

Washington alliance continues brutalization of Iraqi people



Photo taken from video of Los Angeles police beating Rodney King on March 3

Baker's Mideast trip deepens economic aggression, military threat against Iraq

BY SETH GALINSKY

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker began a 10-day trip to the Mideast March 7 with the aim of pursuing Washington's goal of substantially reorganizing class and state relations in the region for the benefit of imperialism.

The trip came after a policy address to a joint session of Congress by U.S. President George Bush on March 6. In the speech Bush outlined U.S. imperialism's continued drive to shift the relationship of forces in the Mideast to its favor, set back the struggles of working people in the region, and continue a major U.S. military presence in the Arab-Persian Gulf.

Bush also let Congress know that the war

against the Iraqi people had come up short of Washington's goal: the establishment of a protectorate in Baghdad.

Given Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's acceptance of a series of U.S. demands, Washington for now has little handle left with which to restart the war or justify a long-term occupation of Kuwait. The brutal economic blockade and military pressures against the Iraqi people continue, though.

Bush claimed in his speech that U.S. forces "went halfway around the world to do what is moral and just and right." The truth of the brutality of U.S. imperialism and what Washington considers "moral and just and right" can be seen in the devastation brought upon the Iraqi people during the war.

Between 85-100,000 Iraqi soldiers were killed during the six-week bombing and the four-day invasion of Iraq. As the troops were withdrawing from positions in Iraq and Kuwait, Washington ordered merciless bombing of the retreating forces.

In the March 10 *New York Times*, reporter Chris Hedges wrote about his trip to the southern Iraqi city of Basra. There, he went "past the carnage left behind by the tons of ordnance dropped by allied planes during the Persian Gulf war."

On the outskirts of the city Hedges began to see "the shattered remains of houses and buildings stood in jagged rows, monuments to the force of the allied bombing. Boats in southern Iraq's swamps, blown to pieces, were little more than twisted hunks of metal," he wrote. "Everyone moved as if encumbered by glue."

'Our country is no more'

"There is nothing left of my country," an Iraqi doctor told Hedges. "America has been very brutal. Your great American soldiers can go home to their families now," the doctor said. "They can tell them they have devastated our lives and the lives of our children. Our country is no more."

The doctor estimated some 1,000 civilians died from the allied bombing in Basra alone.

Washington continues its war drive against Iraq in the form of an occupation army in the

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Savage beating caught on videotape exposes racism of Los Angeles cops

BY ELIZABETH STONE

LOS ANGELES — The cop beating of a Black motorist, captured on videotape by an amateur photographer, further exposes the racism and brutality practiced by the Los Angeles police against this

city's working people.

On March 3 Los Angeles cops stopped Rodney King, a 25-year-old construction worker. They ordered him to get out of his car and made him lay face down on the pavement. Several of the dozen cops pres-

ent repeatedly beat and kicked him. King reportedly received at least 40 blows from the attack.

When he was approached by the cops, "they already had their guns out," King said later. "They walked over, they handcuffed me, and tied me and then they shocked me with some kind of device." The cops then struck King across the face and began to beat him, he said.

"My ankles, they beat where it hurt in my ankles. They beat my whole body where it hurt. You know how it feels when you get your ankles or your knees hit in football? It hurts. It hurts real bad," King said. "I was scared for my life, so I lay down real calmly and took it like a man." King's ankle is now in a cast. His doctor reports he has permanent damage to one eye.

In an attempt to cover up the incident, the cops accused King of failing to pull over after being caught speeding and said King tried to

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March 16 teach-ins on Mideast crisis are building across the United States

BY PETER THIERJUNG

March 16 teach-ins and other educational events are being organized in at least 22 states and more than 40 cities to demand an end to the U.S. occupation of Iraq and the withdrawal of foreign troops from the country.

"Although local antiwar actions fell off in most areas after the war ended we have been getting a lot of calls from people who want to do something," said Angela Lariscy, a leader of the National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East.

"Most events planned are oriented toward education and telling the truth about what has happened," Lariscy said in a phone interview from the coalition's Washington, D.C., office. "The activities will help draw attention to the massive destruction and loss

of human life caused by the U.S. bombing and invasion of Iraq."

The rising health crisis resulting from the blockade and destruction in Iraq, the environmental disaster, why activists should press demands to bring the troops home now, what Washington wanted to achieve through the war, and the effectiveness of antiwar protests are the kinds of questions and issues that many are planning to discuss at the events, Lariscy said.

The youth activist added that spring break schedules on some campuses have not deterred activists from organizing events before and after March 16. High school students are very much a part of the activities, Lariscy reported. In Detroit, for example, four area

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Cuban author discusses successful European tour

BY IRENE SOSA

MADRID, Spain — On February 12, Cuban economist and author Carlos Tablada returned to Cuba after a successful speaking tour in Europe.

Tablada is the author of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*, published in English by Pathfinder. He visited 10 countries during his four-month tour. The Cuban author previously toured the United States, Latin America, and Canada.

In a January 20 interview here, Tablada reviewed his European tour and some of the questions discussed with his audiences.

"In my talks I focused on the current economic situation in Cuba, relations between Cuba and the United States, and relations between the United States and Latin America," Tablada said.

The situation in the Mideast, he continued, "comes up everywhere I speak."

"And because my visit to Spain coincided with the outbreak of the war, people here have been more insistent in taking it up," he added.

Huge demonstrations against the war took place throughout Spain when the U.S.-led war against the people of Iraq was launched.

"Because of my busy schedule, I have only had the chance to participate in one demonstration," Tablada said. "But I have spoken to many people who say some of the demonstrations have been 100,000 or more."

The media here has given little coverage to the antiwar actions, said the Cuban author, "but from what little there has been on television you can see that many young people are participating, youth who are 13, 14, 15, 16, or 20 years of age. This is very important because it shows what is possible."

"For those who are pessimistic, who believe there can be no type of alternative movement to the suffocating ideology and to the system of Western consumerism, these demonstrations show that there are real possibilities if there is a just cause and if a channel is found through which youth can express themselves."

"What is taking place in the Mideast today is a crusade by the rich countries against the poor countries," said the Cuban author.

Since the 1960s, Tablada said, "Cuban President Fidel Castro has been pointing out that peaceful coexistence only among the big powers made no sense, that it had to be among the big and small countries as well. Today we are seeing that he was right. First came the U.S. invasion of Panama, and now Iraq."

Following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Cuba sent a high-level governmental delegation to Iraq to meet with the Iraqi government and "discuss our position with them," said

Tablada. "As you know, from the very beginning Cuba has condemned the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq."

But the war Washington and its allies are carrying out against the people of Iraq is a "crime against humanity," said the Cuban author.

"While in Iraq, the Cuban delegation also met with the Cuban volunteer medical personnel stationed there to discuss with them the prospects for the war we were all convinced was on the horizon," Tablada explained.

The 200 Cuban doctors and nurses who are in Iraq, Tablada said, "reached the conclusion that if a war broke out, regardless of the risk to their lives, it would be more necessary for them to stay there because of the effects the war would have on the civilian population."

"So our doctors are there today in the ruins of Baghdad, resisting the brutal bombings."

Universities at center of tour

"The center of my tour have been the universities," said Tablada. "I visited more than 40 universities, among them some of the best known internationally."

"In Britain, for example, I spoke at the London School of Economics, at Oxford University, and at many others. In many instances I gave seminars and classes."

Tablada's first stop in Spain was in Barcelona, Catalonia, where he gave a class at the University of Barcelona. "I visited most of the Catalán region," he said. "There I also met with farmers, visited industrial centers, and met with several municipal elected officials."

In Madrid the Cuban author gave a class at the Complutensian University and a class to the Spanish Committee for Latin American Studies. "I also had 11 meetings with non-governmental organizations, with solidarity and friendship groups with Latin America, and with trade unionists."

After his visit to Madrid, Tablada toured the Andalucía region. "There I visited Marinaleda, a town of some 2,000 people, mainly farm workers who have been waging a struggle for land since the 1970s," he said. "This is a very interesting community because they have built day-care centers, schools, and other projects through volunteer labor. The streets are named after famous revolutionaries, like Che Guevara."

Andalucía is one of the regions of Spain where there is a large number of unemployed. "From what the farm workers told me, there never was an agrarian reform in the region and there are big stretches of idle lands in the hands of big landowners," said the Cuban author.

"The prospects for youth are especially

bleak," he added.

One of the things that impressed Tablada most on his European tour was the situation facing youth. "For example," he said, "in the West European countries I visited, as well as in the United States, the tendency is to push young people more and more out of society. They try to neutralize that characteristic that is so typical of youth, of fighting for noble causes, of seeking new ideas, of searching for new roads to follow. They neutralize them through drugs, through pornography, individualism, and consumerism."

On the other hand, Tablada said, in Cuba the main social force is the youth. "Not only those born right after the revolution, but those in their teens today are the pillar of the process of rectification," he said. "You can tell it in the streets, in the workplaces, and in the political and social life of the country."

The process of rectification, Tablada explained, is a means for Cubans to take on "the battle for the economic development of the country" and to increase the people's participation in the decision-making process.

"In Spain, as in other countries I have visited, I have found there exists a great deal of disinformation about what is happening in Cuba today," Tablada said. The major media repeat the same lies about Cuba that the press in the United States does, he said.

"They don't seem to get tired of repeating that Cuba is more politically and economically isolated," Tablada noted. "But the truth is just the opposite."

Because of the big changes taking place in the world, he said, Cuba today is less isolated than it was at the beginning of the revolution. "For example," Tablada said, "back in October of last year, the U.S. Congress passed a bill stating the United States would stop buying products from countries that traded with Cuba and banning U.S. subsidiaries abroad from trading with Cuba as well. What came of it?"

"Because of the protest by governments even in countries such as Canada and Britain, and countries like Brazil, U.S. President George Bush had to allow the bill to remain unsigned," he said.

Last November the 8th International Commerce and Industry Fair in Havana, "the largest such fair in Latin America," took



Young people in Spain protesting Mideast war

place, explained Tablada. "There were more than 1,000 businessmen there representing 621 Western companies."

In 1989 trade between Cuba and Latin America increased by 18.9 percent from the year before, he continued. "Trade with Western Europe and Canada continues to increase as well."

On the other hand, because of the crisis faced by the Soviet and East European regimes, trade relations between these countries and Cuba has decreased. "In 1985, for example, 89 percent of our trade was with the Soviet Union and the East European countries," Tablada said. "Right now it has been reduced to 70 percent. Our trade with Eastern Europe has practically disappeared. Yet Cuba has continued to develop economically."

The cut in trade with the Soviet Union has had a big impact on the Cuban economy, Tablada said, posing a very big challenge.

The Soviet government did not live up to the oil contracts it signed with Cuba, said the Cuban author. "Last year we received 3 million fewer tons of oil than we expected from the Soviet Union," he said. "But despite that, in 1990 Cuba experienced no blackouts. We have reduced the consumption of oil by 50 percent in the state sector, 30 percent in the private sector, and we have asked the Cuban people to cut back 10 percent in personal oil consumption."

The results have been very good, Tablada said. "The civilian population reduced oil consumption by 10.8 percent."

While in Spain Tablada spoke at more than 60 meetings, and was interviewed by 7 newspapers, 1 TV station, and 12 radio stations. The Cuban author concluded his tour with a stop in Greece, where he spoke in several cities.



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Latest El Salvador negotiations end

FMLN guerrilla leader says government must end 'warlike' position

BY LUIS MADRID

The U.S.-backed government of El Salvador continues to stall United Nations-sponsored negotiations with the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN). The talks are aimed at bringing to an end the more than a decade-long civil war in El Salvador.

The current series of negotiations began last April in Geneva, Switzerland, under the auspices of Alvaro de Soto, UN assistant secretary general. The latest round of talks were held in Costa Rica and ended February 21 without achieving any political agreement toward ending the war that has taken more than 75,000 lives since 1979. In the same period, the United States has given a series of regimes more than \$4 billion to fight the war. El Salvador has 5.5 million inhabitants.

The FMLN is a coalition of five organizations that have led the struggle against successive U.S.-backed regimes since the late 1970s.

The Salvadoran government has consistently rejected any offers or demands by the FMLN to advance toward a negotiated solution of the war.

In the negotiations the FMLN has pressed for the prosecution of military officials responsible for human rights violations, the reorganization and purge of the army, the dissolution of death squads, and reforms in the judicial system and the constitution.

In a radio announcement February 2, Defense Minister General René Emilio Ponce said that several counterinsurgency battalions assigned to the public security forces had already been assimilated by the army. The move was part of adapting the armed forces for when they return to their former civilian peacetime duties, Ponce said.

The Salvadoran Army is made up of some 55,000 soldiers. At an earlier round of talks the government had agreed in principle to bring the number down to 15,000, but more recently offered a reduction of only 5 percent.

In his announcement Ponce warned that the existence of the armed forces is not negotiable, and that the abolition of the 12,000-man paramilitary force will take place only when the insurgency is over.

The war in the Mideast

The U.S. war in the Arab-Persian Gulf has encouraged the Salvadoran government's intransigence in the negotiations.

In an interview following the Costa Rica talks, FMLN Commander Joaquín Villalobos expressed concern about potential "setbacks" to the peace negotiations as a result of the U.S. aggression in the Gulf. It "could have revived expectations about a military solution" on the part of the Salvadoran regime, Villalobos was quoted as saying by the Mexican news agency Notimex.

On January 21 in San Salvador, several peasant groups held a march against the U.S. war in the Gulf. The action ended with a rally in front of the U.S. embassy. Marco Tulio Lima, a leader of the National Unity of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS), said at the



Militant/Steven Fuchs
Salvadoran soldiers standing guard on street near union headquarters. Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front is demanding that army officers be prosecuted for human rights violations and that the army be purged and reorganized.

event that the Gulf war "is a grave concern for the country because the United States' warmongering attitude affects [Salvadoran] President Alfredo Cristiani," Notimex reported. This could make Cristiani "think that what is being done in Iraq can also be done in El Salvador," Lima added.

While pressing on the negotiations, the FMLN has successfully maintained a campaign to strike key government targets over the last months.

On February 18, for example, the rebels attacked the Ministry of Defense in San Salvador with rocket propelled grenade-launchers.

The capital's upper-class suburb of Escalón was held by the FMLN for 10 hours on February 26. In another attack 17 government soldiers died and 16 were wounded during a guerrilla assault on the country's main hydroelectric plant on March 1.

Villalobos said that "any setbacks that the government may impose [on the negotiations] will only be temporary." But, he added, "the government must correct its warlike position."

Increase in right-wing violence

The stalling of the negotiations comes in the midst of a relative increase of rightist paramilitary attacks.

