puppets," a communique from the North Korean command said.

The Team Spirit exercises involve some 45,000 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea. The government in the North, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, has called the exercises "a test nuclear war targeted against the northern half of Korea."

Moscow announces opening of interest section in S. Africa

The Soviet Foreign Ministry announced February 26 that the Soviet and South African governments have agreed to open "interest sections" in each others countries. The Soviet Union broke diplomatic relations with the South African government in 1955 and had backed sanctions against the apartheid regime.

Moscow backed off its commitment to sanctions when it signed a deal recently to sell its diamond exports for the next five years through De Beers, a South African company that dominates the international diamond trade. De Beers has agreed to advance \$1 billion in hard currency against future sales to the Soviet government.

Vitaly Churkin, a foreign ministry spokesman, said the opening of the interest sections was a step toward full diplomatic relations and "will enable us to make a more active contribution to a peaceful settlement in that country through interaction with participants in the process."

The African National Congress of South Africa has steadfastly maintained that international sanctions against the South African outlaw regime are an important part of their campaign to abolish apartheid.

Headline stories in the news

- More than a 1,000 people in Thailand defied martial law and demonstrated against the military government that took power in a coup February 23. Fifteen students were arrested.

- The military suspended the constitution, dissolved parliament, banned political meetings of five or more people, and imposed strict press censorship.

- Thomas Seale, the executive director of the American Chamber of Commerce, called the coup "a great leap forward to a better, Thai-style democracy."

- The French government sent 240 police and troops to quell a social rebellion on the island of Réunion, east of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean. Youth and poor people revolted when the government closed a popular television station.

"I call on every citizen of Réunion to remember that violence never solves anything," the French overseas minister said as he departed Paris with the troops.

CAMPAIGN TO SELL SOCIALIST PRESS TO UNIONISTS

1,313 supplements sold, goal topped!

BY RONI McCANN

Members of 10 industrial unions campaigning to widely distribute the socialist press to fellow unionists went over the top this week in their goal to sell 1,288 copies of the *International Socialist Review* supplement.

Results of this week's sales brought the total supplements sold to 1,313 — 102 percent of the unionists' target.

Next week the *Militant* will print the final scoreboard of the sales drive. Many more subscriptions, copies of the Pathfinder book *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*, and *International Socialist Reviews* can be sold over the next several days as Washington continues its war drive against Iraq and facts come out about the brutal allied invasion of that country.

United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) member Joanne Murphy, who works at Thom Apple Valley meat-packing plant in Detroit, reported: "Two coworkers bought subscriptions to the paper after the ground fighting stopped, based on discussions we had about the incredible devastation the Iraqi people are facing." Murphy's coworkers are convinced they should follow the *Militant's* continued coverage of the ongoing crisis in the Middle East. UFCW members in Detroit also sold 10 *International Socialist Reviews* this week.

Achievements of the Week

Members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) are closing in on their *International Socialist Review* goal. David Marshall from Cleveland sent this report about discussions and sales he's had at a coke plant that is part of LTV Steel Co.'s Cleveland Works, one of the biggest steel mills in the country:

"Since the war began, a dozen or so steelworkers have bought copies of the *Militant*, which earned a reputation for its accurate reporting on the Eastern Airlines strike, coal battles, and the freedom struggle in South Africa. Two have recently subscribed and 10 picked up copies of the supplement.

"As one LTV worker said as he flipped through a recent issue, 'This paper tells you what's really going on in this war. The other papers just tell you what the government wants you to hear, like they're not killing civilians.'"

Another steelworker, who is Black, opposes the war. He recalled an experience his



2,692
TOTAL

1,920
WEEK 9

SCOREBOARD

Union	Total %Sold	Militant Sold (Goal)	Mideast Book Sold (Goal)	ISR Sold (Goal)
IUE**	98%	10 (23)	37 (41)	105 (91)
UAW	94%	18 (75)	49 (75)	167 (100)
ILGWU**	93%	13 (22)	29 (45)	89 (74)
UMWA	75%	5 (22)	16 (28)	50 (45)
UTU	73%	21 (77)	59 (105)	145 (127)
IAM**	67%	52 (170)	83 (170)	293 (300)
UFCW	65%	38 (85)	28 (70)	142 (163)
USWA	61%	16 (90)	27 (77)	164 (171)
ACTWU	60%	11 (38)	18 (41)	59 (67)
OCAW	59%	13 (50)	64 (100)	99 (150)
Total	71%	197 (652)	410 (752)	1313 (1288)
Should be	100%	652	752	1288

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'Internationaliste*.
**Raised goal

father had while training for World War II: "They showed him a movie of Nazi troops coming into a house and dragging the parents away in front of the children," the worker said. "So my daddy said, 'Well, if that's what this thing is about, just give me a gun and send me back to Alabama, because we've got that problem at home.'"

Marshall says most workers have been wearing some sign of support for the war on their hardhats or work clothes.

"You don't see me wearing one of those ribbons," said a Black woman. "They're just using those ribbons to get you to support the war."

Just Off the Fax

Barry Fatland from Los Angeles writes: "The working-class campaign against the war has gone well among International

Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) members in the Los Angeles area. At K-Mart Apparel's West Coast Distribution Center in nearby Carson, where I work, the lunch table discussions over the past months have covered every aspect of the war.

"One day a coworker from Mexico started reading aloud from the book *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* in Spanish. Another worker quieted people down so she could hear," says Fatland.

"A union representative who had bought the book said he hasn't finished his copy because his brother-in-law borrowed it. 'He agrees with us on the war,' the union representative said."

ILGWU members in Los Angeles have sold five *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions, 11 copies of the *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* book, and 21 copies of the *International Socialist Review*.

Out of recent struggles for self-determination many Mohawks in Canada read the 'Militant'

BY ROGER ANNIS

MONTREAL — Over the past four months a significant number of Mohawk individuals have begun reading the *Militant* and its sister publications on a regular basis.

More than 35 residents of Kanesatake and Kahnawake, the Mohawk communities near Montreal, have bought introductory subscriptions to the *Militant*. One subscription to *L'Internationaliste* has also been sold.

Ten introductory subscriptions to the *Militant* were sold at the Six Nations reserve 75 miles west of Toronto.

In addition, some 100 single copies of the paper and several copies of *L'Internationaliste* have been sold.

Most of these subscriptions and single copies were sold during visits to the Mohawk communities by supporters of the socialist publications.

So far, three people who bought introductory subscriptions have decided to renew their subscriptions for a longer period. Others explained that they found the socialist weekly very informative but are unable to renew their subscriptions now because of the financial hardship imposed by last summer's police and army occupation of their community.

Ironworker union members

Many of the people visited in the communities are members of the ironworkers union and work on high-rise construction in New York and elsewhere in the United States, in Ontario, and throughout Québec.

Salespeople spoke with carpenters, electricians, hospital workers, teachers, and air-

port workers. They also found a high rate of unemployment in the communities.

Since the dramatic confrontation last summer with the federal and Québec government these working people have been in the vanguard of the fight by Native people across North America for sovereignty and self-determination.

This fight continues. Scores of Mohawks and their supporters face criminal charges as government authorities seek to victimize Mohawk fighters with lengthy and costly trials and imprisonment.

No settlement of the land rights struggle at Kanesatake that sparked last summer's confrontation is in sight as the federal government continues its stalling tactics. Federal and provincial cops continue their harassment of Mohawks.

Mohawks who have bought the socialist publications are attracted by their range of coverage of the struggles of working people.

One former member of the Machinists' union at Montreal's Dorval airport who quit his job during last summer's struggle followed the Eastern Airlines strike closely through the paper.

A former teacher decided to renew his subscription because of the series of articles that recently appeared on the fight for Native autonomy in Nicaragua.

Discussions on Mideast war

The Middle East war is a subject of discussion, concern, and differing viewpoints among Mohawks. Twenty residents of the Six Nations are enrolled in the U.S. military

and a similar number of Kahnawake youth are also enlisted.

There has been a lot of discussion "on the open line at CKRK [Mohawk] radio," one resident told us. "Basically the message that's coming out is that this is not the time to be enlisting in the armed forces, that this war is not right."

At a Six Nations shopping area one woman wearing a yellow ribbon to signify support for Canadian and U.S. soldiers in the Persian Gulf approached two *Militant* supporters. "I don't like the war," she said, "but now that the troops are there we have to support them."

In Kanesatake a recent subscriber to the *Militant* is a 19-year-old former U.S. Marine. He enlisted just weeks after the end of the struggle last summer, but changed his mind in November as he saw the war approaching.

"I'm not a Canadian or American," he said. "I'm Mohawk. And I'm not willing to die to protect the oil companies. So I left."

"They're doing the same thing to the [Iraqi] people that they are trying to do to us," said another resident.

Another stated, "I think it would be good if Iraq won this war. Then the U.S. and these other countries would have to stay at home and stop sticking their noses into other countries' business."

One subscriber commented on Cuba's strong stand against the war. "I was really pleased to see a country stand up with some morals and take a strong position against this war," he said. "This is not a war to liberate Kuwait. This is a war to liberate oil."

Students and youth protest Mideast war

Actions were held on 250 college and high school campuses on February 21.

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Students from high schools, colleges, and universities in the Vancouver, British Columbia, area marched through the city in an antiwar march February 21. "Our position is for immediate withdrawal of all troops from the Gulf area," Jaimie McEvoy of the Canadian Federation of Students told the 500 protesters.

At the march, James Williams, of the Lil'wat Indian people living north of Vancouver, was greeted with cheers. "We know how it feels to be at war," he said, "because our people have been at war." The Lil'wat people, he explained, have been involved in a sharp conflict for the past year with the British Columbia government and logging companies over Indian territory.

The demonstrators then marched through downtown Vancouver, stopping at an armed forces recruitment center as well as the office of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. They ended up at city hall where activists have held a "peace camp" vigil for several weeks, despite an effort by the mayor and city council to have them removed.

"There's a war of terror going on against Iraq," a Vietnam veteran told the rally. "But don't forget about another war of terror — the one going on in the armed forces against opponents of the war."

Some 200 students attended a teach-in at a "peace camp" at Toronto's provincial parliament building. Seventy-five participated in activities in Montréal.

International day of actions

The student protests in Canada were part of an international day of protests against the U.S.-led war in the Middle East. Students and youths on more than 250 college and high school campuses in cities across the United States held marches, rallies, teach-ins, speak-outs, picket lines, and other activities on February 21.

They demanded an end to the war and called for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. and other foreign troops from the region.

Similar activities were also organized in other countries, including France, Japan, and the Philippines.

The actions coincided with the anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X, who was gunned down on February 21, 1965. Malcolm X was a revolutionary fighter, an outspoken opponent of imperialism and its wars,



Marches, rallies, speak-outs, picket lines, and teach-ins were among the activities organized for February 21. Above, students at Columbia University in New York participate in a teach-in on the war.

and a leader of the struggle for Black rights in the United States.

'Money for education, not for war'

One thousand students and youth wound their way through Manhattan streets in New York City February 21, chanting "Money for education, not for war"; "Cease-fire, no escalation"; and "No blood for oil, bring the troops home." The citywide march rallied at three stops: the office of Governor Mario Cuomo, across from the Wall Street Stock Exchange, and at city hall.

Highly visible throughout the crowd were placards with the image of Malcolm X and the words "Stop this racist war by any means necessary." Other signs and banners read "Love the troops, hate the war, bring them home now" and "Money for tuition, not for ammunition."

"Malcolm X would have been opposed to this war," said Kavan Burke, a student from Thomas Jefferson High School in Brooklyn. A Black woman worker watching the demonstrators backed their right to protest and said, "This is a senseless war."

Charles Riccardi from the College of Staten Island had a different view. He joined the march because he said he supported a cease-fire and an international peace confer-

ence. "I was very much for sanctions and think we had a legitimate right to impose them on Iraq," he said.

Students at Columbia University organized a whole day of protest activities, including film showings, a rally, and a teach-in.

A debate took place at the rally site around a table set up by Students Mobilized Against Saddam Hussein. The group displayed pro-war literature, sweatshirts, and U.S. flags.

"I just recently became a citizen, but I'm very disappointed that this [war] is my first experience with politics in this country," said Moe Chang, a student at Columbia. "I'm from Taiwan which is very pro-U.S., but I'm having doubts."

Northern California protests

Students at San Francisco State University organized a rally and a debate February 21. Some 200 students attended each event. Most participants in the debate spoke against the war, but a few supported it. An antiwar teach-in at the University of California in Santa Cruz attracted 250 students.

Palestinian and Black student leaders addressed a rally of 400 at California State University in Sacramento. Some 40 prowar demonstrators tried to disrupt the rally, chanting "Go USA!"

Teach-ins and meetings with open mikes were organized by students at Laney College in Oakland, Cabrillo College south of San Jose, Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, and Humboldt State University. A "draft-in" at the University of California at Berkeley involved activists handing out draft notices and telegrams to parents saying that they had been killed in the war.

Vietnam veterans speak

Activists at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City demanded "Not one more death, bring the troops home now." A panel on the legacy of Malcolm X attracted more than 100 students.

A speak-out, a rally, and a teach-in were also held on campus. "People are dying, people are being terrorized and brutalized right now, and it has to stop," Larry Chadwick, a Vietnam War veteran, told the students. He explained that Washington is making many promises to GIs, but "they're the same promises made to us and they're all lies."

Andrew Pulley, a Vietnam War veteran who spent two months in the stockade for organizing against that war, spoke at the teach-in and explained Washington's goals in the Mideast.

The rejection of the Soviet Union's peace proposals "proves that the real goal of U.S. policy has never been an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, but the overthrow of the Iraqi government and the installation of a subservient regime there," he said.

Other speakers discussed the impact of the U.S. bombing of Iraq and the destruction of the environment caused by the war.

Iowa campuses join in protests

Students at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, held an afternoon "die-in."

Twenty-five protesters climbed into simulated body-bags, while others beat a drum every 28 seconds to symbolize another bomb being dropped on Iraq. Nearby, a small group of prowar counter-demonstrators chanted "We want war." That night 60 people attended an antiwar rally on campus.

At Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, 75 people attended a speak-out on the war. A student from Afghanistan appealed to opponents of the war to defend the democratic rights of youth from the Middle East now studying in the United States. A few days earlier a student from Pakistan had been attacked and beaten in Grinnell.

Two hundred and fifty attended a rally at Iowa State University in Ames. The rally followed a march across campus. Students at the Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny held a day-long forum on the war.

Students at the University of Nebraska in Omaha organized a successful day of activities, including a press conference, rally, panel discussion, a citywide demonstration, and an evening speak-out.

Supporters of the war turned out at some of the events to heckle speakers and disrupt the meetings. They failed in that objective and were forced to debate antiwar activists.