Eight women and seven men were murdered in the village of El Zapote on January 21, some three miles north of the capital San Salvador. Denying any involvement by the military in the massacre, Cristiani attributed

the deaths to "common criminals." It was later determined that three former members of the military were involved in the murders, reportedly carried out because of the peasants' collaboration with the FMLN guerrilla forces.

Other incidents include the bombing of the offices of the opposition Social Democratic Party and an arson attack that destroyed the presses and offices of *El Diario Latino*, an independent daily that regularly publishes opposition views and activities.

Along with the UNTS, other opposition organizations such as the Christian Democratic-leaning National Worker-Peasant Union (UNOC), view the attacks as an attempt by the government to intimidate and frighten the population leading up to municipal and national assembly elections scheduled for March 10.

Furthermore, the prosecution of 12 members of the military charged with the assassination of six Jesuit priests and their two maids 15 months ago has been so marred with irregularities that the two prosecutors in charge of the case resigned on January 8.

The prosecutors are said to have resigned because the armed forces were preventing a broad investigation of the slayings and the Attorney General's Office had stopped them from pursuing officers who committed perjury.

Full military aid resumed

Cristiani's government received a boost on January 15, when U.S. President George

Bush announced he would release all 1991 military aid allocated to the Salvadoran regime. Congress voted last year to withhold half of the \$85 million, assertedly to encourage negotiations on a peace settlement and to press the investigation on the Jesuits' murder. In addition, Congress stipulated that the funds could be released only under certain conditions.

The White House said that the decision "was based on the FMLN's violation of the [congressional] conditions against 'engaging in acts of violence against civilian targets' and acquiring... 'significant shipments of lethal military assistance from outside El Salvador.'"

On January 29, the United States delivered three A-37 jets and six UH-1M helicopters. The aircraft, however, were not part of the resumed military aid.

The U.S. administration first hinted at the release of the funds after the death of three U.S. military personnel in El Salvador when the guerrillas shot down their helicopter on January 2. One U.S. soldier died in the crash; the other two "were executed by orders from a sub-zone leader who was in the area," a report by the FMLN stated. The FMLN detained two of its members involved in the operation and is carrying out a trial accusing them of committing a "war crime."

In early February the FMLN announced its decision to return 17 antiaircraft missiles to Nicaragua's Sandinista People's Army. "By this decision," said a statement by the guerrillas' General Command, "the FMLN demonstrates its willingness to negotiate and its support for a political solution and peace."

"This action," the statement continued, "contrasts with the U.S. government's decision to release military aid and with the delivery of new aircraft to the Salvadoran Armed Forces."

Pressing to keep negotiations open, the FMLN announced on February 28 that from March 9-11 its forces "will not carry out any offensive military operation... and in general any type of action that could hinder" the March 10 municipal and national assembly elections.

Their statement added that they would not sponsor candidates or participate in the elections. The FMLN added that voting would not take place in the areas of the country they control.

The FMLN statement said the three-day truce would aid opposition parties in the elections. In a radio interview a week before the announcement, FMLN Commander Leonel González said that this would prevent "the decisions regarding the role being played [by the government] at the negotiating table from being solely in the hands of ARENA." Cristiani's ARENA controls the majority of the 84 posts in the national assembly and of the 262 town governments.

Rubén Zamora, leader of the People's Social Christian Movement (MPSC), welcomed the guerrilla announcement and said the FMLN's position "will unquestionably help to reduce the level of fear that exists in the population... The military actions of the army and the transportation ban decreed by the guerrillas cut our share of the [1989] vote by a large margin."

The MPSC, the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR), and the Social Democratic Party participated in the 1989 presidential elections as the Democratic Convergence, a social democratic coalition. The Convergence ran MNR's Guillermo Ungo for president and received 3 percent of the vote.

Ungo, a long-time leader of the opposition forces who in the current legislative elections was running for a San Salvador seat, died February 28 of a cardiac arrest in Mexico City.

In an interview reported by the *New York Times* on March 7, Joaquín Villalobos asserted that the FMLN's goal was not to defeat or transform the Salvadoran military but to win a permanent disarmament of both sides leading up to a "competitive" democracy. He added that the group had moved beyond Marxism, which he called "just one more political theory, like any other."

Dismissing the rebels' elections truce announcement, Defense Minister Ponce said, "We have always believed the FMLN uses these measures for propaganda purposes."

Iowa prison backs down on book censorship

BY MARK CURTIS

FORT MADISON, Iowa — Prison officials here have been turned back in their attempt to further censor the publications inmates are allowed to receive at the Iowa State Penitentiary.

Prisoners first found out about the censorship policy when they got a one-page memo entitled "Notice of Rejection of Correspondence," instead of the book or magazine they ordered.

The rejection notice stated that their publications were not on the "approved publications list" and would be sent to Des Moines for review by the Department of Corrections Publications Review Committee. The three-person committee includes one librarian and two deputy prison wardens.

Everyone who received the notice was surprised by the sudden move. "I've been getting this magazine for years with no problem," one man said. Holding up a copy of the magazine *Texas Parks and Wildlife* he pointed to a photo of an owl and asked if there was anything pornographic about it. Another prisoner was denied his copy of *New*

Business Opportunities.

Prison rules prohibit inmates from subscribing to publications or receiving books that describe how to make bombs or other weapons.

A court ruling two years ago ordered prison authorities to stop denying pornographic magazines to inmates. Iowa prison officials then established "reading rooms" to get around the order. They set up designated areas in which to read the material.

Here at the John Bennett medium-security unit, this "reading room" is in the visiting room. It is used for reading during closed hours. A plain locked box sitting on the top of a cabinet holds the magazines.

On February 12 the *Des Moines Register* reported on the denial of the publications. According to the article, magazines sent for review included *Forbes*, *Jewish Monthly*, and an Air Force publication. A book on how to play tennis was also sent to Des Moines. The reading materials were withheld from inmates for 10 days.

A book I ordered from Pathfinder, *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics*, was among

those dispatched to the review committee. The book contains resolutions of the Socialist Workers Party on political developments in the working class, the fight against imperialism, war, building a party of communist workers, and the working-class party and the trade unions.

I was given the notice when I went to pick up another book from Pathfinder, *Malcolm X Talks To Young People*. The book by Malcolm was already on the approved publications list because the committee reviewed it some time ago.

One of the guards in the office asked me, "Where did those books come from, Iraq?" He then tried to follow up with a "joke" about three Iraqi women before I cut him off.

In the past, other books were denied to me when sent by an individual instead of a bookstore, or when they were signed or used.

Prison officials backed down from the censorship review after many inmates protested and there was an inquiry from the *Register*. They now say they will allow prisoners to receive materials "unless they fall into certain categories."

High school students explain their views on the Mideast war

BY JON HILLSON

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Antiwar activists at Oteora Central High School were the target of insults, snowballs, scoldings from teachers, and detention for protesting the U.S.-led war against Iraq.

But that didn't stop members of United Students Awareness Coalition (USACOalition) from continuing their organizing in the upstate New York high school of 1,000.

Four of the activists formed a delegation that drove with Bard College students to participate in the national steering committee meeting of the National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East in Washington, D.C., February 27.

They spoke from the floor, got names and addresses of activists from across the country — as well as international guests — and worked with the conference security team.

Protests in Australia call on U.S. to pull troops out of Iraq

BY JULIE WALKINGTON AND LYN SCOTT

SYDNEY — A series of antiwar protests held here and in Brisbane demanded the Australian government end its support to the U.S.-led war against Iraq. The demonstrations called on Washington to withdraw its forces and end its aggression in the Mideast as well.

The government sent three warships to the Arab-Persian Gulf. U.S. bases in Australia were used as a key communications center for U.S. warplanes and electronic surveillance during the war as well.

On January 17, 500 people turned out in Brisbane's main square to protest the initiation of the bombing of Iraq and Kuwait. After a brief rally, the demonstration marched through the central business district and then on to the U.S. consulate.

Chanting "No blood for oil!" and slogans condemning U.S. President George Bush and Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke, the march briefly staged a sitdown outside the armed forces recruitment office. During the march the size of the protest swelled to 800.

Two days later 6,000 people rallied at King George Square in the biggest antiwar march since the Vietnam War. Speakers included high school students and a lord-mayoral candidate.

A woman whose brother-in-law had just been killed in the war, a Palestinian activist, and a veteran of the Vietnam War all spoke. Many speakers pointed to the hypocritical justifications used by Washington and its allies for the aggression against Iraq. Neither the Australian government or the United Nations imposed sanctions or other measures against the Indonesian government when it invaded East Timor in 1975, rally speakers pointed out.

Nor was the U.S. government sanctioned when it invaded Grenada and Panama or backed dictators throughout the world.

Here in Sydney the Network for Peace organized an antiwar protest February 10 that drew 15,000 people. The action was supported by the Bring the Frigates Home Coalition and a committee of unionists from 20 different unions.

A lively, predominantly young crowd of around 3,000 marched through the streets February 23 in conjunction with antiwar protests on the same day in Melbourne, Canberra, and Brisbane.

A van from the Building Workers Industrial Union sporting the slogan "Building workers say 'Don't spill blood for oil,'" led off the march. A contingent holding an Aboriginal land rights flag came next in the march. Other organizations, from the Jewish Women's Association to Public Servants, brought banners as well.

As in Brisbane the march stopped outside the U.S. consulate. Participants laid down while air-raid sirens sounded, and then they marched to a rally.

Solidarity greetings were extended to antiwar demonstrators in Tokyo and to Indonesian activists arrested outside the Japanese, British, and U.S. embassies at a demonstration two weeks ago.

During a lunch break, Marion Heinze and Rachel Nicotra, both 10th-graders, and Aaron Greenhill and Eli Pardini, freshmen at Oteora, took some time out for an interview.

Washington's Middle East intervention, Marion explains, "is a racist war for money."

"We have enough problems in this country, which need to be addressed," Aaron says, "instead of spending billions for capitalism and power."

"You can't fight aggression with aggression," Rachel says.

The United States, Eli asserts, "is trying to set up colonies, just like in the past. It's imperialism."

The high school activists staged a walkout of classes shortly after Washington's massive bombardment of Iraq began. Eighty students joined in. The principal threatened them with expulsion. Twenty returned.

With the help of Citizens Mobilization, a community antiwar coalition, the remaining students' penalties were reduced, but they still served nine days of solitary "study" in cubicles in a detention room.

The USACOalition helped build the multi-campus demonstration of 500 in Albany as part of international student protests February 21.

As part of their activities the students circulate literature and debate with fellow students. They have also gotten agreement from the administration for a March 1 teach-in in the school auditorium featuring an anti-

tiwar speaker, video, and an open-mike allowing everyone to participate.

The leaflet they distribute asks "If you had one billion dollars a day, what would you do with it?" and presents alternatives to war abroad.

"We welcome all ideas and simply wish to offer information to help you draw your own conclusions," the leaflet states.

The students came to the Washington, D.C., meeting to "give each other, especially high school students, support," Harold explained.

"We have to make the student network stronger," Marion said. For the Oteora students that includes outreach to high school activists in nearby Kingston, Poughkeepsie, and elsewhere.

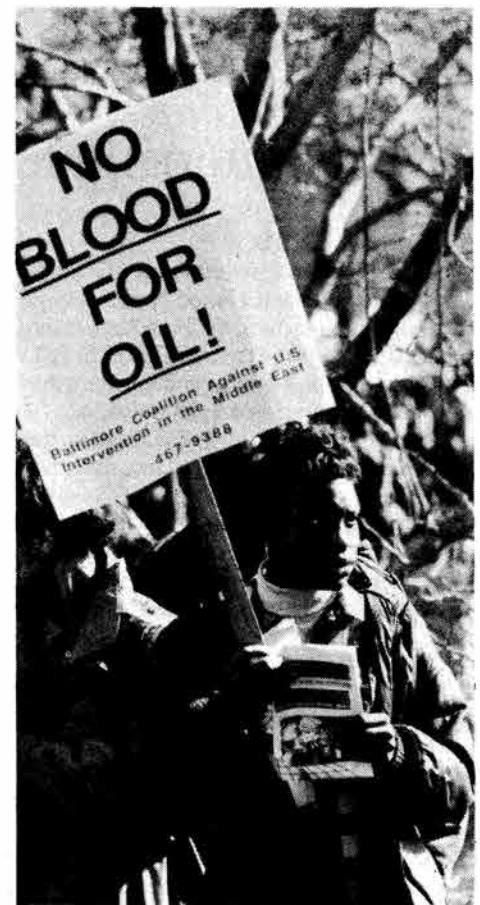
Despite getting "insulting comments, like, we're 'hippies'," Rachel says, "We're raising some consciousness. Some people say they don't want an argument but others will listen and talk with us."

This is important because, Harold says, "We're the next generation to do the fighting."

Resentment of their activity has split friendships, Marion says. "But now, I don't feel like hanging out with people who are prowar." Eli, Harold, and Rachel nod in agreement.

Would she modify her view to get some friends back? "That," Marion said firmly, "would be impossible."

Later in the afternoon, the steering com-



Militant/Marc Lichtman
High school students participated in antiwar actions around country.

mittee elected the USACOalition as one of the 16 member organizations of its new coordinating committee.

High school students interested in contacting the USACOalition can write: P.O. Box 885, Woodstock, New York 12498.

Antiwar activists at Pennsylvania campus take up debate on Gulf war

BY PETER THIERJUNG

PHILADELPHIA — Activists of Penn for Peace, the campus antiwar group at the University of Pennsylvania here, set up a literature table on the morning of February 21 to publicize a downtown student and youth protest later that day. The protest attracted 200 students from several campuses.

The students staffed the table in shifts and handed out fliers all day. Other students, some looking harried by midterm exam schedules, stopped for more information or to discuss the war.

"Has Hussein agreed to withdraw from Kuwait? What's the news?" passersby eager for information would ask. Reports of diplomatic initiatives filled the airwaves and newspapers that day, building up hopes

among some that a ground war would be averted.

One activist brought a portable stereo and tapes of Malcolm X's speeches to play for students walking near the table. At one point several students sat on a short lawn fence behind the table and listened intently to Malcolm X's words. Most had never heard the speeches before. Almost all of the students listening were white.

Several of the antiwar activists wore yellow ribbons to show they "supported the troops." They also wore red and black ribbons over the yellow to show their opposition to the war. The red symbolized the blood shed by GIs and Iraqi civilians in a war for oil. Black represented oil.

Some 20 feet away, a pro-Israel student

organization had a literature table. "Support the victims of the Scud missile attacks!" one woman shouted repeatedly. She was selling yellow ribbons "to support the troops," but hers were attached to blue and white ribbons, the colors of the Israeli state.

Across the walkway from the Penn for Peace table was a Young Socialist Alliance literature table with a prominent display of Malcolm X books and literature against the war in the Middle East.

A fraternity house located twenty feet in the opposite direction sported a huge banner with a skull and crossbones, yellow ribbons, and a U.S. flag.

The crosswalk where the literature tables were located had constant traffic most of the day of students on their way to classes. Despite the polarization evident on campus, the antiwar activists and the socialists encountered little hostility.

Nancy Brooks and Brian Young were among those staffing the Penn for Peace table. Brooks said the antiwar group is relatively new. A meeting of the group was called on the day that the bombing of Iraq began. Organizers of the meeting initially anticipated 20 people would attend, but more than 100 turned out, Brooks said.

Young was one of 15 University of Pennsylvania activists who attended the January 27 student and youth conference in Washington, D.C., that called the February 21 protests. "We were real gung-ho when we came back from the conference," he said.

Young is a second year student at the university's Wharton School of Business. He said he was preoccupied by his studies last year. Before the crisis in the Middle East, Young said he considered himself opposed to war and U.S. intervention abroad.

But after the invasion of Kuwait "I was wishy-washy and even began arguing for war," Young said noting how he had been swept up in some of the patriotic fervor. "When I realized what I was saying, I was shocked." The activist said he attended some campus meetings last fall on the Mideast crisis and began to reexamine his views, and decided he was wrong. It was then he decided to become active in Penn for Peace.

Young said his moral revulsion for the bombing prompted him to speak out against it in one of his business classes on the second day of the war. He and another student were the only ones out of the 200 in the class to oppose Washington's actions.

Rulings by New York courts broaden free speech rights

BY RONI McCANN

Two rulings recently handed down by courts in New York widened free speech rights.

On February 27 a state appeals court struck down a New York City ordinance that penalized people whose names appeared on illegally posted fliers and advertisements.

The handbills case began in 1988 when book promoter Robert Sulzer was served 75 violation notices for illegally posted fliers promoting a rock music concert.

Sulzer said he had merely distributed leaflets to friends and did not know how they eventually got pasted up on public property. The city said that since his name was on them he was liable for \$2,900 in fines. The Appellate Division of State Supreme Court in Manhattan decided unanimously to throw out the city ordinance.

In 1987 New York City's Environmental Control Board used the law against the six-story Pathfinder Mural, located in lower Manhattan. While the mural painting was still underway, the board issued 35 citations, each carrying a maximum penalty of \$100 for leaflets posted in the area promoting the work of art. The huge fees would have effectively bankrupted and shutdown the project. A fight against the citations won backing from defenders of democratic rights. A ruling in the case was never issued.

Norman Siegel, the executive director of the New York City Civil Liberties Union, which took part in the Sulzer appeal, called the ruling on the posted handbills a "significant victory for First Amendment rights."

In another ruling, a federal appeals court concluded those leasing stadiums for commercial use cannot ban people from passing out religious pamphlets or other fliers.

Nassau County in New York had sought to ban distribution of noncommercial leaflets at its Veterans Memorial Coliseum. They claimed the stadium wasn't a public forum because it is managed by a private company. The county said they had banned leafleting for years for safety reasons and because leafleteers could interfere with concert patrons' enjoyment of a show. The case began when members of a Christian evangelical group were arrested for passing out fliers at a Judas Priest rock concert.

The appeals court rejected the arguments. The decision stated that a stadium and the complex surrounding it must be treated as a public forum. While reasonable restrictions can be adopted, "a complete ban on communicative activity constitutes an impermissible abridgement of expression," the court said. "For those of moderate means, but deep convictions, freedom to circulate fliers implicates fundamental liberties."

Young socialists hold leadership meeting

Discuss imperialism and war, building communist movement

BY HEATHER RANDLE

NEW YORK — Leaders of the Young Socialist Alliance met here March 9 to discuss their recent experiences in building opposition to Washington's war against the Iraqi people and opportunities for recruitment to the socialist movement in the months ahead.

Participants in the meeting from across the United States came fresh from helping to organize the February 21 international day of student antiwar protests and were in the midst of building educational events on March 16.

Through these activities YSA members reached out to other students, GIs and reservists, and youth at workplaces and elsewhere with the socialist press and Pathfinder books that tell the truth about the employers' war at home and abroad.

Young socialists from Canada, Britain, Australia, and New Zealand attended the event and brought similar experiences to the meeting. The YSA is a nationwide revolutionary youth organization made up of students and young workers.

Kate Kaku, a member of the YSA's National Executive Committee, opened the meeting with a report entitled "The working-class campaign against imperialism and war."

"For most of us this was our first encounter with the true face of U.S. imperialism — its brutality and willingness to unleash untold devastation on a people to protect and advance the interests of a tiny handful of super-rich families," Kaku said.

"It's in periods such as this that a youth organization like the Young Socialist Alliance faces its greatest challenges as well as its greatest opportunities to win young workers, soldiers, and students to the communist movement," she said. "It is always among young people that the greatest reservoirs of energy, commitment, and sacrifice for organized resistance to imperialist war will be found," she said.

Kaku said that during the past months YSA members had put organizing activities against the imperialist war at the center of their work. YSA members attended conferences, teach-ins, and demonstrations where young fighters gathered to discuss, organize, and educate themselves with the facts about Washington's war.

YSA members and their co-thinkers in other countries were among the students and youth who mobilized to build the February 21 International Day of Student and Youth Mobilization Against the War called by the National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East. More than 200 campuses across the United States hosted actions along with many in Canada, Japan, Norway, France, Switzerland, and the Philippines.

"Throughout these conferences and actions there was great interest in discussing politics," Kaku said. "This hunger for political discussion will continue. Fighters against the war should now direct their activities to organizing educational activities such as teach-ins and forums on Washington's imperialist assault. We should demand an end to the brutal occupation and blockade of Iraq, which is itself an act of war."

"This 100-hour invasion will go down in history as one of the most brutal acts of slaughter in the history of humanity," she said. "They knew within hours what an easy job they had, but they kept going. But even with the slaughter imperialism has not achieved its goal — that of installing a protectorate, a regime that would faithfully guard imperialist interests in the area," said Kaku.

"Imperialism attempts to solve its growing economic and political crisis by bearing down even harder on the workers and farmers of the world and taking even more of their land and the produce of their labor from them," Kaku said.

"This is what the system of imperialism has to offer the world," she added. "There will be more wars of this nature as their crisis deepens and they seek to make us pay for it."

Resistance to employers' assault

Kaku rejected U.S. President George Bush's statement that all opposition to Washington going to war had been over-



Militant/Margrethe Siem



Militant/Michael Carper



Militant/Robert Kopec

New Young Socialist Alliance officers: Derek Bracey, Angela Lariscy, and Greg Rosenberg.

come by the defeat of the Iraqi military forces.

She pointed to the continued resistance by working people to the employers' offensive against their unions, rights, and standard of living. "Only by breaking the resistance of workers, smashing our will to defend abortion rights and democratic rights, and crushing fights against racism and racist assaults can the resistance against imperialism and its wars be stopped. This has not happened," she said.

Young people attracted to YSA

During the past months YSA members met hundreds of young fighters interested in discussing politics and socialist ideas. Many young people want answers to the growing problems that working people and youth face internationally.

The fight that developed against the war highlighted the long-term rise in interest in learning about the ideas of revolutionary leaders. The wars and economic crisis of capitalism have led many to seek out the socialist youth organization.

"Our ideas are welcomed by those who fought against the imperialist war and stood up to pressure by the government, school officials, and big-business media. By joining the communist movement young people make an even greater contribution to humanity by fighting to overturn capitalism once and for all."

Many YSA chapters have organized well-attended classes over the past several months on Malcolm X, the December *International Socialist Review* supplement to the *Militant*,

and on books on Marxism.

The YSA leaders decided an essential part of winning new members is learning about the fundamentals of communist politics. Kaku proposed an educational series for new members of the YSA that would center on the basic writings of the communist movement.

"It is only through reading, discussing, and going through experiences that we learn to think and act from a working-class perspective. This is what enables us to win new people to Marxism," she said. With systematic work and by reaching out more young people will want to join the YSA, Kaku added.

March 16 teach-ins

YSA leader Greg Rosenberg, an activist in the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers Union from Salt Lake City, Utah, followed Kaku with a report on the immediate tasks of YSA members.

Building the March 16 educational activities called by the National Student and Youth Campaign is the most effective way to draw together those who oppose the slaughter carried out by Washington against the Iraqi people and the U.S. occupation of southern Iraq and who want to learn more about imperialism's aims in the region, he said.

"Because the shooting war is over, there is no movement toward big antiwar actions in the streets," Rosenberg said. The March 16th educational activities can build on the February 21 actions and spark discussions on Washington's continued drive to dom-

inate the Arab-Persian Gulf and deal further blows to working people in the region, he said.

"Young people who want to change the world need tools to be able to fight," said Rosenberg. "That is why we need to get the communist press in the hands of these young fighters and sell subscriptions to the *Militant* newspaper."

He pointed to widespread interest in the *International Socialist Review* with the article "Working-class campaign against imperialist war drive" and revolutionary books and pamphlets published and distributed by Pathfinder.

"Now is the time for young people who want to change the world to join the Young Socialist Alliance," he said. Referring to upcoming educational activities on the war and a YSA recruitment campaign, Rosenberg said the YSA should be visible at all of these antiwar events with, "YSA t-shirts, buttons, sign-up sheets, and banners. YSA members should take the opportunity to speak as part of the platforms for the educational events on March 16."

Derek Bracey, a 24-year-old airline worker and member of the International Association of Machinists from New York, gave a report on leadership proposals for the national organization. The meeting elected three national officers.

Rosenberg was elected National Chairperson of the YSA. Angela Lariscy, a 25-year-old member of the International Union of Electronic Workers from New York, was elected National Secretary and Bracey was elected National Organizational Secretary.

Beating exposes racism of police

Continued from front page
attack one of the officers.

"I wouldn't strike back," King replied. "No one would strike back against four or five guns aimed at him. When I went to move the other hand out of the car, immediately I was looking down a barrel of one of the officer's guns."

King has also denied the charge that he led the cops on a high-speed chase. "There was no chase. I didn't see any police lights until I got off the freeway and got a few blocks down," he said.

Others who witnessed the brutal attack confirm King's account. "Before they started hitting him he was pretty much cooperative. I was trying to think, 'What could he have done to deserve that?'" said George Holliday, who videotaped the incident.

Another witness, Dorothy Gibson, said she could hear King pleading, "Please stop, please stop," and that after the beating was over, the cops "were all laughing and chuckling, like they had just had a party."

The racist attack, viewed by millions on local and national television, outraged many in the Los Angeles area and across the country. On March 10, 300 angry demonstrators packed the sidewalk in front of police headquarters here, demanding that the cops involved be fired and prosecuted and that Po-

lice Chief Daryl Gates be ousted.

Responding to the beating of King, Gates said, "Even if we determine that the officers were indeed out of line in this case, it is an aberration. I would hope the public would not, on the basis of this one tape, make up their minds about the Los Angeles police."

"There's no way this is an aberration," replied José De Sosa, California State conference president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) branches. De Sosa is also president of the NAACP chapter in the San Fernando Valley, where the attack occurred.

"It's horrible," said Karol Heppe, executive director of the Police Misconduct Lawyers Referral Service. "It's horrible, but I must tell you that we receive complaints in this office of that kind of conduct on a weekly basis, if not on a daily basis. The difference this time is that there was somebody there to videotape it. That's the only difference."

Over the past period there have been numerous incidents of police brutality in Los Angeles. In fact, according to a *Los Angeles Times* poll, one out of four people surveyed said they had personally seen or been involved in an incident in which the police used "excessive force."

In one pending case, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Inc. said dep-

uties in the Lynwood station had engaged in 40 documented incidents of "shooting, killing, brutality, terrorism, house-trashing and other acts of lawlessness."

Trial proceedings recently began for two Long Beach cops who beat a Black man in January 1989. In this case, the incident was taped by a television crew.

Another important recent case is the killing of two brothers who were native Samoans by Compton cops on February 12. An autopsy report released by the Los Angeles county coroner said that Pouvi Tualaulelei, 34, and Italia Tualaulelei, 22, were shot 20 times, with most shots hitting them in the back.

Mayor Thomas Bradley said the officers involved in beating King had been taken off field duty pending the outcome of investigations. The police commission set a hearing for March 14. NAACP leader De Sosa said plans were under way for a big protest at that meeting.

King was released from jail on March 6. When asked by reporters what he thought of the police, he responded from his wheelchair, "They consider themselves different humans than we are. They're all a family. And they're a big family and they're one family, and we're another family."

Nelson Blackstock also contributed to this article.

Mideast war and imperialism: An answer to Noam Chomsky

BY SETH GALINSKY

On *U.S. Gulf Policy* by Noam Chomsky is a pamphlet widely circulated among students and young people who took to the streets to oppose the U.S.-led war drive against the people of Iraq. It became one of the primary pieces of literature available to those who wanted to learn more about Washington's objectives in the Mideast and questioned the bombing and invasion of Iraq.

Chomsky is a well-known liberal and is currently a professor of linguistics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Rejecting both his political framework and tactical prescriptions to the U.S. rulers is essential to effectively fight for an end to the occupation and blockade of Iraq, explain the imperialists' broader goals in the region, and build opposition to future wars Washington will unleash on working people around the world.

Chomsky writes that the U.S. government should have given economic sanctions against Iraq time to work instead of launching the air war.

Diplomacy, not war is the way to advance "our" interests, Chomsky says. The U.S. government could have established improved "security" and stability in the Arab-Persian Gulf, he argues, by negotiating with the Iraqi government.

Chomsky correctly lambasts Washington and its allies for their hypocrisy in the United Nations Security Council. These governments disregard sanctions against the apartheid regime in South Africa, but apply them without mercy against the people of Iraq. They defend dropping bombs on civilians supposedly to force the Iraqi army out of Kuwait, but veto resolutions condemning Israel's brutal occupation of Palestine; and they shed crocodile tears for the Kuwaiti victims of Saddam Hussein, while justifying the U.S. invasions and occupations of Panama and Grenada.

In its drive to use military force in the Gulf, the U.S. government, Chomsky notes, cynically blocked off every diplomatic initiative that could have solved the crisis without going to war.

However, Chomsky's framework for analyzing the roots of the war, imperialism's goals in the region, and the political developments in the Mideast, begins from the standpoint of "we" and "our."