Prowar arguments were discussed and refuted at a panel discussion. Two reservists joined in the discussion. One said he had "joined the reserves to defend my country." He went on to challenge those who joined the reserves solely because of the benefits to "give back every penny they received."

Another reservist, Rodney Black, countered that he joined the reserves because "there were no jobs, I joined for economic reasons, like most people." He pulled out a military magazine which listed the states where most reservists in Saudi Arabia came from. "Many of the units are from the southern states where there's been an economic depression," he said. "They joined for the same reasons I did."

A professor from India spoke on how some people living in semicolonial countries viewed the war. He read a headline printed in an Indian newspaper. "U.S. Army: the Barbarians of Humanity," it said.

Exercising first amendment rights

More than 50 students attended a speak-out at West Virginia State College in Institute despite threats and harassment by prowar students. Supporters of the war have leafleted the campus for three days in an attempt to counter antiwar activists.

"We are here to exercise our democratic right to disagree with the government," said Gary Rezek, one of the activists who had been harassed. "We will not be bullied or intimidated by those who are afraid of hearing things that might make them think."

The speak-out was held without incident after the Coalition Against the War in the Gulf waged a defense campaign reaching out to students, professors, and supporters of civil liberties. They pressured the administration to protect the meeting.

Only one prowar student attended the event and she left after stating her views. Antiwar speakers included a Lebanese student who had grown up in Kuwait, high school students, Vietnam veterans, environmental activists, and representatives of peace groups.

High school students organize

Participation of high school students was a hallmark of many of the February 21 actions. High school students in Cincinnati organized a speak-out against the war. Several dozen students from six different schools participated.

"Bush says he wants a new world order and the first thing he did was to get involved in a war in the Middle East," said one student. Another student spoke out against the Bush administration's energy policies.

The students had an initial discussion on the extent of prowar sentiment in their schools and steps they needed to take to get more students involved in antiwar protests. They set March 4 for a high school organizing meeting.

Youth leaders from New Zealand sent a letter of solidarity to the National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East. "We condemn the New Zealand government's participation in this war and demand: Stop the bombing! Stop the war now!"

Signers of the message included Nick Cree and Sylvia Craine, Methodist National Youth Coordinators; James Nihiniho, National

Continued on Page 7

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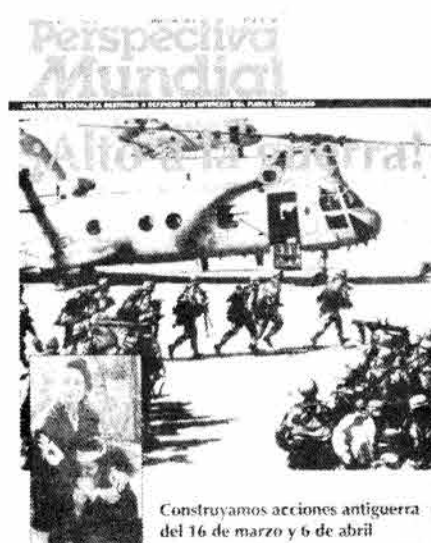
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Perspectiva Mundial is a Spanish-language socialist magazine that carries many of the same articles you read in the *Militant*.

The March *Perspectiva Mundial* centers on the continued U.S.-led war drive against the Iraqi people. It covers antiwar protests held around the world during the February bombing and invasion of Iraq.

A feature article by Eastern striker Ernie Mailhot reviews the victories scored in the Machinists 22-month battle against Eastern airlines. The carrier closed its doors January 18.

The issue also covers the most recent developments in the struggle to rid South Africa of the hated system of apartheid.



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Prosecutors admit false evidence used in frame-up and jailing of Birmingham Six

BY ANDY BUCHANAN

LONDON — The campaign to free six Irish men imprisoned almost 17 years for the 1974 bombing of two bars in Birmingham, England, took an important step forward on February 25. The Director of Public Prosecutions said he no longer considers the convictions "safe and satisfactory" — in other words, the evidence used for the convictions was false.

The case must now go back to the Court of Appeal. Senior judges emphasized that the final decision to free the men can only be taken by the court. But it is clear the prosecution's case has collapsed entirely.

The framed-up men — William Power, Hugh Callaghan, John Walker, Patrick Hill, Gerard Hunter, and Richard McKelney — have become known as the Birmingham Six.

Five of the six were arrested when they were on their way from Birmingham to the funeral of James McDade. A member of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), McDade was from the same Catholic neighborhood in Belfast, in the British-occupied north of Ireland, as the five.

Northern Ireland has been under British occupation for almost 400 years. The IRA has been fighting for the end of partition and the reunification of Ireland.

The Birmingham Six were jailed for life in 1975. The convictions were based on forensic evidence that the government said proved the men had handled explosives. The convictions also came from confessions that were extracted from four of the six during police questioning.

At their trial the judge said, "You stand convicted on each of 21 counts, on the clearest evidence I have ever heard, of the crime of murder."

By the time the case came to the Court of Appeal in 1988, the forensic evidence used to convict the men had been largely discredited. It was shown that substances such as

adhesive tape, cigarette wrappings, and playing cards also give positive results when tested for the presence of nitroglycerine.

The Appeal Court judges then upheld the convictions on the sole basis of the confessions. The judges dismissed evidence offered by the Six and by other witnesses that the confessions had been obtained after the men had been badly beaten by the police and prison guards.

Confidence in police evidence shaken

Since the appeal, however, confidence in police evidence has been badly shaken. In 1989 four other people framed on charges of carrying out IRA bombings — known as the Guildford Four — were freed after it was shown that the police had fabricated the evidence against them. This included inventing confessions, when beating or threatening the prisoners did not result in admission to the charges.

Paul Hill, one of the Guildford Four, was told that if he did not confess his girlfriend — who was pregnant at the time — would be arrested.

The overturning of these frame-ups and the exposure of the police fabrication of evidence gave the campaign to free the Six a tremendous boost. Many prominent public figures, including more than 150 members of parliament, religious figures, and trade unionists have voiced support for the Six. A popular television documentary "Who bombed Birmingham?" has helped to reinforce the broad sentiment that the Six are innocent.

In response to this growing campaign a new police review of the case was ordered. The findings of this review gave rise to the Director of Public Prosecution's statement that the convictions must now be viewed as "unsafe." In effect, this statement is an admission that the police evidence used to convict the Six was fabricated, and that a substantial conspiracy was organized and maintained over the

years to keep the facts hidden. As the case now goes back to the Court of Appeal the prosecution no longer has a case to offer.

Over the course of the 16 years that the Birmingham Six have been in prison, government spokespeople and judges have repeatedly and publicly defended the convictions. They have explained that the credibility of the whole legal system rests on the case.

Top judge 'very sorry'

In 1988, former top judge Lord Denning went so far as to state that, "wrongfully convicted prisoners should stay in jail rather than risk loss of public confidence in the police." Today, Denning says the "Court of Appeal now has no option except to quash the convictions. As I look back I am very sorry because I always thought that our police

were splendid and first-class and I am sorry that in this case it appears to the contrary."

"If the men had not had their families and the people who have campaigned for them, they would have been left to do their sentences," noted Teresa McKelney, the daughter of one of the Six.

Gareth Peirce, the solicitor [lawyer] who represented the Birmingham Six, stated, "We don't want any situation in the future where anyone can suggest that these appellants won on a technicality."

"What has happened to them is a national disgrace," she added. "It must never, never happen to anyone again."

"Money can't make up for all those years," said Callaghan, interviewed in prison by a radio journalist. "I just did not doubt that the truth would come out."

YOUNG SOCIALISTS IN ACTION

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

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

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

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

Young Socialist Alliance members in St. Louis fanned out to eight college campuses on February 21 along with supporters of the *Militant* to participate in actions against the U.S.-led war against Iraq.

At the University of Missouri in Columbia the socialists found several student groups that hadn't heard about the call for February 21 actions. They were eager to learn about plans for future protests so they could be part of the next nationally-coordinated demonstrations. The organizations have a teach-in against the war planned for March 7. Two students there asked to join the YSA.

Throughout the day YSA members showed students and other antiwar activists the *Militant* and urged them to take advantage of the special one-day offers: a 6-week, introductory *Militant* subscription for \$5 or a copy of the *Militant* and *International Socialist Review* supplement for \$2. On the eight campuses visited, students bought 14 *Militant* subscriptions, 30 *Militant/International Socialist Review* packages, and several Pathfinder books.

The next day YSA members and students from three universities piled into a car and drove to the antiwar conferences that took place February 23 and 24 in Washington, D.C.

YSA member Harold Searcy, also a member of the United Auto Workers Local 1672, took the floor at an antiwar rally on February 21 at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. An outspoken opponent of the war in the Midwest, he explained how he was harassed at work by the U.S. Secret Service and Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation.

Two high school students and members of the YSA in Des Moines were among the top salespersons at February 21 events there. Protests against the war attracted hundreds of students at campuses across the state.

Twenty young women and other activists signed up to get more information about the YSA at the Young Feminist Conference held in Akron, Ohio. The meeting took place February 1-3 and attracted 735 people, mostly high school and college-age women, who gathered to discuss the fight to defend women's rights.

New YSA member Kim Defranco, a leader of the Cleveland Campaign for Peace in the Middle East, and Margaret Husk, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Cleveland school board, presented talks at an open house held at the conference. A dozen people came. Defranco reported on the January 27 student conference where 1,500 participants called for the recently held February 21 actions against the war.

One high school student attending the open house asked, "What about stopping [Iraqi President] Saddam Hussein? Isn't he a bad man?" Others explained that replacing the government of Saddam Hussein is up to the workers and farmers of Iraq and that "Stopping Hussein" is only a smokescreen for the real U.S. war concerns: naked imperialist takeover of Iraq's resources.

Join us!

The Young Socialist Alliance is an organization of young people from across the country who are fighting against the wars and economic crises of capitalism and for socialism.

Join us today!

☐ Yes, I want to join the YSA.

☐ Please send me more information.

Name _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip _____

Union/School/Organization _____

Clip and mail to: Young Socialist Alliance, P.O. Box 211, New York, N.Y. 10011.

Youth hold antiwar actions



Protesters at demonstration held in New York City on February 21. Across the United States more than 250 actions were held on the international day of protests.

Continued from Page 6

Maori Youth Council of New Zealand; David Rhodes, president, Auckland Technical Institute Student Association; Eugen Lepou, national chairman, Young Socialists; Francisca de Gama, Auckland University Friends of Palestine; and representatives of student peace groups in Auckland, Christchurch, and Wellington.

League of Filipino Students

"The United States has once again bullied its way into a region where it does not belong," said a message from Chito Quijano, the North American representative of the League of Filipino Students (LFS). "The reprehensible act of the United States has not only plunged other countries into the Middle East war but also has dragged other countries into the conflict."

"In the case of the Philippines, the U.S. has willfully violated Philippine sovereignty," he added. "The U.S. bases in the

Philippines are being used as a staging ground for the war in the Persian Gulf. This was done with total disregard for Filipino opposition and interest."

LFS members in the United States participated in the February 21 protests. In Manila, the LFS organized a student antiwar mobilization prior to a broader protest against the Philippine government.

For information on upcoming activities call the National Student and Youth Campaign at (202) 462-1801 or its west coast counterpart, the Western Student and Youth Action Network Against the War at (415) 642-4018.

Nancy Walker and Tom Leys from Vancouver; Selva Nebbia and Janet Post from New York; Jim Altenberg from San Francisco; Paul Mailhot for Salt Lake City, Utah; Sarah Lobman from Des Moines, Iowa; Elizabeth Kealy from Omaha, Nebraska; Maggie McCraw from Charleston, West Virginia; and Val Libby from Cincinnati, Ohio, contributed to this article.

Fifth stage of Washington's war drive

Continued from front page

ordered a temporary halt to the offensive. Washington easily won backing from the UN Security Council March 3 for this course — giving more cover for its imperialist onslaught. The representative of the government of Cuba was the only one to vote against Washington's motions.

The UN resolution keeps in place the blockade of Iraq. It justifies the occupation army by saying the imperialists have the right to begin the shooting war again if the Iraqi government and people do not submit to U.S. demands.

Real, rather than stated goals

Having reached this point in their war drive, the real goals of the imperialists, rather than the stated "liberating" of Kuwait, have come more to the surface.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker clearly signaled Washington's aims when he said just hours after the UN vote that, "The degree to which the coalition and other countries would actively prosecute their claims [against Iraq] I think might be affected to some degree by whether or not that regime is still in power."

Bush has repeatedly pressed to have the Iraqi regime tried for war crimes and callously told the people of that country that "not one dime" would be given to rebuild from six weeks of unremitting allied bombardment. The administration has called on the Iraqi people to overthrow Hussein.

When asked by a reporter why he was not euphoric over the military rout of Hussein's forces, Bush said that "We have Saddam Hussein still there. . . . I just need a little more time to sort out in my mind how I can say to the American people, it's over, finally."

In continuing to press their war drive, the imperialists will bring even greater devastation on the Iraqi people and troops. Washington is keeping prisoners of war in open-air fields surrounded with barbed wire and has told others to walk back home across the desert.

The blockade will ensure that clean water, electricity, urgently needed medical supplies and food, communications systems, and transportation get restored only as a result of the efforts of the Iraqi people themselves. In addition, although Kuwait City is occupied by allied forces, Kuwaiti soldiers there are rounding up, brutalizing, and killing Palestinians.

An article by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes, published in the December *International Socialist Review*, outlines the goals of U.S. imperialism — goals they have not yet achieved.

"For the U.S. rulers 'peace and security' in the Middle East has only one meaning: peace and security for imperialist interests. It would require the imposition of a regime in Iraq that, in political terms, is largely a U.S. protectorate in the region," Barnes writes. "It would require inflicting a massive defeat on the Iraqi armed forces and toppling the current government."

The SWP leader explains that "when the Iraqi regime ruthlessly swallowed up Kuwait last August, the U.S. rulers saw that Saddam Hussein had served them on a silver platter the best chance in a decade to achieve one of their key strategic goals in the region."

Shift relationship of forces

Washington aims to "shift the relationship of class forces in the Middle East to its advantage," Barnes writes, "to take back some of what has been lost over the past three decades. The most recent big blow to Washington's power in the region came in 1979 with the victory of the Iranian revolution."

He notes that U.S. imperialism has suffered a decline in its economic and political power relative to its imperialist rivals in Europe and Japan. Through the war the U.S. rulers are seeking to use military might to make up for the decline and gain leverage over their Japanese, German, and French competitors especially.

The U.S. imperialists seek to shift the relationship of forces in the Mideast decisively in favor of the Washington-London axis by gaining greater control over the region, especially the vast oil reserves. This would yield for the U.S. imperialists enormous leverage against their rivals.