As a result, instead of being part of the arsenal of ideas that can be a guide to action for all those who oppose Washington's war moves, *On U.S. Gulf Policy* is an obstacle to understanding what is behind U.S. actions in the Middle East and what can be done to organize a fight against them.

Rather than point a road forward for the mobilization of workers, working farmers, and youth around the world to fight against imperialism and its wars, Chomsky ends up making moral appeals to the billionaire families that rule the United States.

"Why do we want to win by force? Why not by diplomacy?" he asks.

'Our' interests vs. 'theirs'

Chomsky uses the pronouns "we," "ours," or "us" more than two dozen times in the pamphlet when referring to the interests or actions of the U.S. government.

He promotes the charade peddled by Bush, the Democratic and Republican parties, the big-business media, and the corporations: "we" is everyone in the United States and "them" is whoever happens to be in the cross hairs of the government-employer assault on working people around the world.

But the United States is a class-divided society. There are two sides — the working class and the oppressed on one side and the capitalists on the other. There are no common interests between these contending classes whether viewed within the borders of the United States or on an international scale.

We did not invade Panama, Grenada, Vietnam, or Iraq — to name just a few countries. The U.S. government did.

This government is owned — lock, stock, and barrel — by the Rockefellers, Mellons, Morgans, DuPonts, and a small number of other super-rich families. This social class owns and controls the factories, mines, mills, oil refineries, land, and resources of the United States and a large chunk of the world. They and their government seek to break

unions, slash funds for education, and foster racism and sexism here at home.

It is *us* — workers and working farmers — versus *them* — the capitalists and their government. It is not *our* interests or *our* oil that are being defended in the Middle East. It's *their* interests. And they defend them through both military and diplomatic means.

Sanctions: prelude to war

By accepting the capitalist rulers' "we" framework, Chomsky cedes the right to imperialism to have a say in the affairs of other nations and to practice "diplomacy" around the world.

Soon after the criminal invasion of Kuwait by the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the UN Security Council, at the urging of Washington, called for cutting Iraq off from all imports and exports — the most complete sanctions ever enacted by that body. The U.S. government took it upon itself, with UN cover, to prevent even medicine and food from entering Iraq.

"The first approach to reversing the [Iraqi] aggression," Chomsky writes, "[is] namely the UN approach, sanctions, that could have an effect, but the effect could be slow and over time." He asserts that UN sanctions are counterposed to Washington's troop buildup which, he says, leads to war.

But Chomsky neatly shunts aside the fact that the sanctions were proposed and implemented by Washington and its allies, and simply rubber-stamped by the UN Security Council.

The sanctions were an integral part of the imperialist war drive against the Iraqi people. They were a prelude, not an alternative, to the shooting war. Their aim was to force the Iraqi people to submit to the imperial demands of Washington and London, bringing untold hardship, suffering, and death mainly to the young, sick, and old. As of this writing, the blockade is still in effect against war-ravaged Iraq.

In stating there were only two positions toward the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait — either UN sanctions or the U.S.-led war — Chomsky refuses to recognize the course of the Cuban government. Representatives of Cuba explained their opposition to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait throughout the imperialist war drive. In vote after vote in the UN Security Council, they refused to back the inhuman sanctions and embargo, the U.S. war buildup, and the subsequent air war and invasion. The Cuban position is documented in the Pathfinder book *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*.

Imperialist war

Chomsky also refrains from using the word "imperialist" in his entire article. But calling things by their right names helps gain a better scientific understanding of social and political developments in the world class struggle. This was an imperialist war.

Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, in "Working-class campaign against imperialist war drive" printed in the *International Socialist Review*, noted that the U.S. war in the Gulf is imperialist "in the most popular sense — like imperial Rome and its legions. The legions of a dominant power that exaggerates its contributions to human culture and ideas, in order to rationalize marching off to dominate other parts of the world."

It is imperialist in another sense, Barnes said. It is a war over oil, to protect the profits of the big oil companies. It is an attempt by the U.S. imperialist rulers to increase their control over the Mideast, redivide markets, and strengthen their position against competitors around the world.

Iraqi regime can't be prettied up

Chomsky, although opposed to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, tries to pretty it up. "If anything, Saddam Hussein has more plausible pretexts [for invading Kuwait]," he writes, "than the United States did [for invading Panama]."

The Iraqi army, however, did not enter Kuwait to oust the corrupt monarchy and champion the rights of the majority of the residents there who are denied basic rights and citizenship.

Instead, as Barnes points out, "The gov-



Militant/Margarita Kurte
September 1990 Seattle protest opposing U.S.-led war drive in Middle East.

ernment of Saddam Hussein is a corrupt, brutal, expansionist capitalist regime — a regime of imperialist democracy's own making, in large part."

Hussein sent the army in to advance the interests of the Iraqi capitalist class. It cannot be prettied up.

Saddam Hussein claimed he was fighting for the rights of Palestinians and all those oppressed by imperialism in the Mideast. He implied that if Israel gave Palestinians some territory for a homeland, negotiations on Kuwait could be held. The question of Kuwait should be discussed in the context of all the disputes in the Middle East, he insisted for months. Chomsky favors such "linkage."

Far from advancing the struggles of workers and peasants in the region and the Palestinians' decades-long battle for self-determination, the criminal aggression against Kuwait by Hussein dealt a blow and provided the imperialists with the pretext needed to launch the war.

Chomsky: U.S. is undeterred

Diplomacy, sanctions, and a peaceful solution failed, Chomsky claims, because the Soviet Union no longer opposes U.S. aggression.

"No more deterrent. That's the new world order. We're not only dominant in military force, we're undeterred," says Chomsky.

The U.S. aggression against Iraq is not the first massive intervention by U.S. imperialism. In the 1950-53 war in Korea, for example, the United States used brute force in an attempt to push back the struggles of the Korean people. This happened long before the present crisis of the Stalinist regimes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Nor were recent Soviet votes in the UN Security Council in favor of the U.S.-led war the first time the Soviet bureaucracy has either collaborated with or acquiesced in U.S. intervention around the world.

Chomsky also does not mention working people or the potential to mobilize large numbers in the streets to demand an end to the war.

Unable to explain imperialism, blind to the role of revolutionary Cuba, and oblivious to the existence of workers and farmers around the world, he paints a pessimistic picture of the future.

All those who oppose the U.S. war drive should, however, look to the future with confidence.

Millions will fight for a world where the profit-hungry imperialists will never again be able to mercilessly bomb civilians and slaughter tens of thousands of retreating soldiers.

As the world economic crisis deepens and the naked brutality of imperialism becomes more exposed, increasing numbers of young people, students, GIs, workers, and farmers will join in struggles to replace capitalism and its wars and economic crises. They will fight for governments of workers and farmers that can lead forward the struggle for socialism.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

United Democratic Front votes to disband, urges support for ANC

A congress of the United Democratic Front of South Africa (UDF) voted March 4 to cease activities and disband. The organization, a coalition of anti-apartheid groups, played a leading role in the struggle against the apartheid regime for much of the last decade.

The UDF was founded in August 1983 to fight the apartheid regime's plan to expand the all-white parliament to include separate, powerless chambers for Indians and Coloureds. Blacks were, however, excluded. Through this struggle the UDF moved to the leadership of the anti-apartheid struggle, coordinating the efforts of more than 600 groups across the country, despite serious government persecution.

"This is the end of one chapter and the beginning of the next one in the drive for a free, democratic, and nonracial South Africa," Albertina Sisulu, the UDF's co-president, said. "We urge our affiliates to devote their energies to the building of the ANC [African National Congress of South Africa], our ideological senior and mentor, into a mighty force for justice, democracy, and peace."

Thirteen months ago the apartheid regime was forced to legalize activities of banned anti-apartheid groups, including the African National Congress, which had been banned for 30 years.

Voters in Estonia and Latvia call for independence from Moscow

The citizens of the Baltic republics of Estonia and Latvia dealt a blow to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's efforts to slow the disintegration of the Soviet Union. They voted overwhelmingly in favor of independence in plebiscites held March 3.

More than 80 percent of eligible voters turned out in the two republics. The final tally showed that 74 percent of those voting in Latvia and 78 percent in Estonia favored independence from the Soviet Union. Large percentages of ethnic Russians in both republics voted for the break with Moscow. In some cities, where Russians are a majority, voters were solidly for independence.

Lithuanians, the third of the three republics forcibly annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940, voted for independence last month.

Lawmakers vote to make Spanish Puerto Rico's official language

The Puerto Rican legislature dealt a setback to supporters of statehood for the U.S. colony in the Caribbean, among them U.S. President George Bush. The lawmakers overwhelmingly passed a bill revoking the Official Languages Act of 1902 that proclaimed both Spanish and English the island's official languages.

Spanish is now Puerto Rico's declared official language. The island's resident commissioner, Jaime Fuster, a nonvoting delegate in the U.S. Congress, said the measure was a message that the island's language is nonnegotiable in Congress. "We are a Spanish-speaking country," he said.

A U.S. Senate committee recently killed a bill that would have scheduled a referendum in Puerto Rico on whether the U.S. colony should become independent or the 51st U.S. state. Some senators complained about the possibility of admitting a state that has Spanish as its main language to the union. Puerto Rico has been a colony of the United States for 93 years.

Headline stories in the news

- The Bush administration has been forced to admit that U.S.-backed forces fighting to topple the Cambodian government have "conducted coordinated attacks" with the Khmer Rouge and used their supplies. The Khmer Rouge ruled Cambodia from 1975 to 1979, killing more than a million Cambodians.

- High Court Judge Lyle St. Paul has called for public flogging of criminals on the Caribbean island of Grenada. Those convicted of specified crimes, or repeat-offenders, should be taken to the main square for "the treatment," St. Paul said.

Rebellions break out in cities across Iraq

Protests against Hussein regime take place as U.S. forces occupy part of Iraq

BY SELVA NEBBIA

Following the rout of the Iraqi army and the U.S. occupation of part of southern Iraq, protests and rebellions against the Iraqi regime broke out in many cities across the country.

The Iraqi people have faced growing devastation from seven months of the imperialist blockade, the bombings, and the brutal ground war. An estimated 150,000 Iraqis died and 60,000 soldiers were taken prisoner during the war. U.S. and allied troops continue to occupy about one-fifth of Iraqi territory.

Having failed to replace Iraqi President Saddam Hussein with a government more to its liking, Washington has shown no interest in aiding those who are fighting against forces loyal to the regime.

Referring to an unexpected trip to Tehran by Saadun Hamadi, the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, the *New York Times* reported March 6 that it "raised the possibility that Baghdad is seeking the return of the 130 or so aircraft it sent to Iran for safekeeping during the war so it can use them to help put down the rebellion."

The *Times* reported, "Maj. Gen. Martin Brandtner, the deputy operations chief for the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that if Iran released the planes and they did not menace allied forces, they would be permitted to fly to Iraq and even to attack rebel forces."

Washington has allowed Iraq to fly helicopters for administrative purposes, said a U.S. general. But Republican Guard units have reportedly directed helicopter assaults and tank and artillery fire against protesters.

Iraqi army units loyal to Hussein have been battling protesters in the southeastern cities of Basra, Zubair, Najaf, Karbala, Amara, Samawa, Hilla, Kumait, Qala Salih, Kut, Shatra, Nasiriyah, Diwaniya, and Tikrit. The rebellions there are led by Shi'ite Muslims. While Shi'ite Muslims comprise 55 percent of Iraq's population, Arab Sunni Muslims, representing about 20 percent of the population, have controlled the government for decades. In the north the protests have been led by Kurds, an oppressed nationality within Iraq that has been waging a struggle for self-determination against the regime.

The 3 million Kurds that live in Iraq are part of a nationality of 20 million people who occupy a contiguous territory extending across sections of Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Syria, and the Soviet Union. Kurdish rebels said their forces, swelled by defectors from the Iraqi Army, had captured six towns in the northern part of the country and were advancing on the oil-producing center of Kirkuk.

"In the north, we're seeing whole battalions coming across to our side," Barham Saleh, an official of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, told the Associated Press.

In an attempt to hold his regime together, the British daily *Guardian* reported that Hussein had offered to share power with both the Iraqi Shi'ite fundamentalists and with the Kurds. Shi'ite and Kurdish leaders rejected Hussein's offer.

The Iraqi government also announced pay raises for the army and raises for the troops of the Republican Guard, whose salaries, already double those of ordinary soldiers, went up by a third.

Iraqi interior Minister Sameer Abdul-Wahab was replaced by Ali Hassan Al Majid, a cousin of the president. Majid led campaigns against Iraqi Kurds in 1988, in which poison gas killed thousands of people.

Hussein ordered all foreign journalists to leave Iraq by March 7.

While the battles have intensified in recent days, a Pentagon official said, the Baghdad government is in no immediate danger of being toppled by the insurgents. "The Iraqi army still has the edge in command, control, and logistics by a great degree," the official said.

Talib Shabib, a former Iraqi foreign minister, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, said rebels were desperately short of ammunition to fight the Republican Guard and army units now massing against them.

"They are appealing for the Western allies to intervene, but they are simply not interested," said Shabib. The U.S. and its coalition partners were more interested in an inner



party coup, he said, than a spontaneous rebellion by the people.

In Washington Marine Maj. Gen. Brandtner said, "There is no move on the [part of] U.S. forces... to let any weapons slip

through, or to play any role whatsoever in fomenting or assisting any side."

Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney said, "I think it would be very difficult for us to hold the coalition together for any particular

Washington faces challenge in Kuwait in reestablishing stable government

BY RONI McCANN

Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Sa ad al-Abdullah al-Sabah, said March 7 that martial law in the country might have to be extended beyond the original three-month limit declared a week earlier.

The announcement highlights the challenge facing Washington and the tiny oil-rich kingdom's ruling family in reestablishing a stable, proimperialist government in Kuwait.

The Crown Prince, placed in charge of the government, arrived in Kuwait from Saudi Arabia on March 4. The Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah, remains in a luxury hotel in the Saudi Arabian resort town of Taif.

A 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. curfew has been imposed under the martial law orders. Kuwaiti troops are manning checkpoints throughout the city. A vigilante force made up of military personnel and policemen has been charged with rounding up foreign workers they suspect collaborated with Iraqi occupation forces, said Col. Fouad Ahmed, an army commander in Kuwait City. "The army has taken control now," he said. All citizens and residents have been ordered to hand their weapons over to the army.

The Kuwaiti government is also refusing reentry to thousands of immigrant workers who fled the country after the Iraqi invasion.

Some of the workers denied entry had worked in the country for several decades, others were born in Kuwait. Being born in the kingdom doesn't guarantee citizenship, however. Before the Iraqi invasion, foreign workers made up some 75 percent of Kuwait's population. The ruling government is discussing reducing that number now.

Many Egyptians, Pakistanis, Indians, Sri Lankans, Filipinos, Palestinians, and others are now living in shantytowns along the Iraq-Kuwait border.

"So now we are left here with no money,

no food, no water," said a Palestinian college student born in Kuwait. "We can't even tell our families we're alive."

Khaled al-Ghanem, a Kuwaiti visiting the border, said the government's actions were cruel. "A lot of human rights are being forgotten by my government," he said.

Inside the country the Palestinian population has become a target of reprisals by government forces. Before the Iraqi occupation, Palestinians living in Kuwait numbered 400,000. They make up the third-largest concentration of displaced Palestinians in the world.

The crackdown began in early March and was led mostly by the Kuwaiti military. Thousands of Palestinians have been abused and harassed, hundreds arrested, and many killed. Tanks and police ringed Hawalli, the country's largest city where many Palestinians live, and soldiers, including members of the U.S. Special Forces, blocked off other areas. Military personnel conducted house-to-house searches for weapons and those they accused of collaborating with the Iraqis. Offices of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) were gutted.

One Palestinian merchant said the Kuwaitis were blaming Palestinians for the Iraqi regime's invasion. "I don't like [Iraqi President] Saddam [Hussein], though I did like what he said about building a strong Arab world," said Adil al-Hussein. Now "they want to punish us." The PLO leadership did not condemn the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Six weeks of allied bombing and seven months of Iraqi occupation left much of Kuwait demolished. More than 500 oil well fires are burning out of control. The war had a devastating impact on the entire region.

An official with Kuwait Petroleum in London told the *Wall Street Journal* that 800 of the country's 950 producing oil wells have been damaged.

course of action dealing with internal Iraqi politics, and I don't think, at this point, our writ extends to trying to move inside Iraq."

Iran aids rebels

The Iranian government said it had helped forces rebelling against the Hussein regime. On March 8, Iranian president Hojatolislam Hashemi Rafsanjani said in a prayer meeting in Tehran that Hussein should resign and "submit to the will of the people."

"The majority of the Iraqi people are saying they do not want these leaders anymore, and now want to govern themselves," Rafsanjani said. "If the people say they are ready to accept the ruins which you will leave them, you should take this offer from the people."

The official Iranian press agency said that what Rafsanjani called "a truly popular movement" has spread from the Shi'ite Muslim south and the Kurdish north to the towns of Badra and Zorbatyeh east of Baghdad and close to the Iranian border.

The Kurdish rebellion in Northern Iraq poses a threat to Turkey's rulers, a country that also has a substantial oppressed Kurdish community. Turkish leaders have warned that they are prepared to send in troops to block the creation of a separate Kurdish state in northern Iraq and to head off any attempt by Iran and Syria to seize Iraqi land if Hussein's regime is weakened further. Fearing that Iran might get the upper hand by supporting Shi'ite fundamentalist rebels, a Turkish government official said, "The last thing we or any of our allies would want is a fundamentalist state in Iraq."

Because of the war and the brutal embargo banning all trade with Iraq, severe food shortages will occur across the country despite an expected record-breaking grain harvest, according to a U.S. congressional report. The report said the war had created labor shortages for harvesting the crop and fuel shortages that will make it difficult to run mills and processing machinery. Bombed-out roads and bridges will make food deliveries to some areas almost impossible. Because of the embargo, other foodstuffs important to the Iraqi diet such as sugar, oil, tea, and rice have been depleted.

"We need the equivalent of a one-acre lake of water to fight [each of] these fires," said a spokesperson from an oil fire-fighting company of Houston. Some estimate it will take up to two years to extinguish the blazes. The fires have blackened the sky and pollution from the flames has spread hundreds of miles.

Along with damage caused by the fires, oil slicks are killing marine life throughout the Persian Gulf; poisonous chemicals from bombed Iraqi factories, and carcinogenic uranium slivers from allied shells were released into the atmosphere; and millions of tons of rubble is expected to be buried in the desert. In bombed-out Kuwait City electrical power and water service have yet to be restored. Food is scarce, and the majority of shops and businesses remain closed. Not a single garbage truck or city bus is functioning.

U.S. reserve civil affairs units and supplies are arriving. State Department spokesperson Pete Williams said, "They will help provide law enforcement and emergency services." The former chief of U.S. naval operations said the units "are trained to be a phantom government until the newly constituted government takes over."

Very few members of the royal family have returned to the country. Even their promise of emergency aid to the capital has not been fulfilled. "It took three days to win the ground war but after eight days, Kuwait is still a mess," said one Kuwaiti civil servant.

Many Kuwaitis are debating what lies ahead. At neighborhood gatherings businessmen and professionals discuss what happened leading up to and after the August invasion. Some 300,000 Kuwaitis remained in the country during the war according to the British *Guardian*. The well-equipped army collapsed and the government fled and set up shop in Saudi Arabia. One Kuwaiti businessman, Faisal Jaffar, said some 75 percent of

Continued on page 12

Cuba exposes inhumanity of Washington and its allies in UN Security Council vote

BY RONI McCANN

Leading up to the March 2 vote on another U.S.-initiated resolution in the United Nations Security Council, Cuba's representatives worked to limit the ability of Washington to continue military aggression against Iraq and to bring an end to the blockade of the country. In so doing Cuba exposed the brutality and inhumanity of Washington and its allies.

UN Resolution 686, initiated by Washington, was passed 72 hours after retreating Iraqi forces had been slaughtered by allied troops and the ground fighting had ended. At the time of the vote, U.S.-led forces occupied nearly one-quarter of Iraqi territory.

The UN resolution was introduced by Washington and sponsored by the governments of the Belgium, Britain, France, Romania, the Soviet Union, and Zaire. It placed onerous demands on the defeated Baghdad regime, stating it must rescind its annexation of Kuwait, accept liability for damage caused during the war, cease all hostilities toward member states, and provide information to allied forces about the whereabouts of unexploded land mines and remaining weaponry.

"During the period required for Iraq to comply" with the demands of the resolution, the document stated, allied governments can utilize sections of UN Resolution 678 that authorized them "to use all means necessary" to restore "international peace and security in the area."

Of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council who hold veto power in that body — Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and the United States — voted for the resolution. China abstained. Of the 10 rotating members, Belgium, Cote d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Romania, Zaire, and Zimbabwe voted affirmatively. India and Yemen abstained. The Cuban government voted against the resolution.

Cuba opposes Washington's war course

At every turn during the months leading up to the imperialist war against Iraq, Washington won the necessary backing for its course in the United Nations, including from those who claim to speak in the name of socialism — the governments of the Soviet Union and China.

In a November 29 introduction to *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* by Pathfinder, Mary-Alice Waters wrote: "Every resolution initiated by the U.S. government to justify its war moves has been unanimously backed by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council."

"Week by week, as events have unfolded," Waters said, "the pretexts and rationalizations for Washington's war moves have been exposed and rebutted by Cuba in the Security Council debates."

Leading up to the March 2 vote, the Cuban government submitted two resolutions calling for a formal and immediate cease-fire and requesting the council place diplomatic initiatives in the hands of the UN secretary general. It sponsored a third resolution along with the governments of Ecuador, India, Yemen, and Zimbabwe calling for an end to the criminal sanctions against Iraq and for urgent humanitarian aid to Iraq and Kuwait. Cuba also submitted 18 amendments to the U.S.-initiated resolution.

Cuba's permanent representative to the UN, Ricardo Alarcón, called the document initiated by Washington "a continuation, emanation, and derivation" of UN Resolution 678, passed November 29, 1990. The resolution authorized the use of force against Iraq "which will remain in the annals of this organization as a moment of shame" for the council, he said.

Alarcón pointed out that, instead of proposing a cease-fire, UN Resolution 686 increases tensions and complicates a situation that is already complex. "Moreover," he said, "some parts of this text appear to be designed to justify the military occupation of the territory of Iraq. My delegation rejects this."

In his address to the UN Security Council before Resolution 686 was passed, Alarcón welcomed the action of the Security Council which had, after several closed meetings over the past weeks, "finally opened its doors and allowed representatives of the press and public opinion to be present here to follow our work directly."



Meeting of UN Security Council on November 29, 1990, authorized war against Iraq.

U.S. Representative to the UN Thomas Pickering introduced Resolution 686 and made several oral amendments to the draft, expanding and making the document even more belligerent.

The Cuban representative then proposed 18 amendments to the text.

Pickering stated that Cuba's "profusion of amendments" was "not helpful" and the U.S. delegation would not support them.

The council then voted the amendments one-by-one.

Alarcón said the amendments "are self-explanatory." Some, he said, "simply aim at adjusting the language of the draft resolution submitted to us in order to ensure it regains at least a sense of balance and moderation."

Cuba proposed the opening paragraph of the document merely "recall" and not "reaffirm" the previous 12 resolutions passed against Iraq. These specified everything from the inhumane trade embargo imposed against the country to the demand Iraq pay reparations to the victors in the war.

In a sentence that "noted" the "suspension of offensive combat operations" by allied forces, Cuba proposed deleting reference to UN Resolution 678.

Alarcón stated that the U.S.-initiated resolution reiterates in three sections and "with sick emphasis" that Resolution 678 remains in effect along with the other 11 resolutions.

Throughout UN Resolution 686, especially in operative paragraph four, the text states "the provisions of" Resolution 678 remain in effect "during the period required for Iraq to comply" with the demands spelled out by the Security Council.

Cuba's amendments proposed deleting this paragraph.

Abdalla Saleh al-Ashtal, the UN representative of Yemen, said the paragraph "relates to the continued use of force" which his government found strange "now that Iraqi troops have been completely withdrawn from Kuwait."

"We find this absolutely excessive and against the spirit of the United Nations resolutions," al-Ashtal said. "It serves only the objectives of specific countries."

'Welcome sovereignty of Kuwait'

Cuban representative Alarcón proposed replacing paragraph 1 of Resolution 686, which said "Affirms that all 12 resolutions noted above continue to have full force and affect," with "Welcomes the restoration of the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Kuwait."

Alarcón noted the resolution restates that the 12 resolutions remain in effect in yet another paragraph, "as if the reader has still not understood."

"We all remember," he said, that in a previous version of the resolution the language "was even more brazen and raised greater apprehension."

"But in any case, in our view," Alarcón said, "the consequences are clear enough. Having ended the illegal Iraqi occupation of the territory of Kuwait, and after this state regained its independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, once again the Security Council must delegate its obligations to some States in language that can be used for any

purpose Messrs. generals decide upon."

Cuba proposed adding three new paragraphs to Resolution 686. One requested the UN Secretary General to draw up plans for the deployment of a UN military force to the region thus giving Washington less room to maneuver.

The 17th amendment called for the allied forces to "bring their military presence in Iraq to an end as soon as possible."

Al-Ashtal of Yemen noted that the U.S.-initiated resolution "does not refer in any way to the withdrawal of the alliance troops that are now on Iraqi territory. 'There are a very large number of such troops and they now dominate a large number of positions,' he said.

"From the very beginning," the Yemeni representative continued, "we opposed and rejected the use of force, and we now oppose the continued presence of foreign troops in Iraq against its wishes and without a decision by the Iraqis."

The Security Council voted separately on each amendment except one which was automatically ruled out with the rejection of the one before it. Each one was defeated. The United States abstained on every vote along with three other permanent members of the Security Council — Britain, France, and the Soviet Union — and a majority of the rotating members. China voted in favor of one amendment and abstained on the rest.

The government of Cuba stood on its

principles and voted in favor of every amendment. Yemen voted in favor of 15 of the amendments put to a vote.

'Cruel' to continue sanctions

Only five governments — Cuba, Yemen, Ecuador, India, and Zimbabwe — voted in favor of the last amendment the Cuban delegation proposed. It stated: "Requests all Member States, the United Nations, the specialized agencies, as well as other international organizations to provide, on an urgent basis, humanitarian assistance, including foodstuffs and medical supplies to Iraq and Kuwait."

The U.S. government and nine others — including the Soviet Union, China, Britain, and France — abstained.

That Resolution 686 does not mention the end of the embargo against Iraq "is very cruel," al-Ashtal said. He recalled that the sanctions were imposed because it was believed they would lead to Iraq's withdrawal.

"There has already been a war," al-Ashtal said, and Iraq has been severely damaged "and tens of thousands have been killed. After all this the people of Iraq, including civilians and military personnel, are enduring enormous sufferings." To continue the embargo "cannot be justified on political grounds," he said.

Once the amendment failed, Cuba, Yemen, and the three other governments sponsored a resolution calling for humanitarian aid and submitted it for a vote. It was drafted after the World Health Organization and Unicef reported the life-threatening health conditions that exist in Iraq.

On March 3, the day after Resolution 686 passed, the U.S. government and allied states moved to approve an exemption of more food and humanitarian aid from the embargo. Cuba, Yemen, India, Ecuador, and Zimbabwe then withdrew their resolution.

Washington: Resolution 'a watershed'

Following the approval of UN Resolution 686, U.S. Representative Pickering called the act a "watershed" in UN affairs. "We are entering a new phase," he declared, in the effort "to repel aggression."

Pickering said the resolution "turns our attention" to "the greatest challenge of all: building lasting peace and security."

The representative of the Soviet Union, Yuli Vorontsov, declared that "for the first time the international community showed its united will in the face of the seizure of one State by another and was able to bring the aggressor to heel."

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UN resolution is 'designed to justify military occupation of Iraq,' says Cuban representative

Reprinted here are the remarks by Cuba's permanent representative to the United Nations, Ricardo Alarcón. The speech was given during the March 2 UN Security Council discussion on Resolution 686 (printed below). The text is from a UN simultaneous translation and has been checked against the Spanish transcript.

We are now involved in the voting process on the draft resolution in document S/22298. But not even 24 hours have elapsed since it was officially presented for the first time to the nonpermanent members of this body. My delegation is not trying to hide behind the so-called "rule of courtesy," behind which other colleagues frequently shield themselves when draft resolutions that are not cooked up in certain kitchens are involved. I simply wish note be taken of this fact.

The council has finally opened its doors and allowed representatives of the press and public opinion to be present here to follow our work directly. We welcome them.

The point is not that we are voting on this resolution 24 hours after its presentation; the point is that we were supposed to have done so yesterday, when the text had not even been properly printed. At least that was the first intention — the first attempt — by those who have once again convened the council with a sense of urgency and speed, with a little of the same overcharged atmosphere of last summer, and forgetting the carefulness and calm that they have known how to show in relation to other topics and in relation to this same topic from last November up until just a few hours ago.