"The U.S. rulers' main problem is not a military one," Barnes says. The problems they face in driving to establish a protectorate are different. "Sections of the ruling class are

concerned about Washington's capacity to win a war against Iraq that yields greater gains for U.S. imperialism than losses from the uncontrolled social and political forces it sets in motion," he points out.

They ask themselves, "What will be the outcome of such a war beyond the borders of Iraq and Kuwait? Will a military victory simply end up exacerbating the very failures of imperialism in the region that made it necessary for the U.S. rulers to launch the war in the first place? Will it be a pyrrhic victory?"

Washington is still confronted with these basic questions and challenges in its war drive.

Need protectorate

The U.S. rulers seek to oust the regime in Baghdad not because it is a government of workers and peasants or leading an anti-imperialist struggle of the toilers in the region.

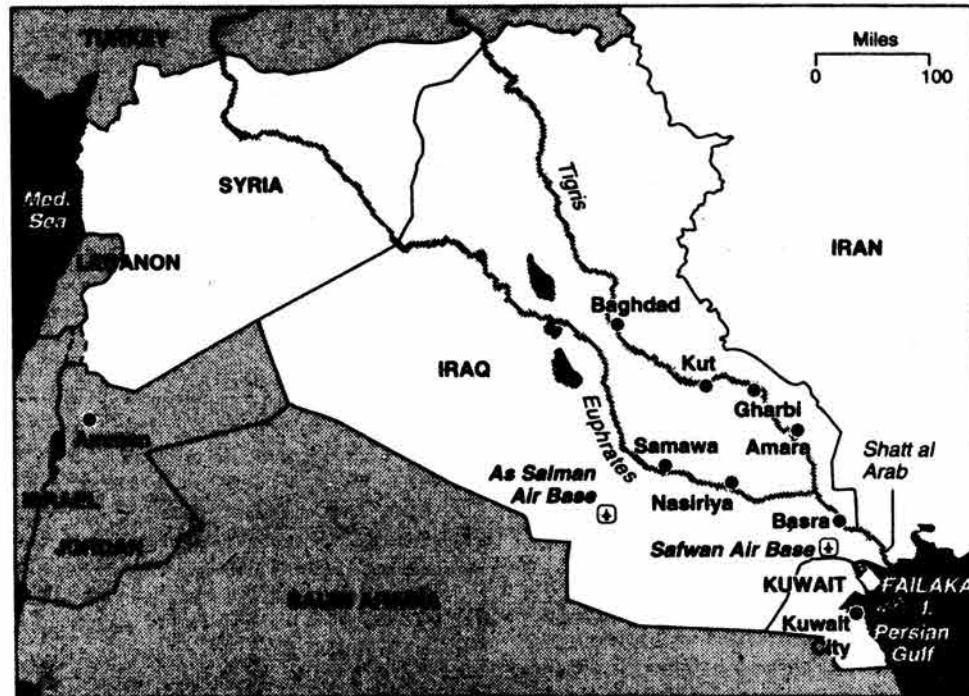
Barnes notes that "despite the Iraqi capitalists' sometimes sharp conflicts with im-

palestinian people, and for making Kuwait part of Iraq was rotten to the core.

In his Mideast trip, Secretary of State Baker will press the next steps in Washington's longer-range goals for the region. One of these is to build a new alliance of regimes, built around the Egyptian, Saudi, and Israeli governments, that can act as a bulwark to defend imperialist interests in the region.

Baker will also seek recognition of Israel by a series of Arab governments in exchange for Israel conceding some of its occupied territories to be set up as a "homeland" for the Palestinian people. If the regime in Syria agrees to this move, it too could be included in the imperialists' plans to bring "peace and security" to the region.

For Washington, progress on these and other moves depends to a certain extent on toppling the Hussein regime. Only by having a militarily strong Iraq, headed by a regime that will dutifully defend imperialist interests



perialism over the division of the spoils from pillaging the Iraqi toilers, the regime there — as with many other neocolonial regimes — has served as an agency to organize the exploitation and suppression of the workers and peasants to the benefit of Wall Street and Washington and other imperialist powers."

By invading Kuwait the Iraqi capitalist class sought to seize greater oil resources, a deep-water port, and more territory.

Despite Hussein's "services to imperialism," Barnes writes, "his regime has proven too unreliable, too unpredictable, and too destabilizing in a part of the world where imperialism has enormous economic stakes — oil, above all — and where all varieties of national, social, and political conflicts are very explosive and can be very costly in their consequences for the imperialists."

The need to make such a massive move and establish a regime Washington can more directly dominate comes from "imperialism's weakness, not its strength," Barnes writes. "But even if Washington succeeds in imposing such a subservient regime, this new regime would be no more capable than its predecessor of bringing development and stability to Iraq or to the region."

Far from establishing a "new world order," the *International Socialist Review* article explains, the U.S. rulers are "trying to stave off a further crumbling of the old capitalist world order."

The biggest victory so far for Washington is the low cost it paid in casualties in the military rout of Iraqi forces. With 148 reported dead among the allied forces, the U.S. rulers did not have to face the kind of political upheaval at home that a longer-term shooting war with large casualties would have precipitated.

The rapid rout of the Iraqi forces during the invasion showed that the vast majority of Iraqi soldiers did not want to fight and die to defend Kuwait. They had already suffered under the most intense bombardment in the history of warfare and seen many of their officers leave the field and not return.

Hussein's demagoguery

This is one indication of the fact that Hussein's demagoguery about leading a struggle of the Arab masses against Washington and Tel Aviv, for the rights of the

in the Arab-Persian Gulf, can the kind of proimperialist alliance needed by Washington be forged. Such an alliance will be premised on the continued presence of U.S. troops, aircraft, and warships in and around the Arabian Peninsula.

Little organized opposition in Mideast

Throughout the first four stages of the war drive little sustained or widespread opposition has arisen in the Mideast or in countries where the main religion is Islam to the imperialist aggression.

Some demonstrations have taken place in Jordan, Morocco, Syria, and Egypt. But none of these have shaken any of the capitalist-landlord regimes in those respective countries.

Such an imperialist assault a decade or two ago would have provoked a giant response across the Mideast. Arab governments that openly backed and sent military forces to aid in such an assault would have been short-lived.

The lack of such a response today is a confirmation that the political developments in the region no longer take the form of a common Arab or Islamic struggle against imperialist domination.

These events help show what has happened with the development of capitalism and the integration of the economies of these countries into the world capitalist system.

No working-class leadership existed or emerged in the region that could give a voice to the oppressed and exploited in confronting the U.S. imperialist onslaught against the Iraqi people.

The governments in power in the Arab world today are far removed from the struggles that overthrew colonial regimes and fought for national independence and sovereignty. Today, the toilers in each of these countries must lead the fight to get rid of the vestiges of imperialist denial of full national liberation and fight to replace capitalist rule with a government of workers and peasants.

Once colonial status is overcome there is no way for working people to fight imperialism without engaging in a struggle against the capitalist regimes in their own country. This fight can lead to the establishment of a government of workers and peasants and open the road to the struggle for socialism.

Through the press and government spokespeople the U.S. rulers are trumpeting the rout of the Iraqi military as proof of the new-found might of the U.S. military.

Some in the military though have noted that despite the six-week air war the Iraqi troops had substantial armor and firepower to use if they had chosen to fight.

Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the U.S. forces in the Gulf, recalled, in an interview published in the March 11 *New Republic*, the fight that took place during the invasion of Grenada. U.S. forces there ran into stiff resistance from a small number of Grenadians and Cuban construction workers. Despite U.S. technological and numerical superiority a fierce battle took place.

Bush stated at a recent press conference that through the invasion of Iraq, people in the United States had gotten rid of the Vietnam syndrome. But nothing could be further from the truth.

Washington's widening war and invasion resulted in a sharpening polarization in the United States. A big majority backed the president's course and an initial right-wing component developed. With the first waves of body bags coming home this rightward shift would have initially gained further momentum. With the ending of the bombing and the fighting on the ground this rightward side of the polarization cannot be sustained and will now shift back again.

In order to defeat the Vietnam syndrome Washington must go to war, wage massive battles, and win a decisive victory. It would also have to hold off the opposition to such a war that would develop.

At the center of the U.S. ruling class' inability to push back the Vietnam syndrome lies a deeper conflict.

The employers and their government have waged a more than decade-long offensive against the rights, unions, and living standards of working people. This has failed to break the resistance of working people to the rulers' attempt to make them pay for the economic crisis of world capitalism. The fights waged by airline workers, coal miners, and other unionists; fights against racist assaults; and protests to defend abortion rights and other hard won democratic liberties show that the labor movement has not been driven off the center stage of U.S. politics.

Only by breaking this resistance among workers in the United States would Washington be able to return to the day when it could send off troops to defend and protect imperialist interests without having to worry about opposition at home developing.

The handful of U.S. ruling families know that Washington cannot simply pick a country and invade it or send battalions against a struggle in some part of the world without opposition mobilizing in the streets from the beginning.

Already students and other youth and working people are planning teach-ins and other events to show their opposition to and discuss the occupation of Iraq by the imperialists. There continue to be wide opportunities to get out the truth about the U.S. war drive and extend the defense of the Iraqi people in the face of the fifth stage of the imperialist onslaught.



Victim of allied bomb attack in Samawa, Iraq, placed inside a coffin.

U.S. forces control southern Iraq

Continued from front page

proach. Iraq should be treated as "an international pariah" as long as Hussein is in power, British Prime Minister John Major said.

U.S. troops occupy southern Iraq

Meeting little resistance from the Iraqi army, the U.S.-led forces that invaded Iraq and Kuwait on February 23 quickly reached the Euphrates River, which cuts across the middle of the Iraq. According to news reports, allied troops are now only 100 miles from Baghdad, the Iraqi capital.

By the time Bush declared a temporary halt to the invasion force's offensive actions on February 27, the allied forces had occupied more than a quarter of Iraq. They set up roadblocks on the highway leading north from Kuwait to Basra, Iraq's second largest city. Allied forces continue some military operations in Iraq and Kuwait.

The 82nd Airborne Division seized 20 Iraqi combat aircraft at the abandoned Talil air base in Iraq. On March 3, U.S. and Kuwaiti troops occupied Failaka Island, off the coast of Kuwait, taking 1,405 Iraqi prisoners.

'Hold their feet to the fire'

Washington, in the meantime, has kept its total economic blockade of Iraq in place, in spite of the Iraqi government's announcement that it had agreed to most U.S. demands. "We have to hold their feet to the fire until they release prisoners and civilians they are holding," said Margaret Tutwiler, a State Department spokesperson.

'The American force should leave our territory'

The massive bombing left Baghdad virtually without electricity or running water. Officials from Unicef and the World Health Organization say that Baghdad residents could face outbreaks of cholera, typhoid, hepatitis, meningitis, and polio unless Iraq immediately receives massive international relief.

With food scarce and prices high, many residents are surviving on only 1,000 calories a day — less than half the needs of a five-year-old child. Problems are as bad or worse in other parts of the country.

"We are being killed indirectly," Dr. Mohammed Ani, director of primary health care for the Iraqi Ministry of Health, told reporters.

Washington has made it abundantly clear that it intends to use the threat of further military actions combined with economic pressure to achieve its goals. "We have the ability to resume hostilities at a moment's notice," U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney warned Iraq. "The lights are out in Baghdad and they'll stay out until we get satisfaction."

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, in a statement read over Radio Baghdad on March 1, stated that the U.S.-led forces were "carrying out provocations incompatible with the cease-fire."

"The American force should leave our national territory immediately and stop all provocative acts," Aziz added. He also condemned ongoing violation of Iraqi airspace by allied planes.

U.S.: 'We'll stay right where we are'

After hearing about Aziz's statement, one U.S. general said, "They don't seem to have figured out that they lost, and that they don't have an army anymore."

"We'll stay right where we are as long as we care to — certainly until they fulfill the president's conditions on prisoners of war and other such things."

Although Bush has announced that some U.S. troops will be returning home soon, no details have been provided. "It took seven months to get in. It's going to take many months to get out," White House spokesperson Marlin Fitzwater said. "But we're going to start a steady withdrawal." British officials said they plan to remain in the Arab-Persian Gulf for a year.

According to *New York Newsday*, U.S. military officials expect to send additional

reserve units to the Gulf, but gave no estimates on how many.

On March 2 the United Nations Security Council endorsed the U.S. demands on Iraq. Resolution 686 calls on Iraq to cease "hostile or provocative actions" and accept liability for war damages in Kuwait. It reaffirms the 12 previous UN resolutions relating to the Gulf and maintains in effect all sanctions against Iraq.

The resolution was approved with the support of the governments of Britain, France, United States, Soviet Union, Austria, Belgium, Ivory Coast, Ecuador, Romania, Zaire, and Zimbabwe. The representative from Cuba voted no and those from Yemen, China, and India abstained. Cuba introduced 17 amendments, all of which were defeated. They called for a UN peace-keeping force, for allied forces "to bring their military presence in Iraq to an end as soon as possible," for an end to sanctions, and for humanitarian aid to Kuwait and Iraq.

The U.S. government later indicated that it will allow some medical and food supplies into Iraq.

Getting the message loud and clear

U.S. and Iraqi military leaders met on March 3 to formally agree to details of the cease-fire. Leading up to the meeting, Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf said, "This isn't a negotiation. I'm here to tell them exactly what we expect of them."

To make sure the Iraqis got the message loud and clear, Schwarzkopf, commander of the allied forces in the Gulf, arrived at the meeting in a helicopter squadron that included six Apache attack helicopters, each armed with missiles and a 30-millimeter gun.

The Iraqi officials, however, arrived in U.S. jeeps and were searched for weapons before the meeting started.

The meeting site, an Iraqi airstrip now occupied by U.S. forces, was surrounded by more than 50 tanks draped with U.S. and British flags.

According to Schwarzkopf, the Iraqi generals agreed to immediately release U.S. and allied prisoners of war, provide information about the location of land and sea mines, and implement "control measures" to prevent accidental clashes between Iraqi and allied troops.

The U.S. military said there are more than 80,000 Iraqi prisoners of war, while the British claim there are more than 175,000.

The Iraqi army had half a million troops, thousands of tanks, and large stores of am-

British say there are 175,000 Iraqi prisoners of war

munition. "Had they wanted to fight, they could have mounted a tough resistance," noted Maj. Richard More, the chief intelligence officer of the Sixth Marine Regiment.

Instead, some in the corrupt Iraqi officer corps abandoned their units two weeks before the start of the U.S. invasion.