My delegation must say we reject attempts to deal with the Security Council as if it were a barracks; where they try to get us to move at the sound of the bugle — with the discipline and obedience expected of young recruits. If we were supposed to vote on this proposal last night, as at one point we were told we would, it was because some generals were to meet today. Certainly we must thank those generals — to whom it seems the council is subordinated — for having postponed their meeting until tomorrow. Hence, just by chance, we have the coincidence that we are going to vote almost 24 hours after its first appearance.

Moment of shame

My delegation will vote against this draft resolution. We will do so because we consider it to be another step along the path toward conduct that — without a doubt — constitutes a violation of the charter of our organization. This draft resolution is a continuation, emanation, and derivation of resolution 678 (1990), which will remain in the annals of this organization as a moment of shame, as a moment when the Security Council abdicated its most fundamental obligation.

It cannot relinquish that obligation unless we are agreeing that this body commit suicide. It is the Security Council's obligation to preserve international peace and security. That is an undeniable obligation that cannot be relinquished or ignored. Nor can the council authorize others to do so without any monitoring, without authority, without supervision of any kind by this body.

I do not wish to state the psychological reasons for this, but the text submitted to us reiterates with almost sick emphasis in three sections that the resolution [Resolution 678 (1990)] remains in effect and the provisions set forth by the Security Council, which relinquish its fundamental obligation, remain in effect. It is not enough to recall the other resolutions; the council reaffirms them in the first paragraph of the preamble.

Furthermore, in the first operative paragraph it says that "all 12 resolutions noted above continue to have full force and effect." Then, as if the reader had still not understood, a paragraph 4 is still needed

that states "paragraph 2 of Resolution 678 (1990) remains valid."

Delegates obligations to generals

We all remember that in a previous version of the text, the meaning of the language of operative paragraph 4 was even more brazen and raised greater apprehension. But in any case, in our view, the consequences are clear enough. Having ended the illegal Iraqi occupation of the territory of Kuwait — and after this state regained its independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity — the Security Council once again delegates its obligations to a few states in language that can be used for any purpose Messrs. generals decide upon.

This resolution does not — as the council is obliged to do — establish a cease-fire. Rather, it establishes conditions that would be necessary to proceed to a cease-fire, along with a cessation of hostilities in the zone. It does so in a way that may increase tensions and complicate a situation that is already quite complex.

This draft resolution does not give any duties to the United Nations, the Security Council, or the secretary-general. One must ask oneself why they bring us here. Why do they blow the bugles? Why did they urgently convoke us to approve this resolution last night? Why, unless it was to carry out strategies devised by others and applied very far from this chamber? But this certainly has nothing to do with a genuine effort to reaffirm the authority of this organization and its elementary

Text of United Nations Resolution 686

Following is the text of Resolution 686 adopted by the United Nations Security Council on March 2. The resolution was introduced by Thomas Pickering, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

Four of the five permanent members of the Security Council — Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and the United States — cosponsored the resolution along with Belgium, Romania, and Zaire.

Representatives from China, the fifth permanent member, and India and Yemen abstained in the vote. The Cuban representative cast the sole vote against the resolution.

Resolutions listed in the first paragraph of the document below are the 12 adopted on Iraq by the Security Council since August 2.

In section 4 the document refers to "paragraph 2 of Resolution 678 (1990)." This resolution was adopted on November 29. Paragraph 2 authorizes the U.S. and other governments to "use all necessary means to uphold and implement" UN resolutions and "restore international peace and security in the area."

THE SECURITY COUNCIL,
RECALLING AND REAFFIRMING its Resolutions 660 (1990), 661 (1990), 662 (1990), 664 (1990), 665 (1990), 666 (1990), 667 (1990), 669 (1990), 670 (1990), 674 (1990), 677 (1990), and 678 (1990).

RECALLING the obligations of member states under Article 25 of the Charter,

RECALLING paragraph 9 of Resolution 661 (1990) regarding assistance to the Government of Kuwait and paragraph 3(c) of that resolution regarding supplies strictly for medical purposes and, in humanitarian circumstances, foodstuffs,

TAKING NOTE of the letters of the Foreign Minister of Iraq confirming Iraq's agreement to comply fully with all of the resolutions noted above (S/22275), and stating its intention to release prisoners of war immediately (S/22273),



UN photo
Cuban representative Ricardo Alarcón at the United Nations. "We are convened to be offered another example of the desire on the part of some to use this organization for their own interests," he explained.

duty for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Moreover, some parts of this text appear to be designed to justify the military occupation of the territory of Iraq. My delegation rejects this.

This draft resolution would lay the foundation for the continuation of military activities perpetrated against that country. Not because the council decides, monitors, or supervises such activities. Neither the council nor the United Nations can get near the theater of operations; it is just a question of what the generals decide. It seems they very badly need the adoption of this text tonight.

At a time when the council has ended its closed sessions and decided to meet publicly, when in many places hopes arise for the cessation of the conflict, it would have been better for the council to be able to give proof of magnanimity and stature in truly moving forward toward a lasting solution of the conflict. Peace cannot be built with cruelty and meanness of spirit

or with the arrogance of power, nor with that strange intoxication that some seem to have acquired from the use or the threat of use of force.

My delegation regrets that this council has on more than one occasion in the past been manipulated into following a course that, unfortunately, almost inevitably has led to military conflict, and then been studiously ignored and consigned to oblivion when war broke out in all its fury. Afterward it was almost impossible for us to meet to consider any alternative solutions to the conflict already unleashed.

Now, once again, we are convened — not to halt hostilities, not to lay down true foundations for peace, nor to ensure that finally the United Nations play an active and constructive role in solving the problems of the region — but, rather, we are convened to be offered another example of the desire on the part of some to continue to use this organization for their own interests, at the price of displaying contempt for this institution and humiliating it.

TAKING NOTE of the suspension of offensive combat operations by the forces of Kuwait and the member states cooperating with Kuwait pursuant to Resolution 678 (1990),

BEARING IN MIND the need to be assured of Iraq's peaceful intentions, and the objective in Resolution 678 (1990) of restoring international peace and security in the region,

AFFIRMING the commitment of all member states to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq and Kuwait, and noting the intention expressed by the member states cooperating under paragraph 2 of Security Council Resolution 678 (1990) to bring their military presence in Iraq to an end as soon as possible consistent with achieving the objective of the resolution,

ACTING under Chapter VII of the Charter,

1. AFFIRMS that all 12 resolutions noted above continue to have full force and effect;
2. DEMANDS that Iraq implement its acceptance of all 12 resolutions noted above and in particular that Iraq:

a. Rescind immediately its actions purporting to annex Kuwait;

b. Accept in principle its liability for any loss, damage or injury arising in regard to Kuwait and third states, and their nationals and corporations, as a result of the invasion and illegal occupation of Kuwait by Iraq;

c. Under international law immediately release under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Red Cross Societies or Red Crescent Societies all Kuwaiti and third-country nationals detained by Iraq and return the remains of any deceased Kuwaiti and third-country nationals so detained; and

d. Immediately begin to return all Kuwaiti property seized by Iraq, to be completed in the shortest possible period;

3. FURTHER DEMANDS that Iraq:

a. Cease hostile or provocative actions by its forces against all member states including missile attacks and flights of combat aircraft;

b. Designate military commanders to meet with counterparts from the forces of Kuwait and the member states cooperating with Kuwait pursuant to Resolution 678 (1990) to arrange for the military aspects of a cessation of hostilities at the earliest possible time;

c. Arrange for immediate access to and release of all prisoners of war under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross and return the remains of any deceased personnel of the forces of Kuwait and the member states cooperating with Kuwait pursuant to Resolution 678 (1990); and

d. Provide all information and assistance in identifying Iraqi mines, booby traps and other explosives as well as any chemical and biological weapons and material in Kuwait, in areas of Iraq where forces of member states cooperating with Kuwait pursuant to Resolution 678 (1990) are present temporarily, and in adjacent waters;

4. RECOGNIZES that during the period required for Iraq to comply with paragraphs 2 and 3 above, the provisions of paragraph 2 of Resolution 678 (1990) remain valid;

5. WELCOMES the decision of Kuwait and the member states cooperating with Kuwait pursuant to Resolution 678 (1990) to provide access and to commence immediately the release of Iraqi prisoners of war as required by the terms of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949, under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross;

6. REQUESTS all member states, as well as the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other international organizations in the United Nations system, to take all appropriate action to cooperate with the Government and people of Kuwait in the reconstruction of their country;

7. DECIDES that Iraq shall notify the Secretary General and the Security Council when it has taken the actions set out above;

8. DECIDES that in order to secure the rapid establishment of a definitive end to the hostilities, the Security Council remains actively seized of the matter.

Israel keeps curfew on Palestinians living in West Bank and Gaza Strip

BY JAMES HARRIS

Residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are suffering under the seventh week of an extensive curfew.

Minutes after U.S. forces began the bombing of Iraq in January, the Israeli government imposed the curfew against the 1.7 million Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These two areas were seized and occupied by Israel in 1967, when it launched and won a war against Syria, Jordan, and Egypt.

Under the curfew most Palestinian workers have been prevented from going to their jobs in Israel. As many as 120,000 Palestinians traveled daily from the occupied territories to work in Israel prior to the curfew.

In February the Israeli government began to allow a trickle of Palestinians to return to jobs in Israel. This decision came only after the building industry came to a standstill and fruit began to rot in Israeli citrus groves. Construction and agriculture both depend on low-paid Palestinian labor.

An editorial in the February 25 English-language weekly edition of *Al-Fajr*, a Palestinian paper published in Jerusalem, stated, "News regarding the easing of the curfew is deceptive. Less than 10 percent of the labor force working in Israel has managed so far to return to their jobs. Officially, the curfew has been lifted during the day and reimposed from five in the evening until six in the morning. Yet, each city is a closed military area, meaning links between East Jerusalem and the cities of the West Bank are broken and passage between them is not allowed except for the few who have been given military passes."

Al Fajr reported that "Israeli authorities were only allowing laborers whose Israeli bosses had come in person to the 'civil administration' to apply for work permits."



Israeli cop conducting a search of a Palestinian woman's bag

Lifting the curfew "is going to be a gradual process and clearly on a test-case basis," said Israeli Brig. Gen. Raanan Gissin, according to the *New York Times*. "We will provide work permits only to those Palestinian towns or villages where there will be no displays of violence."

Donald Mansir, a spokesperson for the Co-ordinating Committee of International Non-Governmental Organizations, said in Jerusalem that the curfew had forced the Palestinians to become dependent on relief assistance which "we ourselves have been compelled to provide. In essence, the international NGOs have been forced to contain

the damage created by the Israel-imposed curfew."

The Israeli regime has also stepped up its crackdown on democratic rights inside the country. In late January the government arrested and held Palestinian journalist Taher Shriteh without presenting any charges. Under Israeli law a person can be held in jail up to 60 days without formal charges being filed.

Shriteh reported on developments in the Gaza Strip for the *New York Times*, Reuters, British Broadcasting Corp., CBS News, and the Voice of America. He is accused by the government of giving "aid to an enemy or-

ganization" because he reported on leaflets distributed by an Islamic organization. He is also accused of having an unregistered fax machine in his home, which is illegal in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

"I am a victim, really, of being a journalist," Shriteh said at his bail hearing, which took place after he had been in prison three weeks. "I was reporting on the leaflets from all the movements. They tortured me. They held me in solitary confinement for 11 days in a cell" that was 60 inches long and 30 inches wide. "They gave me no food for four days," he added, "and wouldn't let me go to the bathroom."

The prosecutor spoke against granting bail for Shriteh. "I know he faces very difficult conditions in prison," the prosecutor said, but if Shriteh is held longer, perhaps "he will tell us more things." Shriteh was denied bail.

The number of Palestinians in Israel and the occupied territories killed by Israeli police and troops has continued to rise. The February 25 *Al-Fajr* reports that 929 Palestinians have been killed since the beginning of the *intifada* in December 1987.

Attacks in southern Lebanon

Attacks by the Israeli government on Palestinian refugee camps in southern Lebanon have stepped up as well. In early February, rockets were launched at a southern Lebanon area Israel controls as a "security zone." In response, the Israeli army and the South Lebanon Army, a mercenary unit that Israel maintains in Lebanon, massively shelled Palestinian camps, carried out a major air raid, and launched a combined ground and helicopter assault near the southern town of Jazzin.

The Bush administration has announced it will give Israel an additional \$650 million in military aid this year. Washington will also decide soon whether it will write off the cost of four Patriot missile batteries it sent to Israel. Each Patriot battery is valued at \$100 million.

The Israeli government has told the Bush administration that it will request \$10 billion more in housing loan guarantees to help settle 300,000 Soviet Jews expected to arrive in the country this year. This aid is in addition to the \$3 billion Israel receives annually from the U.S. government.

Farm workers in Washington State condemn U.S. aggression in Mideast

"U.S. is not defending our interests, because we are poor. U.S. is defending interests of the rich . . ."

BY MATT HERRESHOFF

OLYMPIA, Washington — "My two sons are in the marines: one in Saudi Arabia and one who may be there shortly," said Tomás Villanueva, president of the United Farm Workers of Washington State (UFWWS). He was addressing state legislators at a hearing here February 21.

"My sons, like many other sons, have gone into the military because there were no jobs," Villanueva continued, "because they seek to get out of poverty, to get an education. It may be the most expensive education anyone ever got."

"Our children are fighting in Saudi Arabia, supposedly for freedom. Where is the freedom for farm workers?" he asked.

Villanueva was speaking at a hearing on farm labor legislation. Farm workers are excluded from state and federal laws that guarantee workers the right to organize. The union is seeking to win the same rights for farm workers that other workers have.

Villanueva was one of 60 farm workers and supporters in Olympia for the hearing. They also picketed a rally held in the city by the state Farm Bureau, an organization that represents big growers.

At the hearing, millionaire hops rancher Ron Gamache spoke out for the Farm Bureau against the farm workers union. "At harvest time, strikes are very inequitable," he said. "My workers feel comfortable contacting me with any grievances. There shouldn't be a

third party coming in." Other growers echoed his remarks.

In interviews in the weeks following the hearing, some conducted before the ceasefire in Iraq and some after, most UFWWS members expressed opposition to the U.S. war in the Mideast.

"We know that if we have no justice here, how could the government be fighting for justice over there," said Ezequiel Morfin, a long-time UFWWS member.

"The U.S. is not defending our interests, because we are poor. The U.S. is defending the interests of the rich," Julián Romero, another UFWWS activist, said. "Saddam Hussein is a dictator, but [the U.S. gov-

ernment] just wants to replace him with their guy who'll follow the policies of the U.S."