U.S. still faces most difficult task

Having defeated the Iraqi army more easily than expected, Washington and London now face the more difficult task: how to place an imperialist-run protectorate in Iraq and guarantee stability for the regimes in the region that backed the anti-Iraq coalition.

President Bush is sending U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to Israel, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Egypt, Turkey, and the Soviet Union to firm up Washington's plans. At the March 1 press conference, Bush said the key areas Baker would deal with are "The Palestinian question . . . the Lebanese question. Clearly it relates to how Iraq is brought back into the family of nations."

The Syrian government, which lost the Golan Heights to Israel in the 1967 war, hopes that by joining the U.S. war against Iraq it will gain back the lost territory. The U.S. in turn hopes Syria can now be convinced to recognize the state of Israel.



The charred hulls of retreating Iraqis' vehicles clutter highway north of Kuwait City. U.S. bombing slaughtered as many as 100,000 Iraqi troops.

The U.S. government wants to maintain a larger military presence in the Gulf region than it had before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and to bolster the military role of pro-U.S. regimes there.

Under new proposals that Baker will raise on his trip, thousands of U.S. troops would be stationed in Saudi Arabia, their units rotating for months at a time, squadrons of combat aircraft would be positioned at Gulf bases and the U.S. naval presence would also be expanded.

In one plan under consideration Egypt, presently with tens of thousands of troops under the command of the U.S. alliance, would keep some of its soldiers along the Iraq-Kuwait border indefinitely.

"Most Arab countries used to be allergic to any military cooperation with the U.S.," one Arab diplomat in Washington told the *Christian Science Monitor*. "These countries have now shed this allergy."

While Baker was preparing for his trip to the Middle East, U.S. and Kuwaiti forces were imposing their will in Kuwait. Most high-ranking members of the ruling Sabah

family delayed in returning to the country, but Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheik Saad al-Abdullah al-Sabah ordered — from Saudi Arabia — the imposition of martial law for the next three months.

Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency, Damascus radio, and other media reported on March 3 that anti-Hussein demonstrations had broken out in Basra, Nasiriya, and other southern and eastern Iraqi cities.

According to the *Washington Post* a Shi'ite Muslim group involved in the rebellion in Basra made a written request to allied troops for help in overthrowing Iraqi president Hussein. None of the reports have been confirmed.

At the March 1 press conference Bush was asked if the United States would aid in the rebuilding of Iraq if Hussein was removed. He replied, "I don't want to see one single dime of the United States taxpayers' money go into the reconstruction of Iraq."

The U.S. government might give some medical aid or aid to children, Bush said. The only other U.S. aid Iraqis can expect, he stated, was "a little free advice."

Tens of thousands of Iraqis cold-bloodedly slaughtered

BY SELVA NEBBIA

During the invasion of Iraq, Washington and its allies carried out a massive slaughter that resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of Iraqis.

On February 28 Prince Banadr bin Sultan, the Saudi Arabian ambassador to the United States, said the number of Iraqi dead and wounded stood between 85,000 and 100,000. During the entire Vietnam War about 58,000 U.S. soldiers died, 47,000 of them killed in action.

Thousands of Iraqi soldiers were cold-bloodedly killed as they were withdrawing from their positions in Kuwait and southern Iraq.

On February 25 U.S. warplanes swooped down on a convoy of more than 1,000 vehicles traveling north on a highway from Kuwait. U.S. "A-10 and A-6E fighter-bombers relentlessly bombed and rocketed the Iraqi convoy night and day, catching it in a death trap that vehicles could not escape without leaving the paved highway and becoming bogged down in the desert sand," described *Washington Post* reporters. Huge B-52 bombers also dropped 1,000-pound bombs on the highways north of Kuwait City.

"It was the road to Daytona Beach at spring break," said Lt. Brian Kasperbauer, an A-6 pilot. "Just bumper to bumper. Spring break's over."

"Burned-out, bombed-out vehicles of every description littered the highway, with charred Iraqi bodies everywhere," was how a *New York Times* reporter described the scene.

Asked why allied forces were still attacking the Iraqi troops after Saddam Hussein had declared they had begun a withdrawal, U.S. Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the allied forces, replied, "To make sure [they] are rendered incapable of conducting the heinous crimes they have done in the past." He added, "There is a lot more purpose to this war than getting the Iraqis out of Kuwait."

"We're hitting them hard. It's not going to take too many more days until there's nothing left of them," Captain Ernest Christensen said. The pilots said the retreating Iraqis were presenting a bounty of targets. "We hit the jackpot," said one.

Defenseless troops

"It's just sickening. They are no threat to us. They're defenseless troops. They're trying to escape with their lives. For the sake of humanity we ought to let them do it," said former Admiral Gene La Roque, director of the Center for Defense Information in Washington.

"The Iraqi troops are routed and the senseless killing of fleeing troops does not contribute in any way to the successful conclusion of this war," La Roque added.

As the death toll of Iraqi soldiers rose, allied forces continued to bomb Baghdad. The raids, which included cruise missiles, were said by some residents to have been the most intense since the bombing began January 16.

After six weeks of relentless bombing, Baghdad's 4 million inhabitants face a public health crisis of vast proportions. Because of lack of water and inadequate sanitation services health officials said the population could soon suffer outbreaks of cholera, typhoid, hepatitis, and polio.

The problem has been complicated further by allied air raids on water-pumping stations and plants that manufacture purification chemicals such as chlorine.

"We are being killed indirectly," said Mohammed Ani, director of immunization and primary health care for the Iraqi Ministry of Health.

Since the Iraqi troops fled Kuwait City groups of armed Kuwaitis patrolling the streets have been rounding up Palestinians who live and work in the country. Claiming the Palestinians collaborated with the Iraqis, the Kuwaitis have killed some on the spot, in many cases after the Palestinians were brutally tortured.

U.S., British pressure on Germany gives rise to German-bashing

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Washington and London have sought to use their war against Iraq to the detriment of German imperialism and to stir up anti-German chauvinism.

A steady stream of statements critical of Bonn by government officials and the press in the United States and Britain has denigrated Germans as a people, and has given rise to a spate of German-bashing.

Germans have been disparaged as self-absorbed, penny-pinching, and ungrateful for support from Washington and London in the decades after World War II. "Whatever you get out of them, you really have to squeeze it out," a pro-U.S. diplomat in Bonn told the *New York Times*.

U.S. columnist William Safire called Germany a "checkbook power," which "guiltily but skinflintingly mailed in its pledge" of funds for the war effort against Iraq.

"I think Germany has become so rich that it has completely lost its fighting spirit," Turkey's President Turgut Özal told German television, echoing sentiment among ruling circles in London and Washington about Germany's refusal to commit troops to the Middle East. The Bonn government has said that the German constitution prevented it from sending troops.

Labeled 'anti-American'

Germans have been called anti-American because hundreds of thousands participated in protests against the war. British officials have even blamed Germany for the loss of British fighter jets over Iraq, saying their pilots would have been better prepared had Bonn permitted low-altitude training flights over German territory — a practice banned recently because of the deafening noise it causes.

Germany has been accused of being an accomplice of Saddam Hussein's alleged plans for chemical warfare and Iraq's Scud missile attacks on Israel, because some German corporations did business with Iraq. Little mention is made in the U.S. press of the U.S. corporations that sold equipment with possible military uses to Iraq.

A former German official complained of the picture being painted of "Germans, Jews, and gas," a reference to the era in Germany when millions of Jews were murdered by the fascist Nazi regime.

"After Auschwitz, would you not expect Germans to take every conceivable care to stop German arms filtering through to where they can threaten Israel?" the January 26 *London Economist* wrote.

Washington had pressed other imperialist

powers for military and financial contributions toward the military buildup and war in the Middle East from the beginning, shortly after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Germany's reluctance

The German government, however, reluctantly sent 18 fighter jets to Turkey, which borders Iraq, and at first offered to contribute \$2.2 billion to the allied effort. Germany, a country dependent on oil imports, will be among those to lose the most if Washington succeeds in wresting greater control of the Middle East's oil resources.

Washington warned the Bonn government in January that it would isolate itself if it was not more forthcoming. U.S. diplomats also told German officials that the German-U.S. relationship was beginning to look more like a "second-class alliance."

The Bonn government responded to the warning and criticism by increasing its pledge to \$11 billion, \$6.6 billion for the United States. It also announced \$660 million in "humanitarian" and military aid to Israel.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl sought to appease the British government with an offer of \$550 million in aid to Britain. And he asserted that after the war in the Mideast he would seek to amend the German constitution to alter limits on the deployment of German troops.

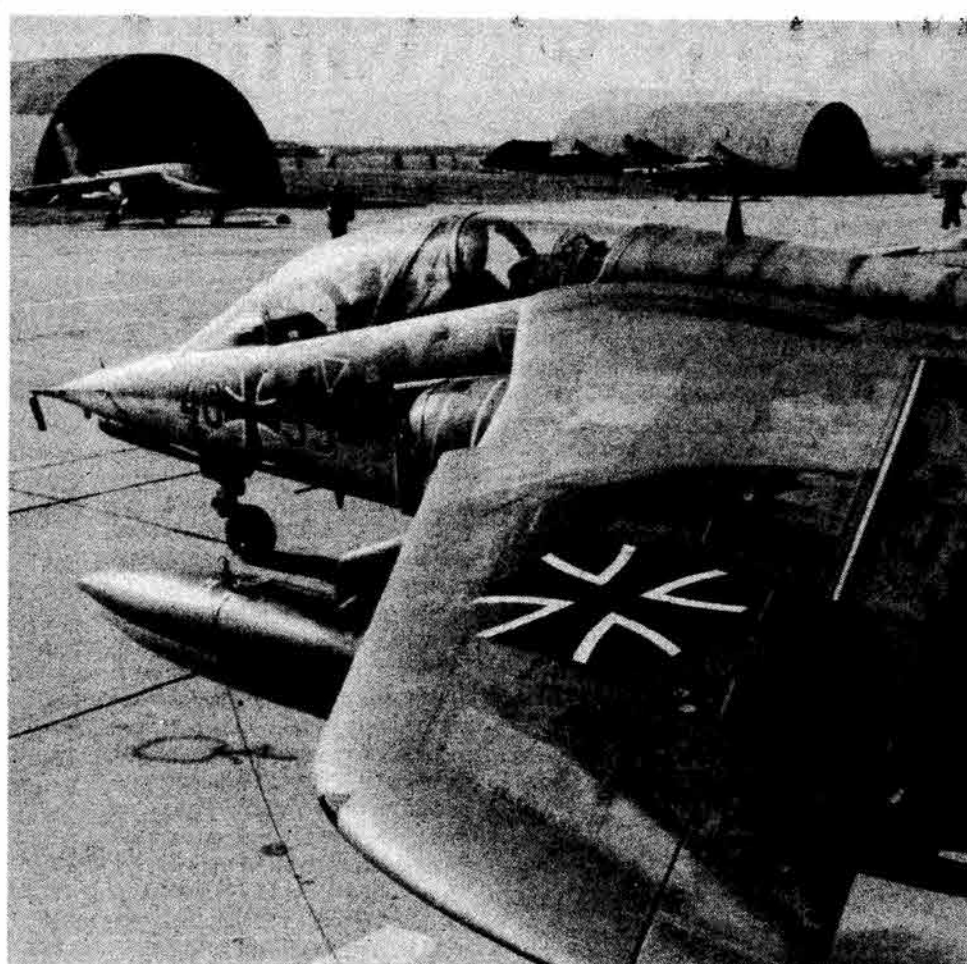
German officials have done little to politically counter the chauvinist attacks, and have instead complained about unfair treatment by other imperialist powers.

"When Germany was united in 1990, there were many fears that we would one day become a militaristic power," German President Richard von Weizsäcker said in a speech. "Now at the beginning of 1991, Germans are being criticized for not wanting to take part in a war."

German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher has made a special effort to reject charges that Germany is shirking "its global responsibilities." In a speech in Switzerland before business and financial leaders, he listed Germany's contributions to the war effort and asserted, "We do not expect special treatment; we just seek fairness."

Out of \$53.5 billion now pledged by various allies for the war effort only \$15 billion has been received. A good portion of those funds are owed by the Bonn government, which has only paid \$272 million on its pledge.

U.S. President George Bush warned in a March 1 press conference that Germany could counter growing U.S. criticism only if it fulfills its commitments.



One of the 18 Alpha warplanes sent by Germany to Turkey as part of its contribution to the war against Iraq. Bonn has also pledged \$11 billion to cover the costs of the war.

HANDS OFF THE MIDEAST! Campaigning worldwide against the imperialist war

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

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

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

At a recent rally in Salt Lake City to protest the U.S.-led war against Iraq, one of the speakers was Keri Lynne Sanders. She introduced herself as a reservist assigned to the 67th Aerial Port Squadron, and said, "I am against this war."

"My opposition does not come from weakness or cowardice," Sanders explained, "but from unwavering strength and moral conviction that this war is wrong."

"To those who would say I don't support my brothers and sisters in uniform, you are wrong. Support runs deeper than ribbons and flags. Ribbons and flags haven't the power to stop the killing."

"You do not support me as a military member or any other soldier by sending us to our deaths. You do not support us by bringing us home with missing limbs. You do not support us by bringing us home with memories that will haunt us day and night, and support us by rallying behind the Bush administration's 'new world order'."

"To those that think that support of this war equates with support of the troops — that kind of support will bring us home in body bags. We don't need that kind of support. Support us by stopping the bombing, ending the war, and bringing the troops home now," Sanders said.

On February 14, Kate Kaku, a leader of the Young Socialist Alliance, spoke at a student antiwar demonstration at Geneva University, in Geneva, Switzerland. At the time, Kaku was in Geneva at a UN Com-

mission meeting on human rights to win support for her husband Mark Curtis, framed up and convicted on rape charges by Iowa authorities.

"This war is a war for oil, not a war for freedom and democracy," Kaku told the 50 demonstrators and explained that students throughout the world would be organizing similar protest actions for February 21.

According to Nick Ulmi, a leader of the Student Committee against the War which organized the university protest, there have been several other such protests in Geneva.

In Kansas City, Kansas, Yolanda Huet-Vaughn, a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve Medical Corps, surrendered to military police on February 2. In December, she refused to report for active duty in the Arab-Persian Gulf, and has been AWOL since then.

Shortly before turning herself in, Huet-Vaughn was the featured speaker at a news conference at St. Marks Church in Kansas City, Missouri, where well over 300 people crowded for a rally and "Welcome Home Yolanda" party.

Huet-Vaughn explained she refused to be an "accomplice in what I consider an immoral, inhumane and unconstitutional act, namely an offensive military mobilization in the Middle East." She said there would be hundreds of thousands of casualties in Iraq. "For what? For oil?"

Huet-Vaughn was taken to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and faces a court martial, up to 15 years in prison, a fine, and a dishonorable discharge. Her legal defense and support work is being organized by Citizen Soldier, a GI rights advocacy organization. They encourage letters urging Huet-Vaughn's release be sent to Major General Rhame, Commander of the First Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas, 66442.

On February 18 dozens of people in Danbury, Connecticut, braved bitter cold and snow to protest the Mideast war. The group demonstrated at the War Memorial in Danbury and displayed signs, including ones that read "Stop the fighting"; "Death is forever"; and "End World War III." The protest included a small contingent of Veterans for Peace.

Paul Mailhot from Salt Lake City, and Derek Jeffers in Geneva contributed to this column.

Students organize March 16 events

Continued from front page

In voting to endorse the March 16 call "people saw that the road to fighting racism, imperialism, and war is by demanding that all U.S. troops get out of the Middle East," Ruby said.

"There was a real sense of responsibility among conference participants to go back to our local areas and fight to get people to see the broader questions involved in the U.S. war in the Mideast and fight to get the U.S. troops out of the region," he said.

A February 24 steering committee meeting of the National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East attended by 150 activists voted for several days of activities and protests through April.

A March 1 letter sent to more than 1,700 groups and individuals by the group's newly elected coordinating committee explained the shifting situation in the Middle East and called on student and youth activists to make March 16 activities "the most immediate and central task."

The National Student and Youth Campaign is a coalition of campus and youth organizations that initiated the call for February 21 campus protests against the war. Thousands of students at more than 250 campuses in cities across the country responded to the call with teach-ins, speak-outs, marches, rallies, and other actions.

The coordinating committee letter said,

"The U.S. government and its allies now have hundreds of thousands of troops occupying southern Iraq. It is clear that they will not be leaving soon."

It cited reports of tens of thousands of Iraqi casualties; the lack of electricity, running water, and phone service in Iraq.

The letter said the group's coordinating committee held a telephone conference meeting February 27 and decided to encourage areas to organize teach-ins and other actions March 16 and April 4.

"With the U.S. declaring the war over, our efforts now must shift to respond to the new situation and continued U.S. war drive through organizing discussions and educational events together with actions. We also need to be ready to organize if there is any renewed fighting," the letter said.

The letter emphasized that "our demand to 'Bring the Troops Home Now!' becomes even more important. At educational events, such as teach-ins, speakers can help to reveal the true aims of the U.S.-led war drive, the history of the Middle East, the ongoing struggle of the Palestinians, and make connections with other struggles here in the United States and around the world."

For more information contact the National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East by calling (202) 462-1801. The fax number is (202) 232-6584 and address is 1225 15th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.

Workers win battle for a union in Helper, Utah

This column is dedicated to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and the unions.

Working people around the world are involved in skirmishes over speedup, forced overtime, layoffs, and attacks on health and

included company harassment and firings, workers won an election establishing the union November 8.

Since the election the workers' struggle has continued. The company, in order to avoid signing a contract, is on a campaign to intimidate the work force. They increased write-ups, suspensions, threats, firings, and cancelled a

unity, including with the laid off and fired workers will be key," said Dutrow.

"While we are a small unit of the UMWA in the Utah coalfields," said Dutrow, "our struggle is being followed by a lot of working people in the area and in the coal mines, both union and non-union. I think the UMWA's solidarity with us has been crucial. The fact that we have been able to charter a local at the outset of our contract fight is important. This has given us more confidence to win even more solidarity from UMWA members and other unionists."

Valdez said he sees "a long struggle ahead. This was just part one, now we are going into phase two."

In Bayamon, Puerto Rico, the war in the Middle East and the employers attacks at home were on their minds of several thousand workers as they attended the February 2 general assembly of the Electrical and Irrigation Industry Workers Union (UTIER). The assembly was held at the Rubén Rodríguez coliseum in Bayamon, a suburb of San Juan. The union organizes most of the workers at the government-owned Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA).

The assembly was called to discuss management's final contract offer to the workers. After 23

months of negotiations, the union and the Authority remain far apart on issues, including safety and medical insurance. Over the last two years UTIER has organized over 100 short-term work stoppages. The PREPA has launched a reign of terror that included disciplinary cases against 2,000 workers, 61 of whom have been fired.

Workers at the assembly raised their opinions about the U.S.-led war against Iraq.

"My opinion is that this is a war for economic interests and that the poor will lose," said Carmelo Calderón. He is a lineman from the mountain town of Barranquitas. "The problem is that they are killing people to defend the interests of the millionaires. How many sons of the congressmen are in the war?"

"Nobody wants war," commented Osvald, a UTIER member from the north coast city of Arecibo. "Saddam Hussein wants to build a big army. He hates the United States. He hates everybody. He is a criminal. They should beat him up. He hates the Jewish people. He is very dangerous."

"My position is clear — that this is a provocation by the United States to obtain oil from the Arab world," stated Miguel Albizu. He works in the generating station in the Puerto Nuevo section of San Juan. "The United States wants to control the region."

USX Corp., the largest steel producer in the United States, has been ordered to pay \$41.8 million to settle a class-action suit. The suit was brought against the company by 10,000 Black job applicants who were discriminated against at the Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania, plant in the 1970s. The settlement ends the 15-year-old case that went before the appeals court twice and the U.S. Supreme Court once.

In 1986 the company was ordered to pay damages of \$12.4 million, plus interest, for violating the Civil Rights Act. However, that amount was raised to \$41.8 million when the plaintiffs won their battle for additional interest payments, plus payments that the workers would have received had they been working since 1968.

USX has denied any wrongdoing and said that the discrimination was not deliberate. Using a big-business propaganda campaign against racial quotas to combat job discrimination, the company added that the only way they could have avoided a court discrimination ruling would have been to use a racial-hiring quota system.

Tony Dutrow from Price, Utah, and Ron Richards from San Juan, Puerto Rico contributed to this column.

ON THE PICKET LINE

safety benefits. Unionists faced with steep takeback demands, lockouts, and union-busting moves by the employers have gone on strike to force the bosses to back down.

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines to let other *Militant* readers know about what is happening at your workplace or in your union. If there is an interesting political discussion going on at work, we would like to hear about that, too.

The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) scored a victory in Helper, Utah, by organizing a successful union organizing drive at Jennmar, a small plant where workers make roof bolts for coal mines. After a 21-month battle that

promised family Christmas party.

Jim Valdez, the newly-elected Recording Secretary of UMWA Local 1190 at Jennmar said, "They have been trying to step up production, hurrying people in order to build up a stockpile."

In their pay envelopes, workers received a letter from the company informing them of a 32-hour workweek because of a previously unknown "seasonal downturn in business."

"The one day layoff is to try to force workers to believe it's the union's fault," said Valdez. Shortly after receiving the notice of a shortened workweek, 10 workers were given layoff notices.

Tony Dutrow, a worker in the plant and a member of the UMWA organizing committee, commented on the tasks ahead.

"As the union-busters try to gain the upper hand and prevent us from winning a signed contract, our

New Jersey to end Shell Oil deal: cites S. Africa ties

BY JON ERWAY

CRANFORD, New Jersey — In a victory for continued sanctions against the apartheid regime in South Africa, New Jersey Gov. Jim Florio announced February 11 that he will call on the New Jersey Turnpike Authority not to renew its contract with the Shell Oil Co.

Shell is the sole operator of service stations on the Turnpike. The oil company's contract with the state's busiest roadway expires April 1, 1992.

"Sanctions are working," Florio said in a prepared statement. "Victory is in sight. But it is by no means assured. And now is no time to let up," he said.

The announcement was made at a press conference at the New Jersey headquarters of Region 9 of the United Auto Workers union (UAW) on the first anniversary of the release from prison of African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela.

The press conference was attended by a large audience of state and national labor officials, community and religious leaders, state legislators, and anti-apartheid activists.

Owen Bieber, UAW International President and co-chair of the AFL-CIO's National Labor Boycott Shell Committee, also spoke. He applauded Florio's action, calling it the "biggest blow to Shell internationally" in the entire five-year boycott campaign.

Bieber also said that "now is not the time to let up the pressure" for continued

sanctions against South Africa, noting that the international boycott committee and the ANC have called for sanctions to be maintained until South Africa becomes a "nonracial, one-person, one-vote democracy."

The committee launched the boycott against Shell in 1986 in response to a call from trade unions in South Africa. The oil giant owns a 50 percent stake in the Rietspruit coal mine in South Africa where the unionists say it pursues union-busting

practices. Shell also supplies oil to the South African military and police.

Valorie Caffee, president of the New Jersey Anti-Apartheid Mobilization Coalition, said at the press conference that the governor's decision was a "people's victory."

Trade unionists in New Jersey, including members of the UAW; state workers organized by the Communications Workers of America; members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employ-

ees at Rutgers University; and members of Mailhandlers Local 300 in Secaucus-Jersey City played a key role in making the boycott campaign a success.

New Jersey Turnpike commissioners still must approve the governor's directive not to renew Shell's contract at their next meeting February 25. According to the state's five-year agreement, which runs through April 1, 1992, the commissioners must announce by April 1 of this year whether or not they will renew the contract.

Rafael Cancel Miranda reviews Mandela book

The following review of *Nelson Mandela: Intensifiquemos la lucha* (Nelson Mandela: Intensify the Struggle) appeared in the January 4-10 issue of *Claridad*, the Spanish-language weekly published in Puerto Rico. The 108-page book was released by Pathfinder last year.

Rafael Cancel Miranda is one of the five Puerto Rican nationalists imprisoned in the United States in the early 1950s for armed proindependence actions. He and three other surviving prisoners were released in 1979. All four were present at Mandela's June 21, 1990, speech in Harlem. Cancel Miranda is currently a prominent spokesperson for Puerto Rican independence.

Nelson Mandela: Intensifiquemos la lucha is available at Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12 or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, New York, 10014. The price is \$12.95 plus \$1.00 shipping. The pamphlet *Nelson Mandela: Speeches 1990* is also available from Pathfinder in English. Priced at \$5.00, it carries many of the speeches available in the Spanish-language book.

BY RAFAEL CANCEL MIRANDA

Pedro Albizu Campos, the Nelson Mandela of Puerto Rico, once said that the homeland is courage and sacrifice. Pedro also said that the supreme merit of man is courage. In reading this book, I could not help but think constantly of these two sayings by Albizu. They sum up the firm and upright stance of Nelson Mandela, of Winnie, of their people, and of humanity.

Those who are fond of abstractions, empty phrases, or political fantasies had best not open this book. For Nelson Mandela is real; he is not a Don Quixote fighting windmills or imaginary monsters.

He is an absolutely realistic man fighting the bitter reality of the apartheid monster that eats away at the vitals of his beloved people, just as colonial domination eats away at the vitals of my people.

In this book we see an idealist with his feet planted firmly on the ground. And thus we recall more than once in reading the book that the last remaining mile is "the most difficult of our long march toward freedom," and that it is necessary to intensify the struggle. At the same time, "When the water is about to boil, it is foolish to turn the heat off."

Because of this realism Mandela is obsessed with revolutionary discipline and the need for organization and unity. "It is only through disciplined mass action that our victory can be assured," he says.

Through this book it becomes clear that Mandela possesses the two qualities necessary for human greatness: a heart that is deeply sensitive and a great mind capable of analysis, vision, and demystification. As a result of his greatness, he overflows with humility. While he considers himself a "particle," one is moved by how he always stresses the importance of the man and woman in the street, the so-called common man, the people without whom there could not even be hope for the dawning of a "new day." For these people he wants, among other things, the right to education and decent health care.

It is precisely in his speech to South African business executives where we get to know Nelson Mandela's social and economic program. He opposes "the striking imbalance between the wealth of the minority and the poverty of the majority." On another occasion, speaking about privatization, he states, "The process of privatization cannot but reinforce the economic power relations which

we assert have to be changed."

Through his own words, we also see in this book that Mandela has never renounced his people's right to armed struggle — on more than one occasion he salutes Umkhonto we Sizwe, the armed wing of the African National Congress. He does believe in negotiations with the opponent, but not between "master and servant." For Mandela negotiations "are a continuation of the struggle," not an end in themselves. And in order to begin negotiations, he tells us, there are several demands that have to be met, including the immediate end of the state of emergency and the freeing of all political prisoners.

In this book, Mandela also recognizes the great importance of international solidarity. In particular he salutes the militant and courageous solidarity of Cuba with the peoples of Africa.

He also advocates a concept that is sometimes forgotten by those who should remember it: "No self-respecting freedom fighter will take orders from the government on how to wage the freedom struggle against that same government and on who his allies in the freedom struggle should be." And he stresses again that "The renunciation of violence by either the government or the ANC should not be a precondition to, but the result of, negotiation."

To conclude the task of reviewing this book — a task Pathfinder has honored me with — I will say that in this book we see close up the man whom we formerly saw from afar. He is as great as he seemed from a distance. We have not been cheated. Fortunately for his people and for all the earth's oppressed, Nelson Mandela is not a legend — he is the living voice of a people in struggle. Knowing him better strengthens even more our faith in that dawning of a new day.



Militant/Jon Erway
Victor Mashabela, ANC representative, spoke at New Jersey press conference.

ALABAMA

Birmingham

End the Occupation and Blockade against Iraq! Speaker: Alyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party, member United Mine Workers of America Local 2368. Sat., March 9, 7:30 p.m. 111 21st St. S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

ARIZONA

Phoenix

End the Occupation of Iraq! End the Blockade against Iraq! Speaker: Danny Booher, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Phoenix, member United Steelworkers of America. Sat., March 9, 7:30 p.m. 1809 W. Indian School Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (602) 279-5850.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

The Gulf War: Its Impact on World Politics. Speaker: Elizabeth Stone, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Board of Trustees of Los Angeles Community College District, Office No. 1. Sat., March 9, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

Discussion Series on the Fight against Imperialism and War. 1) World War II. Wed., March 13, 6:30 p.m. 2) The War in the Arab-Persian Gulf. Wed. March 20, 6:30 p.m. 3) The Cuban Revolution. Wed., March 27, 6:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

San Francisco

After the Battle. Video explaining Cuban role in defeat of South African troops in Angola. Sat., March 9, 7 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

CONNECTICUT

Hamden

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

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

End the Occupation of Iraq! The Working-Class Campaign against the War at Home and Abroad. Speaker: Peter Seidman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Miami City Commission. Sun., March 17, 6 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Blacks in America's Wars. Speaker: George Williams, Socialist Workers Party, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 442. Sat., March 9, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

Haiti: Eyewitness Report. Speakers: Nancy Cole, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists; Jean-Luc Duval, Young Socialist Alliance; both recently returned from inauguration of Haiti President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Slide show. Sat., March 16, 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.

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.