"The rich are the only beneficiaries of the war," union member Vincente Romero said. "But who has to pay with higher taxes, many deaths? They don't talk about that. Sometimes when I watch TV I have to laugh."

"We are suffering the costs of this war here," echoed union member Arnulfo Larios.

Manuel Cortés, a UFWWS vice president, said, "It's putting our lives on the line to defend their property and their millions. If they want to fight then let them do it themselves."

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'Militant' supporters discuss war with classmates of slain GI

A *Militant* sales team visited Barringer High School in Newark, New Jersey, on February 21. A few days earlier, an 18-year-old Barringer graduate, Robert Talley, had been killed in the Mideast war by "friendly fire." Many of the students met by the sales team knew Talley.

Before Talley's death, Deborah Talley, the GI's mother, told the media that she didn't want her son dying for oil in the Arab-Persian Gulf. Talley's grandmother, Lou Ann Monroe, said, "To think that my grandson died for a drop of oil makes me sick. Robert didn't even get a chance to live his life."

Talley's death caused many of the students to question why the U.S. government is at war.

"At first I was for the war," one student said. "But all these people are dying. Some from friendly fire. They're just killing each other. And Iraqis are dying. Now I have a lot of questions."

The school principal was upset that *Militant* salespeople were outside the school. He called the police. Both uniformed and plainclothes officers showed up in response to the call.

The team continued to sell while the cops went inside the school to talk to the principal.

In spite of the harassment, the team sold three *Militants*, one *International Socialist Review*, and several antiwar buttons. Many students wanted to buy the new Pathfinder book *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*, but did not have enough money at the time.

Marxist views have impact at antiwar teach-ins

BY CINDY JAQUITH

This writer had the opportunity to participate in a March 9 teach-in on Washington's war drive in the Middle East held at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. Seventy people attended the event,

River valley. Several bought copies of the *Militant* or the December *International Socialist Review*.

One group of high school students was particularly grateful to get a copy of the *Militant* with material by Malcolm X. They had been de-

bating among themselves whether Malcolm X was an opponent of women's rights. Some were misinformed by slanders against the revolutionary leader and had never actually read his speeches.

"You have to read the late Malcolm X. That's what I'm into," argued one 17-year-old. She noted that Malcolm X's defense of women's rights is striking in the later works by the revolutionary leader. All the copies of *Malcolm X Talks to Young People* on the Young Socialist Alliance literature table were sold by the end of the teach-in. The Bard College YSA signed up several people for a weekly class on Malcolm X.

A range of other questions were debated through the course of the day. Is the job of antiwar activists to "marshall patriotism" behind the fight to stop war? Was Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait an effort to advance the struggle of Arabs against imperialist oppression or a blow to that battle? Do attacks on Arab residents in the United States mean that racism is on the rise?

The character of the day's discussion confirmed the importance of the upcoming special war issue of the Marxist magazine *New International*.

A \$75,000 fund drive, scheduled to end May 1, will finance this and future issues of the magazine. This week the New International Fund scoreboard reports the amount of money sent in thus far.

The scoreboard is based on contributions received in New York on the Wednesday prior to the *Militant's* closing news date. This week the fund stands at 2 percent collected; 11 percent should have been received to be on schedule.

Supporters in each area need to talk with potential contributors this week, set pledges, and work out a schedule of weekly payments. Contributions should be mailed in time to reach New York by Wednesday in order to appear in the next scoreboard.

The fund is financing the publication of two issues of the Marxist magazine in March. *New International* No. 7, the special issue on the war, features an article entitled "The Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq," by Jack Barnes. *New International* No. 8 contains articles by and about Che Guevara and his contribution to the Cuban revolution and Marxist continuity.

The fund will also make it possible to bring out *New International* No. 9, with the political resolutions adopted by the 1988 and 1990 conventions of the Socialist Workers Party, plus issues of *Nueva Internacional*, the new Spanish-language magazine, and *Nouvelle Internationale*, which is published in French.

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

NEW INTERNATIONAL FUND

Collected:
\$1,687

Goal:
\$75,000

mostly Bard students and youth from nearby high schools.

Many arrived disoriented by media propaganda telling them their efforts to organize opposition to the war had flopped, the Vietnam syndrome was dead, and U.S. imperialism was stronger than ever.

Supporters of the *Militant* newspaper, utilizing the latest issue's news analysis on these very questions, helped students see recent events from a working-class perspective. A defeat for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein does not necessarily translate into the victory the U.S. rulers wanted, we pointed out. They have been unable to place a subservient regime in power in Iraq. Nor have they eradicated the Vietnam syndrome — that would require going to war and winning a decisive victory, as well as defeating the resistance by workers to employer attacks at home.

A number of activists gave serious consideration to these points, including some high school students from farming and working-class communities that dot the Hudson

most of the day's discussion.

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SCOREBOARD

Area	Goal	Paid	% of Total
San Francisco	\$3,500	\$815	23%
Miami	1,200	200	17%
Boston	1,500	200	13%
Los Angeles	6,000	340	6%
Atlanta	2,300	122	5%
Austin, Minn.	750		0%
Baltimore	900		0%
Birmingham, Ala.	1,750		0%
Charleston, W.Va.	1,400		0%
Chicago	2,600		0%
Cleveland	1,600		0%
Des Moines	1,000		0%
Detroit	2,100		0%
Greensboro, N.C.	750		0%
Houston	1,500		0%
Morgantown	1,250		0%
New York	7,000		0%
Newark, N.J.	3,800		0%
Omaha, Neb.	750		0%
Philadelphia	2,000		0%
Phoenix	750		0%
Pittsburgh	1,900		0%
Price, Utah	600		0%
Salt Lake City	1,700		0%
Seattle	2,250		0%
St. Louis	2,000		0%
Twin Cities, Minn.	1,750		0%
Washington, D.C.	1,250		0%
TOTAL U.S.	\$55,850	\$1,677	3%
Australia	500		0%
Britain	6,500		0%
Canada	4,250		0%
France	1,000		0%
Iceland	300		0%
New Zealand	3,000		0%
Sweden	1,000		0%
Other		10	
TOTAL OVERALL	\$72,410	\$1,687	2%
SHOULD BE	\$75,000	\$8,333	11%

Teach-ins on Mideast are building across country

Continued from front page

high schools will hold a symbolic funeral march.

March 16 was targeted by the National Campaign for Peace in the Middle East and by the National Student and Youth Campaign at meetings February 23 and 24. The National Network of Campuses Against the War endorsed by acclamation the March 16 call at a March 1-3 Chicago conference attended by 500 high school and college activists.

At the University of Georgia in Athens students plan to hold a March 16 rally when they dismantle the Peace Camp that had been erected on campus. They had planned to keep the camp up for as long as the war lasted, said Patrick Malone, a Peace Camp activist.

"Despite all difficulties, the snow, rain, tornado warnings, even when the University shut down for a day, we kept the Peace Camp going," Malone said. "We held teach-ins on the war every week. It was like a 24-hour demonstration. People would come and talk any time of day." Up to a hundred students and activists participated in the camp at different times.

"The rally will be in solidarity with activities in other cities," Malone said. "We lost 100, the Iraqis lost 150,000 lives. It was a slaughter. We have to cut through the drug of 'victory' being pushed by Washington."

The New Haven, Connecticut, Coalition Against the War in the Gulf is planning a March 16 citywide rally and speak-out. "Activists are anxious to get out the facts about the slaughter carried out by the U.S. and the desperate situation in Iraq," said Carl Weinberg, a coalition member. "We're encouraging people to come with their ideas and be part of the discussion."

Students at Boise State University in Idaho had planned a March 16 activity before learning about the national plans for the date. They were encouraged by the news that other campuses and areas were planning protests and educational events.

John Knapp, a second-year student on campus, said activists will hold a symbolic funeral with images of the war's victims — the tens of thousands of Iraqis, U.S. GIs,

democratic rights codified in the U.S. constitution, and the environment.

"We're concentrating on getting out an alternative interpretation of the war," Knapp said. "We want to raise questions, like was the war right, did all the people have to die?"

Several protest actions were held on the Boise campus during the war. The most successful, Knapp said, was a day of leafleting to engage individuals in discussion and get out the facts. Activists are discussing organizing teach-ins and have been publishing a newsletter that will continue to get out the truth, he added.

In Philadelphia, a citywide protest and teach-in have been set for March 16. "The protest will be a symbolic funeral and memorial for those killed in the war, especially the Iraqis, who the press try to forget," said Travis Parchman, a leader of the city's antiwar coalition.

The teach-in, called "Crisis in the Mideast and Crisis at Home: Cause and Consequences of the U.S. Intervention in the Mideast," is scheduled from noon to 4:30 p.m. at the Friend's Center.

"Most activists, especially the student and youth contingent of the citywide coalition, wanted the activity and education on March 16," Parchman said. "Many are still conscious of the U.S. wanting an imperialist zone in the region. The immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops still needs to be a target."

Parchman reported that high school students from Friends Select, Central High School, Girls High School, and Friends School in Morristown, New Jersey, remain active in the coalition. He said many of the college campuses in Philadelphia are on spring break on that date, but students living in the city would still be participating in the events.

"People are very much aware that we're in a recession, and that the billions spent for the war could have been spent on education, health care, and housing," Parchman said. This theme is the focus of the teach-in.

The Los Angeles Student Antiwar Network, which has participants from major campuses in the metropolitan area, is plan-

ning a day-time teach-in with several speakers at Glendale Community College.

Kyung Kyu Lim reported that the International Committee for Peace and Reunification of Korea would be sponsoring a panel in the evening to discuss the parallels between the 1950-53 U.S. war in Korea and the war in the Mideast. He said U.S.-South

Korean military exercises, called Team Spirit and involving 150,000 troops, are currently taking place on the peninsula.

For more information on March 16 activities call the National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East at (202) 462-1801. The Campaign's address is 1225 15th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.

'News' buyer tells unions: grant concessions or paper will close

BY NANCY ROSENSTOCK

NEW YORK — Management at New York's *Daily News* announced March 4 that the paper will be closed March 15 if no deal with striking unions is reached or if no prospective buyer of the paper is found. The announcement came after two weeks of talks with a federal mediator broke off without an agreement.

As the March 15 deadline approached, officials of the nine striking unions opened negotiations with a would-be buyer, British publisher Robert Maxwell, who is seeking steep concessions as a precondition for his purchase of the paper.

The *Daily News* locked out 2,300 workers here October 25, 1990, in an effort to bust their unions. Union members responded by keeping up picket lines and appealing to working people in the city to not buy the paper. The *Daily News* management has admitted that the paper is losing \$750,000 a day and came up more than \$130 million in-the-red in 1990.

Maxwell, who owns the London tabloid the *Daily Mirror*, the *European* newspaper, and *Collier's Encyclopedia*, signed a letter of intent March 5 to buy the *Daily News*. He immediately announced that an agreement with the unions would have to be reached by March 11.

Having been successful in slashing union jobs in Britain's publishing industry, he comes to the talks with *Daily News* unions

bringing the same idea. In 1980 Maxwell bought the British Printing and Communication Corp. and demanded that the work force be reduced from 13,000 to 7,000.

As the talks proceed, the scope of the concessions demanded by Maxwell become evident. On March 7 he announced that in order for the sale to go through, 800 jobs would have to be cut. Maxwell is also seeking \$70 million a year in concessions from the work force. This figure is more than the current management had pushed for in its negotiations.

Reports indicate that the officials of the Allied Printing Trades Council, the umbrella organization for the nine striking unions, are pleased to be dealing with Maxwell and are willing to grant big concessions in order to get a contract.

George McDonald, president of the Allied Printing Trades Council, has said that the unions will go to great lengths to work out a deal with Maxwell. Wayne Mitchell, the representative of the mailers union at the talks, said in reference to Maxwell, "he wants the paper, and if he wants the paper, we want him."

One unresolved issue remains the kind of "management rights" demanded by *Daily News* management. Union officials have said they refuse to give the company sole discretion to decide how many workers are needed for various jobs.

ARIZONA

Phoenix

Los Mineros. Video. The fight by Mexican copper miners in Arizona for a union and against discrimination. Speaker: Judy White, Socialist Workers Party, member United Auto Workers District 65. Sat., March 23, 7:30 p.m. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (602) 279-5850.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Speakout Against Police Brutality. Speaker: Eli Green, Socialist Workers Party, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers. Translation to Spanish. Sun., March 17, 4 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. "The War in the Arab-Persian Gulf." Wed., March 20, 6:30 p.m. "The Cuban Revolution." Wed., March 27, 6:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

CONNECTICUT

New Haven

U.S. Victory Over Iraq: Will It End the Crisis Facing Working People at Home? Speaker: Will Wilkin, Young Socialist Alliance. Tues., March 19, 7:30 p.m. Dwight Hall Library, Yale campus. High St. between Chapel and Elm. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. Tel: (203) 772-3375.

FLORIDA

Miami

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

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.

IOWA

Des Moines

The Palestinian Struggle for National Liberation. Israel and the War in the Middle East. Speaker: Chris Remple, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 16, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Recession: Crisis for Working People. Speaker: Glen Swanson, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America. Sat., March 16. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Forum donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

The Baltimore Redistricting Fight: Struggle for Black Political Representation in the United States. Speaker: Glova Scott, Socialist Workers Party candidate for city council, member United Transportation Union. Sat., March

23. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Forum donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Cuba's Role in the World Today. Speakers: Jay Ressler, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sat., March 16, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

The New Stage of the U.S. War in the Middle East. Speaker: Russell Davis, Socialist Workers Party, member International Union of Electronic Workers Local 201. Sat., March 23, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

Lessons for Today's Antiwar Fighters from Past Movements against War. Class, discussion. Thurs., March 21, 7 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

State Budget Cuts — Where They Come From and How to Fight Them. Panel discussion. Sat., March 16, 7:30 p.m. 5019½ Woodward Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA

Austin

The Gulf War and the Struggle for Palestinian Rights. Speakers: Carlos Ramirez, Socialist Workers Party; Imad El-Haidari, Lebanese student Austin Community College; others. Sat., March 16, 7:30 p.m. 407½ N Main St. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (507) 433-3461.

St. Paul

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

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.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

The Palestinian Struggle Today and the U.S. War against Iraq. Speakers to be announced. Sat., March 16, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$4. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (212) 727-8421.

Women in a War Zone. Speaker: Chrissie McAuley, Belfast Sinn Fein'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.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Cuba's Role in World Politics. Speakers: Eloise Linger, recently returned from research trip to Cuba, graduate student New School for Social Research; Michael Baumann, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 16, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

The Philadelphia Budget Crisis: Is There a Solution? Speakers: Lance Haver, Consumer Party; Kathy Mickells, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sat., March 23, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (215) 546-8196.