State Budget Cuts — Where They Come From and How to Fight Them. Panel discussion. Sat., March 16, 7:30 p.m. 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA

Austin

GLs, 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.

St. Paul

War and the Fight against Racism. Speakers: Dominique Najjar, Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee; August Nimtz, Socialist Workers Party; Mel Reeves, Black People's Committee against the War. Sat., March 9, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

The Struggle for Palestinian Rights. Speaker to be announced. Sat., March 16, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

Attacks on Democratic Rights in Times of War. Speaker to be announced. Sat., March 23, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

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.

End the Occupation and Blockade against Iraq. Speaker: David Rosenfeld, Socialist Workers Party candidate for St. Louis Board of Aldermen. Sat., March 16, 7:30 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (314) 773-4709.

Malcolm X Talks to Young People. Discussion series. Every Wed. in March, 7:30 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. Tel: (314) 361-0250.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Women in a War Zone. Speaker: Chrissie McAuley, Belfast Sinn Féin's Women's Department. Sun., March 17, 6:30 p.m. Wetlands Preserve, 161 Hudson St. Sponsor: Irish Women's Studies Group. Tel: (212) 966-4225.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Defending Women's Rights. Speaker to be announced. Sat., March 9, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (215) 546-8196.

Can Working People Solve the Municipal Budget Crisis? Panel Discussion. Sat., March 23, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (215) 546-8196.

TEXAS

Houston

The War Against Iraq Enters a New Stage. Speaker: Mary Selvas, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Houston; others. Sat., March 9, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Almeda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

UTAH

Price

Keep Abortion Safe and Legal. Speakers: Sherrie Love, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Price City Council, others. Sat., March 9, 7 p.m. 253 E Main. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (801) 637-6294.

Salt Lake City

Panel Discussion on the Middle East War. Speakers: Keri Sanders, active duty reservist; Larry Chadwick, Vietnam veteran; Paul Mailhot, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America Local 4413. Sat. March 9, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

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.

BRITAIN

London

Malcolm X and the Fight against Imperialist War. Speaker: representative, Communist

League. Fri., March 15, 7:30 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 15, 7:30 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 061-839 1766.

CANADA

Montréal

A Video-Film Presentation: The Frame-up of Mark Curtis. Sat., March 9, 7:30 p.m. 6566 boul. St-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

Keep Anti-Apartheid Sanctions! Speaker: Jabu Dube, information officer for the African National Congress in Canada. Sat., March 9, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (416) 861-1399.

Vancouver

The Mideast War: Opening Guns of World War III. Speaker: Steve Penner, executive secretary, Communist League. Sat., March 9, 7:30 p.m. **Canadian Capitalism in Crisis: The Fight of Natives and Québécois for Self-Determination.** Class by Steve Penner. Sun., March 10, 11 a.m. Both events at 1053 Kingsway. Donation: \$5 Saturday talk; \$3 Sunday class. Sponsor: Socialist Publications Fund. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

NEW ZEALAND

Wellington

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.

Mark Curtis case wins new support

Continued from Page 3

the Gulf. When Curtis was mailed a book of speeches by Malcolm X, the prison guard who delivered the book told him that it "looked like it was printed in Iraq."

Kaku and Studer also informed the human rights officer of the political bias Curtis faced at his annual parole hearing last November. Curtis was denied parole, although he more than met all the criteria for release.

Ize-Charrin added material on these recent developments to the growing Curtis file maintained by the Centre for Human Rights. She told Kaku and Studer that if prison authorities use the war as an excuse to move against Curtis' rights, she will send a third confidential communique to commission members alerting them to the new violation. She said she keenly awaited Curtis' next parole hearing, and would report if he meets further political discrimination in seeking release.

Many governments sponsor official receptions to greet delegates and to provide an opportunity to continue political discussions in a more informal setting. The Curtis delegation attended receptions sponsored by the governments of Austria, Germany, France, Canada, and Indonesia.

In addition, they were invited to attend a special reception at the Hotel Intercontinental, hosted by Enrique Bernales Ballesteros, the representative of Peru, who was elected chairman of the commission session.

The defense activists also attended a number of meetings sponsored by the coordinating committee of non-governmental organizations. One meeting addressed growing governmental pressures to limit the role of human rights activists at UN gatherings. Another was a special meeting to discuss issues before the commission with chairman Bernales Ballesteros.

"We made important progress in bringing pressure on the U.S. authorities — through the United Nations and by getting out the facts about his fight for justice all over the world," committee coordinator Studer said. "We will continue to win broader support, bringing the day closer when Curtis will walk out of jail, inspiring thousands that they can fight for their rights and win."

The Curtis defense campaign, both at the United Nations and throughout the labor movement, is a financially costly drive. To contribute, send a donation to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311, USA.

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

Balanced approach — The staff at *ITN*, a British publication, was advised that reports from Baghdad should note that they're "subject to



Harry Ring

Iraqi censorship." Dispatches from Saudi Arabia and Bahrain should say that "certain operational facts have been omitted for reasons of military security."

Desert shield — An Iowa bible company reports that with the Gulf war, there's been a big jump in the sales of pocket-size armor-plated bibles. The company says it's not proud to be making money off the war and, it says, has reduced the usual \$22.95 price by \$3. The company founder is convinced the plated bibles have saved lives in war but concedes he lacks documented evidence.

Surgical appraisal — "B-52 bombing from 40,000 feet is very accurate. They hit the ground every time." Admiral Eugene Carroll of

the British Centre for Defence Information.

Verboten — In California, Jihad Jaffer's father gave him a car for his sixteenth birthday with a personalized license plate bearing the teenager's name, which is often translated as "holy war." State motor vehicle officials then decided that in view of the Gulf war, the plate was "offensive" and demanded its return. Inquired Jihad, "What's next, are they going to tell me I can't go by my name?"

American pie — "Desert Susan" is the first of a series of audio cassettes from entrepreneur Michael

Lobkowicz. It's narrated by a "sex therapist" whose "sultry" voice assertedly penetrates "the horrors of war," bringing GIs "a hot little piece of American pie with a lot of cool whipped cream." (\$11.95)

Which rewards the deserving, right? — Chicago *Tribune* columnist Mike Royko did a phone interview with the creator of "Desert Susan." Impresario Lobkowicz told him he didn't really care if he made a profit on it, but that it would be nice if he did. After all, he explained, "it's a capitalistic society."

Seize the time — A classified ad in the Chicago *Tribune* offers dealers "Desert Storm" items — "deluxe" T-shirts, a variety of flags, flag pins, etc. The ad exhorts, "Make money now!"

Old Glory — In Old Bridge, New Jersey, six people were busted on charges of stealing American flags. Police said one suspect claimed he could get \$20 for a flag and a pole.

Fashion note — *Spy* magazine reportedly has a photo of Gen. "Stormin' Norman" Schwarzkopf sleeping under his camouflage bedspread.

Report points to decline in mental health care

BY PETER THIERJUNG

A 192-page report by the Public Citizen Health Research Group and the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill points to a drastic decline in public mental health care as a result of federal and state budget cuts.

"It was, in fact, the existence of large numbers of seriously mentally ill individuals in the nation's poor houses in the 1820s and 1830s which led to the building of state mental hospitals as a 'humane' alternative," the report says. "At no time in the intervening years have there been as many seriously mentally ill individuals, most receiving no treatment, living in the community."

The authors of the study, published at the end of 1990, found the following:

- There are more than twice as many people with schizophrenia and manic-depressive psychosis living in public shelters as there are in public mental health hospitals.

- Estimates of the total number of homeless individuals range from 300,000 to 3 million. Some 25-30 percent of single homeless adults living in shelters are seriously mentally ill. Of those living in the streets the rate appears to be higher.

- There are more people with schizophrenia and manic-depressive psychosis in prisons and jails than in public mental hospitals. Out of the more than 1 million prisoners in the United States, some 10 to 15 percent require services usually associated with severe or chronic mental illness.

- A majority of those who are mentally ill and are not in mental health institutions, including those who are homeless or in prison, receive little or no psychiatric treatment because most public health services have broken down completely.

- In the past 45 years, the number of mental health professionals increased more than twentyfold. Most of these professionals have abandoned or refused to work in the public sector, seeking and getting better salaries, benefits, and easier case loads in private institutions. At the Wyoming State Hospital in 1989, for example, there was no regular psychiatrist on the staff for almost a year.

- Most community mental health centers have failed to provide "a reasonable volume" of services for people who cannot afford treatment.

- An undetermined portion of public funds for services to people with serious mental illnesses is literally being stolen. The report cites several major cases of embezzlement and bilking of state and federal funds that have been uncovered in Utah, Texas, and New York.

- Guidelines for serving people with mental illness are often set by federal and state administrators who have no experience in the field of mental health.

Inhumane treatment

The report provides a state-by-state assessment of mental health care, exposing grossly inadequate services and inhumane treatment of patients.

The Pine Street Inn shelter in Boston routinely houses 500 to 1,000 people with serious mental illness each night, making it the "largest de facto mental institution in the state."

"The waiting list for South Florida State Hospital is six months long," the report says,

"and at emergency rooms at Broward General Hospital and in Tampa, patients are routinely shackled for hours or even days while waiting for a bed."

In Idaho, it is standard practice to take mentally ill individuals requiring hospitalization "to jail where the person is fingerprinted, put in a cell, and held until seen by a 'designated examiner'." The patient is sometimes held for two to three days until a bed in an institution is found.

Vermont leads the 50 states in providing care, according to the report. But on a scale of 1-25, the state only earns 17 points for the quality and availability of the care.

Twenty-five states and the District of Columbia received eight or less points in the study. California scored seven points. Nevada, Texas, Mississippi, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and Hawaii are at the bottom of the list with scores of five or less.

The effects of the current recession and federal budget cuts on meager state resources for mental health care are already being felt.

New York ranks seventh among the 50

states in providing care, according to the report, but only earned 12 points, a score that may plummet after recent announcements by the state's governor, Mario Cuomo.

Cuomo projects lopping \$110 million from the state's spending on mental health for fiscal year 1991-92. State officials have announced plans to shut down four major mental health hospitals by the end of the decade.

Layoffs are already in swing. Some 1,200 mental health personnel, including physicians, nurses, therapists, and treatment aides, will be on unemployment lines by the end of February. Grants totaling \$5 million for community mental health facilities are also being eliminated.

The layoffs and hospital shutdowns will force about 1,200 patients out of the state hospitals. Many of them will wind up on the streets, untreated and homeless.

New York state mental health commissioner Richard Surles reported that prior to the cuts the state was only meeting 60 percent of its needs for outpatient programs, and only half the need in New York City and on Long Island.

Harlem National Guardsmen sent to front in Mideast war voice concern at treatment

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

Members of a National Guard unit from Harlem stationed on the front lines in the Arab-Persian Gulf have voiced concerns over their treatment by the U.S. military.

When they shipped out last November, the troops were told they would not be sent to combat areas, reported the February 23 *New York Times*. The paper interviewed the guardsmen and some of their relatives shortly before the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

"We were told before they left that they would be based near a pier or an airport, but this did not turn out to be the case," said Linda Williams, head of a family support group that has lodged complaints over the treatment of the soldiers.

The average age of the guardsmen is 43. "They should not be out in the desert at their age," said Williams. "They are weekend warriors who are not prepared to be in a ground war. It is almost like suicide."

"We have three strikes against us," said Ruben McCann. "We are from the guard, we are from New York, and we are Black."

"We feel like outcasts," said Sgt. Franklin Williams, 50. "I was in the army in 1958. It was a Jim Crow army then. We had a Black water fountain and a Black USO. I get the same feeling being over here. There is no one to speak up for us so we're being kicked around."

"The war is over oil and I'm not going to get any of it or any more money from it," said Sgt. William Pace, a 49-year-old guardsman from the Bronx. "Most of us are too old to be out here crawling around in the mud under fire for this."

Sgt. Mario Rodriguez, a 39-year-old Vietnam veteran who was wounded three times, said, "Since we arrived, it has been just one lie after another. I had it better in Vietnam."

"We are out here fighting two armies," said Cpl. Theo Lewis. "The U.S. Army and the enemy."

U.S. Army officials expressed little sympathy for the unit in interviews with the

Times. "National Guard units, like any other army units, will be positioned wherever they must go to perform their unit mission. If that mission requires going to the front lines, that's where they go," explained Capt. Thomas Nickerson, an army spokesman.

Guardsman McCann, a postal worker from the Bronx who served two years in Vietnam, is a member of the 719th Transport Company. He explained the company suffers from a lack of vehicles. When the company was moved closer to the front, up to four people were squeezed into truck cabs for the 11-hour drive. On arriving at the new loca-

tion, the army took more of the company's vehicles.

"If we wanted to pack up and get out in a hurry, we couldn't. We don't have enough vehicles now to move," said Staff Sgt. Cornelius D. Seon, from Brooklyn.

Seon, in charge of the company's decontamination procedures, explained the unit has no decontamination station. He bought a small weather station with his own money in order to monitor wind speed and direction if chemical agents are in the area. "We are supposed to wing it in a chemical attack," Seon said.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People
March 14, 1966 Price 10c

In an article in the March 6 *New York Times Magazine*, entitled "And Still the Little Men of the Vietcong Keep Coming," Bernard Fall, an authority on Vietnam, describes the difficulties facing the U.S. forces there. He says that despite their enormously greater amount of power, the U.S. is having the same essential difficulties as the French did in crushing the guerrilla movement. To illustrate these difficulties, he writes:

"... if President Johnson were to receive the additional \$12.3 billion authorization for the current fiscal year to prosecute the war in Vietnam, making a total \$15.8 billion for the year, the per capita expenditure for every captured or killed Vietcong in 1965 will have come to a substantial \$351,111. And if one remembers that 45,000 known Vietcong dead or captured no doubt includes a hefty percentage of bystanders caught in the cross-fire, then a figure of a half-million dollars per Vietcong becomes plausible."

THE MILITANT

Official Weekly Organ of the Socialist Workers Party

March 15, 1941

With the signing of the lease-lend law Tuesday, Roosevelt is now in a position to plunge the people of this country into actual warfare any time he decides that such a step is necessary to remove Hitler's threat to American capitalism's domination of the world.

More than the provisions of the law, the amendments that failed to pass offer an indication that Roosevelt is prepared to go the limit.

In spite of his many promises previously that no American soldier would fight on foreign soil, an amendment providing that no American Expeditionary Force would be sent was defeated by Roosevelt's forces.

The same fate was given to an amendment against the use of U.S. warships for convoy purposes.

The defeat of these amendments show which way Roosevelt is heading the country — toward total involvement in the war.



Homeless woman eating on park bench in front of the White House.

Build March 16 antiwar events

The call by the National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East for teach-ins, protests, and other actions on March 16 provides all opponents of the war against Iraq with important opportunities to educate and get out the truth about Washington's intervention in the Middle East.

This call accurately sums up what needs to be done now: take stock of the rapidly changing situation in the Middle East and continue the fight against Washington and its allies' war against the Iraqi people. The vote by 500 participants in the March 1-3 National Network of Campuses Against the War conference in Chicago to endorse by acclamation the March 16 call shows the possibility of making the actions a success.

Opponents of the U.S.-led war drive should make building March 16 activities a central priority. Helping inform other activists — especially on the campuses, organizing united efforts, and building these activities as widely as possible are the best next steps in opposing Washington's course. Unionists, striking workers, GIs and reservists, and others opposed to the war should join with the students to make those events as broad as possible.

Washington and the big-business media would like to convince people in the United States and around the world that the hostilities are over and that the world is at peace. But nothing could be further from the truth.

The U.S. government continues to press and probe for ways to achieve its ultimate objective — a subservient regime in Iraq. The war against the Iraqi people is now being carried out by other means, including the maintenance of brutal economic sanctions and the occupation of Iraqi territory by hundreds of thousands of U.S. and allied troops.

As the facts come out about the mass slaughter carried out by U.S.-led forces against retreating Iraqi troops and the horrifying atrocities resulting from the massive bombing campaign against Iraq, more people will come

to question the U.S. government's aims.

By holding broad educational activities on March 16, opponents of Washington's course in the Middle East can help prepare themselves and others for the next stages in the fight to end the U.S. occupation of Iraq and for lifting the sanctions against the Iraqi people.

To effectively meet this challenge, activists on campuses, workers and unionists — in and out of uniform, and others will find reading, studying, and circulating the following publications invaluable:

- Weekly issues of the *Militant* provide facts and a perspective that help arm readers to counter Washington's lies about the war in the Mideast and see its aims clearly. The *Militant* is also the best source of information about activities and protests, in the United States and worldwide, to oppose the U.S.-led war drive.

- The December 1990 issue of *International Socialist Review* titled "Working-class campaign against the imperialist war drive" outlines the stakes for working people around the world in the Mideast conflict, the changes that make it possible to carry out an effective campaign to mobilize working people and others against the war drive, and the prospects for building the communist movement today.

- The book by Pathfinder, *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*, features statements by the Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, Ricardo Alarcón, and Cuban President Fidel Castro that rebut the pretexts and arguments used by Washington to justify its unilateral acts of aggression against Iraq. It has a useful introduction and chronology, and reprints the first 10 United Nations resolutions adopted on the Gulf crisis.

To get copies contact the Pathfinder Bookstore nearest you listed on page 12 or see one of the ads for these publications elsewhere in this issue.

Free the Birmingham Six!

In spite of the complete unravelling of evidence used in the frame-up of the Birmingham Six, the British government has continued to drag its feet on releasing them. Supporters of democratic rights everywhere should demand immediate freedom for the Six.

Throughout their nearly 17-year-long incarceration, the Six have refused to be broken and have kept fighting for their freedom. Likewise, the Guildford Four, also framed up, fought their 1975 life sentences and as a result won their freedom in 1989. In addition, Birmingham Six defense supporters have continued to fight for support. The recent events have shown that such solidarity work can pay off.

To justify Britain's continued occupation of Northern Ireland it has become the stock-in-trade of the British government to label Irish people as terrorists. Britain's ruling rich hope to undercut the Irish people's just demand for an end to British occupation of the northern part of their country. In addition they seek to divide working people in Britain and Ireland by undermining solidarity between them. Their ultimate target is the working class of both countries.

Any time the employers and their government are able

to turn a layer of working people into a pariah layer they can justify placing them outside the law and solidarity from the labor movement. Such a move can be used to roll back the hard won democratic rights of everyone.

To secure the conviction of the Birmingham Six and Guildford Four, crass methods were employed. These methods included beating confessions from four of the six and inventing confessions in the Guildford Four case.

Exposing these methods, as has been done here, helps to deal a blow against the government's ability to freely use frame-ups, beatings, and false imprisonment as a weapon in their assault on working people.

A victory in the fight to free the Birmingham Six would help to widen the space for working people to practice politics, and would open up more elbowroom to fight the onslaught of the employing class. A victory could increase the confidence of working people that the attacks on democratic and social rights can be pushed back.

To help insure their release, the labor movement should join in a worldwide campaign to demand: Free the Birmingham Six now!

End the occupation of Iraq!

Working people and toilers the world over, youth, and all opponents of the naked U.S. aggression in the Mideast must demand an end to the illegal occupation of Iraq and the economic embargo against that country.

From tents pitched in southern Iraq, Washington and its imperialist allies have declared that their illegal occupation of more than a quarter of the country will not end until the Iraqi regime complies with every stringent and onerous demand placed upon it.

Through its occupation army blessed by the United Nations, Washington seeks to use the embargo against Iraq to tighten the noose around the neck of the people of that country, inflicting untold economic hardship and devastation.

The residents of Baghdad, having suffered 42 days and nights of relentless allied bombing, now confront life-threatening shortages of food and medicine. The basic infrastructure of the city has been reduced to rubble. Men, women, and children are suffering from diseases, some of which are reaching epidemic levels.

Coldly stating he would offer only the crumb of "free advice" to the Iraqi masses, U.S. President George Bush, at the helm of the Washington-led alliance, has made it clear that the aim of the U.S. government is to squeeze the Iraqi people into submission. Washington will try to use the pain and suffering to pressure for a new regime more to its liking in Baghdad.

The installation of such a regime by Washington would be a big setback to working people the world over and to the struggle for national liberation and sovereignty in the region. It would be yet another strike against the struggle

by the Palestinian people fighting for self-determination. Already, Palestinians in Kuwait, many of whom were born there and have lived there for generations, are being subjected to harassment, indiscriminate roundup, abuse, arrest, torture, and even murder.

A victory for the U.S. government in the Mideast would strengthen the hand of the class it represents at home — the employers — against working people, union fighters, and working farmers.

In their drive to press the brutal war against Iraq, the U.S. rulers and their international band of moneygrubbers lie outright to millions of working people through the media, government officials, and other capitalist institutions — all of which they dominate. They seek to convince working people that they are part of a "we" — along with the employers, the government, its armed forces, and the twin capitalist political parties — standing against "them" — the Iraqi people.

But this is a lie. The Iraqi workers and peasants share common exploitation, common enemies, and common interests with working people throughout the world and deserve their solidarity. The ruling rich and their imperialist governments are out to protect *their* interests in the Mideast the same way they organize to protect *their* interests at home, against union activists, working farmers, and working people as a whole.

In the face of the onslaught confronting the Iraqi people, workers, rural toilers, youth, and others opposed to the imperialist war drive should demand the immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces from Iraq, the lifting of the brutal embargo, and that the troops be brought home now!

Youth ferment spurs interest in 'Militant'

BY DOUG JENNESS

With the cease-fire in the Middle East, a new stage has been opened in the imperialist war drive against Iraq. Washington and London are still pressing hard to achieve the goal they set out on last summer — to create an Iraq that is totally subordinate to U.S. imperialism. They aim to substantially change the relationship of forces in their favor in the Middle East — an objective they've had ever since massive revolutionary mobilizations overthrew the monarchy in Iran in 1979.

Most people are still trying to figure out what Washington's real objectives are in this conflict. The most critical questioning is taking place among a layer of young people who turned out in the tens of thousands for antiwar protests in January and February. They are suspicious of Washing-

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

ton's stated intentions in the Middle East, abhor the brutality of U.S.-Anglo air and artillery attacks that slaughtered tens of thousands of Iraqis, and resent the complicity of the press in trying to keep the lid on the truth.

When scores of *Militant* supporters fanned out to college campuses and high schools on February 21 to participate in of nationally coordinated student protests, they found a thirst for political discussion and for explanations. Youth want to know why the war drive began, its evolution, and where it fits into other things in capitalist society they have come to hate and fight — from racial discrimination to attacks on abortion rights.

The response is reflected in the fact that 225 new subscribers will be getting the *Militant* this week as part of a special six-week offer for \$5 that was available only on February 21. Actually, this isn't the final tally, because telephone reports indicate that more subscriptions from sales on that day are on their way from New York and Newark. Also, we're still getting responses from individuals, who picked up one of the hundreds of special subscription blanks that were distributed at antiwar protests on February 21.

The biggest number of six-week subscriptions came from supporters in Los Angeles. They sent in 54. As well, new readers came from Moorhead, Minnesota; Jackson, Missouri; Lubbock, Texas, and many of the main metropolitan areas. Although most were students, there were a sprinkling of unionists, including four members of the International Association of Machinists in Atlanta.

Each new subscriber also received a copy of a special *International Socialist Review* supplement that features the article, "Working-class campaign against the imperialist war drive," by Socialist Workers Party national secretary Jack Barnes.

This supplement was published in December and is still very relevant. In fact, the points made about Washington's reactionary course, its objectives, and the problems it faces in fully achieving these goals are even clearer today in light of what has happened in the past couple of months. Even if you read it back in December, you should reread it now.

Six weeks of the *Militant* and the *ISR* supplement will be a giant help to those who are seriously attempting to gain a better understanding of and fight against the U.S.-led war drive in the Mideast. If you're one of these new subscribers and you like what you've read, I strongly urge you to renew. You're not going to find the kind of coverage and clarity on the process now unfolding in the Mideast in any other publication.

Even if you don't agree with many things in the *Militant*, don't fully understand or are not sure about them, you should renew to give us a chance to show what you would be missing.

In addition to the 225 who subscribed on February 21, there are another 295 readers who have signed up for new 12-week subscriptions since January 1. Their subscriptions will begin running out at the end of this month, and if you are one of them all the same reasons hold for why you should extend your subscription.

Last fall supporters conducted a subscription campaign that won 3,732 new *Militant* readers. These subscriptions have been expiring for the past few weeks and so far 381 have signed up to continue their subscriptions. That's an average of six per day since January 1. Of those 195 renewed in response to one of four renewal letters from our circulation director.

During the last two weeks of February our supporters in many cities called or visited new subscribers urging them to renew. An additional 121 have signed up, an average of eight per day. These results are mostly from the United States. Supporters in Canada have also mapped out a renewal effort for the first two weeks of March.

If supporters have reports on particularly good experiences in convincing readers to extend their subscriptions or suggestions on how we can carry out this work more effectively, please send them to us.

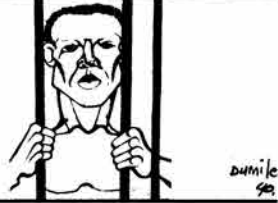
Inmates at Arizona prison hold Gulf war forum

BY MIKE SHUR

PHOENIX — More than 50 prisoners participated in a discussion of the U.S. war in the Mideast at the Federal Correction Institution here February 4. The meeting was sponsored by the African Cultural Workshop, a prisoner's organization. Representatives of the Hawaiian Club, Mexican Club, and Native American Club at the prison also attended.

Balagoon Moyenda, a leader of the African Cultural Workshop, opened the event. "Tonight's meeting is to

BEHIND PRISON WALLS



discuss the U.S. imperialist war in the Gulf — the truth about this war, not what's on CNN [Cable News Network]," he said. Moyenda pointed out that the sponsors of the forum "are not just people who want to see things change, but are those who want to act together to change society to a place where this kind of exploitation will end."

There are people with many different views in attendance, Moyenda noted. "In the discussion it is OK to disagree, but not OK to be disagreeable."

He then introduced Tom Leonard, a long-time trade union member and leader of the Socialist Workers Party, who then gave the main presentation.

Leonard reported on the brutal bombing campaign against the Iraqi people, waged by the U.S. and British governments. He explained why the Bush administration's claim that their "war is to liberate Kuwait" is a lie.

Leonard also reviewed how the U.S. government's control and domination of the Middle East and its resources have been eroded due to the struggles of the workers and peasants in the region. The imperialists in Washington have been looking for an opportunity to reverse that situation, he noted.

When the Iraqi government, pursuing its own capitalist interests, invaded Kuwait, it gave Washington the pretext it

needed. Leonard showed how the war was motivated by the decline of U.S. imperialism's economic and political power over the past three decades. He also explained how Washington's war in the Arab-Persian Gulf is tied to its war on workers and farmers in the United States today.

"The U.S. government's goal is to set up a protectorate in Iraq to advance its interests in the Gulf. But the war has already set in motion big events around the world," Leonard told the prisoners. "Yesterday 300,000 marched in Morocco against that government's participation in the war on the side of the U.S.-led coalition. In Pakistan protests have also been held, pressing the government there to withdraw its troops."

"Here in the United States, after large demonstrations in Washington and San Francisco," the socialist leader added, "1,500 students met and called for massive protests on the college campuses and high schools on February 21, the anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X."

In the ensuing discussion, participants had comments that brought out further points about the imperialist war. One person said that before the Iraqi invasion, "Many countries in the area and many countries like the United States knew of the negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait, and knew that Iraq was poised to strike but did nothing."

Another prisoner said that every vote in the United Nations backing U.S. policy "was a vote that was bought."

The head of the Mexican Club said that the U.S. invasion of Panama was the same type of aggression as in the Arab-Persian Gulf.

Another participant asked, "If it's true that the United States imported only five percent of its oil from the Mideast, how can you say it's a war about oil?"

Leonard answered that while the United States imports only five percent of its oil from the Gulf, the overwhelming majority of oil from the region is bought up by a handful of giant oil monopolies and sold at a huge profit to the rest of the world.

It is the right to control this oil, and its exploitation, that is at the heart of the war, he said.

Another prisoner said, "The United States attacked Iraq because it is the only power in the Mideast that can stop Israel."

Leonard disagreed. "I think Hussein's linking the invasion of Kuwait to the struggle for a Palestinian homeland,

and the launching of missiles at Israel is wrong. The Palestinian people have been waging a tremendous fight through their *intifada* and are winning world support to their cause. Hussein's actions are undercutting those advances," he said.

A number of questions were raised about the economic and social crisis in the Soviet Union and the "failure" of socialism. A member of the Hawaiian Club, a former worker at Bethlehem Steel, said, "I remember when labor was strong, and I've seen it get weaker and capitalism get stronger. Then I hear on television that socialism is no good. You don't know what to believe."

"The Kremlin is embracing Washington's war in the Gulf," Leonard noted. "This is because the government in the Soviet Union has been counterrevolutionary since the late 1920s when Stalin led the bureaucrats in seizing power from the workers and peasants. It has not advanced socialism in all those years, but has instead driven workers from politics."

"The cold war, started after World War II by the U.S. government, was an attempt to contain the workers states and control further revolts by workers by making deals with the Kremlin, since Washington was not strong enough to overthrow the workers states."

"Today, because of their revolts against the Stalinist dictatorships, workers and farmers in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union have a chance at being part of politics and joining in the struggles of their fellow workers around the world," Leonard concluded.

One person asked about the new world order that Bush claims to be putting together. "The world order that Bush is talking about is the old order that came out of World War II," Leonard said. "It was a world dominated economically and politically by U.S. imperialism. That world order is coming apart and that is what they are trying to keep together with the war."

African Cultural Workshop leader Moyenda ended the meeting by urging the audience to read books published by Pathfinder displayed at the meeting — especially *Blacks in America's Wars*; *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast*; *In Defense of Socialism*; and *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*. He also urged everyone to read the *International Socialist Review* with the article "Working-class campaign against imperialist war drive."

LETTERS

'Support our troops'

Excluding "Support our troops" from antiwar slogans as suggested by the *Militant* is, I believe, a mistake. When coupled with "Bring them home now," there is no mistaking whose side we are on — the workers in and out of uniform, or the rulers who sent them there to kill and be killed for objectives that are completely in opposition to the interests of workers at home and throughout the world.

During the Vietnam War, we in the antiwar movement fought hard for this slogan against those who insisted that soldiers over there were "murderers" who should have refused to go.

Of course they aren't "our" troops, but these soldiers are workers who joined up, many for economic reasons. In order to influence them, we must cut across the right-wing slogans depicting the antiwar movement as hostile to them.

"Support our (or the) troops, Bring them home now" will explain clearly to soldiers and their families that the only way to support them is to join the antiwar protests and bring the troops home now.

Bea Bryant
Blenheim, Ontario
Canada

Cultural obliteration

I am totally horrified by the daily acts of incredible bestiality and savagery inflicted on the Iraqi People. We are running a close second to Nazi Germany in the thirties and early forties and threatening to take over 1st place in the "gruesome Olympics."

Only a complete dolt can fail to understand the carnage and suffering resulting from our "precise bombing," "surgical strikes," and "smart bombs."

This land of the "Arabian Nights," once called Mesopotamia, was the site of great civilizations such as Babylonia and Assyria. Biblical scholars believe the Garden of Eden lay in southern Mesopotamia. The numerous mosques of Iraq con-



tain thousands of articles relating to these cultures that are invaluable and irreplaceable. I wonder how many of these treasures are buried in the rubble resulting from our thousands of "bombing sorties."

I read and hear nothing in our print media or on TV or radio about this potentially disgraceful obliteration of the world's culture. Please speak to this, if you will.

Sam Lesser
Danbury, Connecticut

Better maps of Iraq

I would like to suggest that the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* publish more detailed maps of the Middle East and Iraq.

I've noticed over the last few months that ruling-class periodicals uniformly publish maps which show only the major cities, occasionally major highways. Sometimes the Tigris and Euphrates rivers pop into view, very rarely the many lakes or the mountainous north of Iraq. The overall effect of this is to further dehumanize the Iraqi people and promote political ignorance of the area.

Iraq is not one flat, featureless, mostly uninhabited desert. Maps

which show the political boundaries and major cities have a limited use; they are for quick reference to place a location in its geographical context. Maps which show more detail, farmland, etc., can be more useful politically.

Raúl González
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Baby-food factory

The U.S. war machine propaganda has been prominent on New Zealand TV and in the press, attempting to persuade viewers and readers of its authenticity. One item televised on January 25 had its critics, however.

The United States had just bombed a baby-food factory in Baghdad. The U.S. military said it was a biological weapons plant. On the same news item this was refuted by a technician who had worked there, and two members of the Dairy Board, a company that markets most New Zealand dairy products in New Zealand and overseas.

The item seems to have been hushed up, as the only allusion to it was in the *Christchurch Press* January 28 when the New Zealand am-

bassador to Iraq, John Clark, who left Iraq in December, said he could not imagine the plant being used as a biological weapons plant as charged by the U.S. military.

Mervyl Morrison
Auckland, New Zealand

U.S. terrorism

There can be no doubt now that the U.S. government is indulging in acts of terrorism against the people of Iraq. A systematic military campaign is under way to destroy Iraq as a nation and a modern state.

For 27 days the most powerful air force in the world has been pounding a Third World country around the clock. This is probably the greatest atrocity committed in the post-World War II era.

We, the Muslims, condemn U.S. aggression against Iraq. All decent people must urge the U.S. to withdraw from the Middle East. The Arab and Muslim people can and will shape their own future.

If the U.S. continues its occupation of the Middle East, including its occupation-by-surrogate of Palestine, the Arab/Muslim world will teach the U.S. the same lesson which

the Afghans taught the USSR: If you push the Muslims beyond a certain level, there will be grassroots resistance 'til you are forced to pack your bags and leave as the Soviets did. From Morocco to Malaysia, the Muslim masses are saying unitedly: U.S. out of the Middle East.
Islamic People's Movement
Baltimore, Maryland

'Frontline' on Cuba

The United States of America, the most drugged-up nation in the world, has persistently over the years failing to transfer this image to neighbor Socialist Cuba. On February 5, 1991, once again this millstone was loaded into "Frontline's" propaganda gun on "Public Broadcasting" and aimed at no less than Fidel Castro himself. However, the U.S. media has failed once again.

An hour of tortuous, farfetched linkage was thrown at an unsuspecting audience. To believe the pap, the viewers would have to believe that Chief Thug George Bush's destruction of Iraq (another in a long string of Third World countries) is to save international law and his self-proclaimed "New World Order," and perhaps some do.

Suffice it to say, 30 years of a U.S. government-imposed ban against the U.S. public traveling to Cuba (citizens of every other country can) has not by itself done the complete job of softening up public opinion for an invasion of Cuba.

I assert that if the U.S. public was allowed by its government to travel to Cuba, it would see for itself that the expulsion of the mafia by Fidel northward into the stables of the C.I.A. has solved the drug problem for Cuban society.

Harry Nier
Denver, Colorado

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.

North American trade talks set; top union officials oppose move

BY ROBERT SIMMS

MONTRÉAL — The governments of Mexico, the United States, and Canada announced February 5 they will soon begin joint negotiations to establish a North American trading bloc. Under the guise of concern for working people in Mexico, top labor officials in the United States and Canada have strongly opposed such a trade agreement.

Negotiations between the three governments are expected to begin this summer after U.S. President George Bush gets a go-ahead from the U.S. Congress.

A trade agreement between the U.S. and Canadian governments has already gone into effect. It eliminates tariffs and other barriers to trade on nearly all goods and services over a 10-year period, as well as lifting limits on investment. Media reports indicate that a similar plan is envisioned in the new negotiations.

Bush called the move "a dramatic first step toward the realization of a hemispheric free-trade zone, stretching from Point Barrow in Alaska to the Straits of Magellan" at the southern tip of Latin America.

In the talks with officials in Mexico, the U.S. ruling rich seek to batter down barriers to penetration of U.S. capital and commodities. Ottawa and Washington see this as a foot in the door to establishing greater access to and domination of labor and raw materials throughout the region.

The U.S.-Mexico-Canada initiative comes in the wake of a temporary suspension last December of trade talks on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). GATT is a multilateral agreement governing rules of world trade. More than 100 capitalist countries subscribe to it.

Several rounds of GATT talks since World War II have lowered trade barriers, benefiting the world's strongest imperialist economies. U.S. imperialism's absolute economic power relative to any of its rivals makes it the biggest force for eliminating many of the current blocks to the free flow of U.S. capital and commodities.

Intensifying interimperialist competition has led to growing trade friction, especially among the major imperialist powers. The U.S. government threatened protectionist measures against its rivals in Europe and Japan following the breakdown in GATT negotiations.

For U.S. and Canadian capitalists, a North American trading bloc would strengthen their competitive position relative to the Japanese and maximize the weakening of the European Community.

Initially the negotiations did not include the Canadian government. Officials in all three countries say Ottawa's full backing of Washington's war against the Iraqi people helped push aside U.S. and Mexican government hesitations about bringing Canada into the talks.

Conditions in Mexico

The capitalist class in Mexico is driven to open up the market there because of the country's deep economic crisis. Economic growth has declined to 0.4 percent annually.

The minimum wage fell by more than 50 percent between 1982 and 1988, taking inflation into account. Official unemployment skyrocketed from 1 million workers to more than 4.5 million — 17.6 percent of the working population — from 1982 to 1987.

One of the main culprits behind the harsh austerity measures carried out by the Mexican government in the 1980s is the country's foreign debt. In 1989 the amount owed to imperialist banks and governments hit \$107 billion. Despite a much-touted U.S.-sponsored debt reduction plan, the amount Mexico owes has increased and debt servicing has declined very little.

One sector of the Mexican economy that



Factory in Matamoros, Mexico, in the "free trade zone" on the U.S.-Mexico border. The minimum wage is 68 cents an hour, but many are paid less.

has grown are the factories known as *maquiladoras*. These are mostly located in "free trade zones" along the Mexico-U.S. border. There are now more than 1,600 such firms employing some 450,000 workers.

Under an agreement with the Mexican government, foreign companies can set up factories, bring machinery and raw materials duty-free into Mexico, exploit Mexican labor for assembly, and then export the product back to the United States with a reduced customs duty.

Most workers in these factories earn only the minimum wage of 68 cents an hour, or less. Environmental pollution is rampant, and working and living conditions are so bad that many factories experience turnover rates of 10 percent a month or more.

Labor officials oppose trade talks

The AFL-CIO has made opposition to the proposed free-trade deal its top legislative priority for 1991. Along with its counterpart in Canada, the labor federation claims its concerns about the low wages and poor working conditions of Mexican workers are the central reason it opposes the pact.

Rather than organizing solidarity and backing for struggles of workers in Mexico, the labor tops seek to protect their dues base by defending and promoting protectionist measures. While cynically expressing concern for the conditions of the Mexican working class, these officials have refused to even organize a fight against the employers' assaults on the unions, rights, and standard of living of workers in both the United States and Canada.

Candice Johnson, spokesperson for the 14-million-member AFL-CIO, was quoted in the *Toronto Globe and Mail* as saying the federation considers "the agreement an economic and social disaster for workers on both sides of the border." She argued that the Mexican government has ruled out negotiating on such questions as labor standards and environmental protection.

The AFL-CIO is participating in the Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras, a grouping of mostly U.S.-based labor, church, and environmental organizations that aims to pressure maquiladora companies to raise wages, improve working conditions, and impose environmental regulation.

Thomas Donahue, secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO, told the *Globe and Mail* that the federation's participation in the coalition is unrelated to its opposition to the U.S.-Canada-Mexico talks.

"Our multinational companies have

moved their production to Mexico," he said, "to turn the terrible poverty of Mexico to their advantage."

The Canadian Labour Congress, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, and other major labor organizations in Canada have all denounced the proposed pact as well.

Deborah Bourque, third vice-president of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, stated

Charleston mayoral candidate sparks debate on Mideast war

BY ILONA GERSH

CHARLESTON, West Virginia — Linda Joyce, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Charleston, sparked a lively debate on the U.S. war against the people of Iraq, the capitalist economic crisis, and other topics when she appeared on a radio talk show in Charleston February 20. The radio station is hosting call-in programs for all of the mayoral candidates. Joyce is a member of the International Association of Machinists Local 298 at Union Carbide Construction.

"Not one cent, or one soldier, should go toward the war in the Mideast," said Joyce. "This war is in the interests of the big oil companies, not working people. The billions of dollars being spent on the war should be spent on a massive public works program to build needed roads, housing, hospitals, and schools."

Many callers responded to Joyce's stand against the war. The majority supported U.S. troops in the Mideast, but were interested in discussing the war with someone who opposed it.

A Vietnam veteran called to explain that the facts are never as simple as the U.S. government portrays them. Most Vietnamese he talked to when he was stationed there, he said, were not glad to see U.S. troops in their country. They just wanted to be left alone, he said.

A policeman called to ask Joyce what she would do to fight crime if she were elected. The socialist candidate rejected the claim that cops defend working people. Instead, she said, they defend the rights and prerogatives of big-business. "Working people are the only ones who will defend the interests of the majority," Joyce stated.

A few days later a man came in to the campaign headquarters to express his support.

she opposes the deal because it will "cause job losses for Canadians, but, just as importantly, because we've seen how limited free trade with the United States in the form of the maquiladoras is destroying the lives of Mexican workers."

Canadian Auto Workers President Robert White says the move toward a trading bloc is "about corporations having the freedom to seek out cheap Mexican labor, it is about ratcheting down our social programs, it is about lowering our wages and living standards."

'Another vacuum cleaner'

When the three governments announced their agreement to negotiate a deal, White stated, "There's no way we can compete with wages of less than a dollar an hour. It's just going to mean another vacuum cleaner taking jobs from Canada."

As during the U.S.-Canada trade talks, labor officials here have pursued a chauvinist, Canadian nationalist course in their opposition to the new talks.

Tony Clarke, spokesperson for Pro-Canada, the umbrella group of unions and others opposed to the pact, also denounced Ottawa's decision to join the talks.

"American business people have been saying it for years — under a North American free-trade agreement, U.S. capital would combine with Canada's natural resources and Mexico's cheap labor to take on European and Asian competition in the global market," he told the *Financial Post*. "In this scenario, Canada's industrial development is written off completely," he claimed.

He said he learned first-hand whose side the cops are on when he was brutally beaten in a rebellion by Blacks in Cleveland in the 1960s.

Joyce heads a socialist ticket that includes Mary Nell Bockman and Mark Wyatt for city council. People who support the right of working-class candidates to be on the ballot, she explained, could get in touch with the campaign and help the candidates win ballot status. Ballot laws in West Virginia make it very hard for anyone except Democrats and Republicans to win a spot on the ticket, said Joyce. No less than eight separate lawsuits have been filed against the state's unconstitutional restrictions in recent years.

The laws in the city of Charleston are somewhat less restrictive, however. Instead of the thousands of signatures of registered voters required for statewide offices, only 134 names are required for candidates seeking the office of mayor. As in the statewide petition campaigns, however, when voters sign the mayoral petition the law says they cannot vote in the primary elections for the Democratic or Republican parties.

Supporters are gathering those signatures now — at shopping centers, plant gates, door-to-door in working-class neighborhoods, and at political and cultural events.

City regulations also require a filing fee of \$600 for the mayoral candidates, and \$34.50 for each at-large city council candidate. Joyce is appealing to campaign supporters to help pay the onerous fee by contributing to the campaign. "A successful fight to get on the ballot in this election will help win space for working-class candidates in the elections throughout the state of West Virginia," said Joyce.

Donations can be sent to: Socialist Workers Campaign, P.O. Box 5398, Charleston, West Virginia, 25361.