Pittsburgh

Help Poor Women Obtain Safe, Legal Abortions. March and rally. Sun. April 21. Assemble noon, Civic Arena; march 1 p.m., Freedom Corner; rally, 2 p.m., Market Square. Sponsor: Women's Health Services. Tel: (412) 562-1900.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

South Africa: The Current Stage of the Fight against Apartheid. Speakers: Fred Dube, member African National Congress; Laurie Burke, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 16, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E Madison. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Trade Unions in the Era of Wars and Depression. Speaker: Linda Harris, Communist League. Sat., March 23, 4 p.m. 19 Terry St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: 02-281 3297.

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.

Washington faces challenge

Continued from page 7

the country's armed forces were not at their posts on August 2. Some opposition groups have begun pressing for change.

"Things can't go on as they did before," said Jaffar. "A silent majority believes we need new professional government officials, reward by merit rather than family or religious or tribal connections; a reorientation of the relationships between the governors and the governed; and we need new elections."

The Sabah family has ruled Kuwait since the mid-18th century. Before the war the emirate was the world's second-largest oil producer. Half of all oil profits go to the ruling sheik. Political parties are banned. The first National Assembly was formed in 1938. It was dissolved by the then-emir after its first vote which was in favor of union with Iraq.

An elected assembly was formed in 1962 and a constitution was adopted that the royal family has yet to respect. The assembly was dissolved in 1976 and again in 1986 when opposition to the monarchy grew. Only adult males who can trace their ancestry in Kuwait to before 1920 can vote.

Last October in Jidda, Saudi Arabia, at a meeting of some 1,200 people, Kuwaiti Crown Prince Saad pledged that Kuwait, once regained, would implement the 1962 constitution.

Manchester

Malcolm X: The Relevance of His Ideas Today. Film and discussion. Speaker: Mazafar Khan. Fri., March 22, 7:30 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 061-839 1766.

Sheffield

Fighting to Defend Democratic Rights. Speakers: Keith Simpson, member Rail, Marine, Transport union; John Smith, Communist League, member National Communications Union. Fri. March 22, 7:30 p.m. 2A Waverley House, 10 Joiner St. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 0742-729469.

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The Lessons of World War II for Today. Speaker: Mary-ellen Marcus, Communist League. Sat., March 23, 7:30 p.m. 6566 boul. St-Laurent. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière/Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

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The Fight against Imperialist War and Racism. Cuba's Role. Speaker: Paul Kouri, Communist League. Sat., March 16, 7:30 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

Report from South Africa. The Fight Against Apartheid Today. Speaker: George Lai Thom, chairperson, British Columbia unit of African National Congress of South Africa. Sat., March 23, 7:30 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

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Could be a problem — In London, an Iraqi political exile told a U.S. reporter it wouldn't be easy to create a new government in



Harry Ring

Iraq. "Any group that is seen as working for American interests would be immediately suspect,"

he warned. "The Iraqi people will long remember your bombers."

One-eyed witness — Angry staffers told the *Los Angeles Times* that KABC-TV, home of "Eyewitness News," had banned coverage of antiwar protests. One staffer said, "We will not cover them unless there is violence or a confrontation." The Channel 7 manager insisted they had done many stories on local protests. Asked if he could recall any since the war got under way, he responded, "They don't readily come to mind."

P.S. — KABC's current logo is a 7 with a yellow ribbon around it.

Dawn's early light — In past years, the first performance of the season by the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra opened with "The Star-Spangled Banner," but now they're rendering it at the opening of each performance. The conductor of the 100-member orchestra said that 17 musicians have refused to participate in playing the song because they believe it's the kind of jingoism that promotes war.

You want him to walk back? — In Cairo, a prosperous Kuwaiti exile

exulted, "I'm going home, I'm going home — as soon as my BMW gets out of the shop."

Plain talk — With past months marked by a sharp drop in consumer spending, Bruce Steinberg, a Wall Street analyst, said that even if the apparent end of the Gulf war boosts consumer confidence, the upswing isn't likely to be robust. "The problem has not been a lack of confidence," the economist said. "The problem is that consumers don't have any money to spend."

Too old to have heard it? — The

New York Times reported that when Bob Dylan received a lifetime award at the Grammy Award ceremony, he sang an "unfamiliar song." Our correspondent reports it was "an angry version of his classic 'Masters of War,' one of the most well-known antiwar compositions written during the Vietnam War."

Thought for the week — "If we're still in the Gulf a year from now, and bogged down and becoming a target in the region, then there'll be little zest about having us go into other areas." — David Aron, a former U.S. national security advisor.

Washington alliance presses brutalization of Iraq

Continued from front page
southern quarter of the country and maintaining a blockade of goods in and out of Iraq.

Bipartisan support in Washington

In a further indication of the bipartisan support Bush has received since the war drive began in August, the president was welcomed to the joint session of Congress by a three-minute ovation. Legislators wore yellow ribbons and small American flags, and chanted Bush's name.

"Our warmest congratulations on the brilliant victory of the Desert Storm operation," said Speaker of the House Thomas Foley, a Democrat from Washington.

Bush said that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker would depart on a 10-day trip to the Middle East and the Soviet Union March 7 to pursue "shared security arrangements in the region."

"This does not mean stationing U.S. ground forces in the Arabian Peninsula," he said, "but it does mean American participation in joint exercises involving both air and ground forces. It means maintaining a capable U.S. naval presence in the region," he said.

Washington is seeking to open the door to the recognition of Israel by Arab governments and to pressure Israel to give up some of the land it conquered in previous wars with Syria and Jordan.

In his speech Bush stated, "We must do all that we can to close the gap between Israel and the Arab states — and between Israelis and Palestinians."

Since many Arab governments and the Israeli government backed the U.S.-led war against Iraq, Bush claimed the times are right for "compromise."

"A comprehensive peace must be grounded in United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of territory for peace," Bush said. "This principle must be elaborated to provide for Israel's security and recognition, and at the same time for legitimate Palestinian political rights."

Israel's economy is totally dependent on U.S. aid, receiving \$3 billion in 1989 alone.

Ever since Israel was created in 1948 and thousands of Palestinians were expelled, it has been in conflict with Arab states in the region. In a series of wars, Israel wrested land from Syria, Jordan, and Egypt.

In 1979 Egypt became the first, and so far the only, Arab government to recognize Israel. In exchange, the Israeli government returned the Sinai peninsula, an area it had occupied since the 1967 war with Egypt.

Secretary of State Baker began his trip in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia where he met with Saudi King Fahd. He will also visit Kuwait, Egypt, Syria, Israel, and Turkey. To show displeasure with the Jordanian government for its criticisms of the war against Iraq, Jordan was left off his itinerary.

The U.S. government is now pressing to get talks started between Israel and Arab governments, while pursuing opportunities for a dialogue between the Israeli government and Palestinians. Before the war against Iraq, the U.S. emphasis was on seeking negotiations between Tel Aviv and the Palestinians.

After Baker's meeting with King Fahd, a high-ranking U.S. official told the press that the Saudi government had pledged to be "active" in working for peace, although he would not give any details.

Washington plans to maintain a larger military presence in the Gulf than it had before

the war. This includes rotating thousands of U.S. soldiers through Saudi Arabia, where they would be stationed for months at a time. The U.S. military is leaving in Saudi Arabia much of the tanks, planes, and heavy equipment it had brought in for the war against Iraq. Until the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the Saudi government had opposed stationing U.S. troops there.

Washington's goals increasingly conflict with those of the Israeli government.

On March 5 and 6, foreign ministers from Egypt, Syria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and four Gulf governments held a meeting in Damascus. The ministers called for convening an international peace conference under United Nations auspices to address "the Israeli occupation of Arab land and insure the rights of the Palestinian people." They pointedly left out any mention of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

The governments of France and the Soviet Union also favor an international peace conference. The Israeli government is opposed to a conference.

The meeting proposed that additional Egyptian and Syrian troops be sent to Kuwait and other countries of the Gulf for permanent deployment. During the U.S.-led war against Iraq, about 35,000 Egyptian troops and 20,000 Syrian troops were sent to Saudi Arabia. The Bush administration recently agreed to sell 46 F-16 fighter planes to Egypt, subject to congressional approval.

Although Baker said he was "pleased" with the decision to increase Egyptian and Syrian troops in the Gulf, he stated March 8 that now is not "the appropriate time" for an

international peace conference.

Washington's push for Israel to make concessions — including the possible return of the Golan Heights to Syria — has sharpened conflicts with the Israeli government. The Golan heights were conquered by Israel during the 1967 war.

In an interview published in the March 6 *Wall Street Journal*, Shamir called the Golan Heights part of Israel. He dismissed the prospects of peace with Syria, calling it "one of the most extreme countries" in the Mideast.

Relations between Washington and Tel Aviv have been so strained over differences on how to resolve the dispute with the Palestinians and Arab governments that Shamir did not speak to Bush for 10 months before the start of the war with Iraq.

The tension broke out into the open in February when President Bush publicly scolded Israeli Ambassador Zalman Shoval, who had complained about delays in releasing \$400 million the United States promised Israel for resettling Soviet Jews. Washington had insisted that the money not be used to settle immigrants in the areas occupied by Israel after 1967.

Among Palestinians reaction to Bush's speech and Baker's trip has been mixed. Although Baker has said he would welcome a meeting with Palestinians when he arrives in Israel, no such meetings have been scheduled.

"The PLO welcomes the positive elements in Bush's speech concerning a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and dealing with the Palestinian issue, the crux of this conflict, in accordance with Security Council resolutions," a PLO statement said, according to the March 8 *New York Times*.

But a leaflet from the Palestinian Unified Command, an underground coalition of Palestinian groups in Israeli-occupied areas, on March 3 called Bush a "criminal" and rejected any meeting with local Palestinians from the West Bank.

New Malcolm X poster

The Friends of the Pathfinder Mural has produced a new full-color poster featuring a portrait of Malcolm X.

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



THE YOUNG GENERATION OF WHITES, BLACKS, BROWNS — YOU'RE LIVING AT A TIME OF REVOLUTION, A TIME WHEN THERE'S GOT TO BE A CHANGE. PEOPLE IN POWER HAVE MISUSED IT, AND NOW THERE HAS TO BE A CHANGE AND A BETTER WORLD HAS TO BE BUILT.

MALCOLM X
LONDON, DECEMBER 5, 1964

The 18" by 24" poster is available for \$8.00. Bulk order rates are \$6.00 each for 10 or more, \$4.00 each for 30 or more, and \$3.00 each for 50 or more. Pre-paid orders should include \$2.50 for shipping and handling in the United States, and \$5.00 for international shipping per order.

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

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

March 21, 1966

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Malcolm X often said that Negroes won the "right" to die for Uncle Sam in World War II. But Uncle Sam has been even more generous in the Vietnam war. The government admits that 18.3 percent of the Americans killed in Vietnam since 1961 were black soldiers, and a giant 22.1 percent of the army enlisted men killed were black.

In contrast, there are now about 14.8 percent Afro-Americans in Vietnam, and about 11 percent in the U.S. population as a whole.

There is only one explanation for these figures, and that is the rank racism in the U.S. armed forces which results in Negroes being sent into the worst and dirtiest fighting—to do the most dying.

THE MILITANT

Official Weekly Organ of the Socialist Workers Party

March 22, 1941

Roosevelt's speech to the White House Correspondents Association last Saturday night clearly indicated the role which he has assumed as the leader of the Roosevelt-

Churchill Axis in the struggle against the Hitler-Mussolini-Mikado Axis.

He graciously complimented Churchill, leader of British imperialism; but the tone and the manner were those of one who felt himself to be a superior complimenting a subordinate associate. From now on Roosevelt, as the representative of American imperialist interests, takes charge of the struggle against Hitler Germany.

With the lend-lease law now behind him, there was no longer any note of diplomacy. It was the speech of the head of a nation at war.

And there was loud cheering from the men who mold public opinion for the owners of industry.

Especially was their cheering loud and vociferous and long-lasting when the President stated that the "determination of America must not be obstructed by unnecessary strikes of workers." It was then that the select audience went wild as they beheld a vision of legislation to curb strikes and keep the workers in subjection to toil for the victory of the capitalist masters of this country.

Roosevelt spoke with the confidence of one who has at his disposal the strongest industrial machine in the world, able to produce more instruments of death than the rest of the world combined. He spoke as the leader of a class determined to rule the world.

Prosecute cops in racist beating!

The vicious, racist beating of Rodney King by Los Angeles cops should be widely condemned by working people everywhere. All those responsible for this and other brutal cop attacks should be jailed and prosecuted.

The fact that an amateur photographer was able to videotape the officers wielding their nightsticks like baseball bats against a Black man as he lay on the pavement shows how widespread and routine cop violence is against oppressed nationalities and other working people.

The film provided for millions a vivid view of the club-wielding cops in action. Far from being out of the ordinary, the cop's frank enjoyment at beating and kicking King simply reflected the true thug-like character of cops.

Rodney King hit the nail on the head when he explained the cops are "one family, and we're another family." Their "family" has a long history of meting out their kind of justice with violence and brutality.

Nearly every unionist who has walked a picket line has seen firsthand how the cops are used by the employers to help defeat a strike.

In the 1960s, civil rights activists demonstrating against segregation in the South came face-to-face with state troopers and sheriffs' deputies.

Numerous times, students and other young people found themselves at the end of a nightstick as they protested the Vietnam War.

But not only do working people run up against cops when practicing politics — cop violence as witnessed in Los Angeles is a part of everyday life.

While the list of brutal assaults including murder is long,

Los Angeles is not the only place where cop violence can be found. Working people in many large urban cities and small rural communities have experienced the racist brutality of the long arm of the law.

In the midst of the capitalist economic crisis, the rights and living standards of working people continue to be assaulted by the employers and their government.

In the face of growing unemployment, rising homelessness, and continued race and sex discrimination, government officials all offer similar solutions to the economic crisis — cutbacks in social spending and additional funds for more cops!

True to form, the cops involved in this latest incident and some of their superiors tried to turn the victim into the criminal. Only this time, there were witnesses and film footage to tell the truth.

Public outrage and protests over the beating have forced Los Angeles city officials to investigate the event and hold a police commission hearing. Working people should mount a campaign to demand that the authorities prosecute the cops. The officials must not be allowed to drag their feet.

Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl Gates tried to dismiss the beating of King as "an aberration." However, the facts show that the assault was simply standard operating procedure.

Working people should join together to demand:

Jail and prosecute those responsible for the beating of Rodney King!

End cop violence!

True face of imperialism

The votes of Washington and its allies on United Nations Security Council Resolution 686 show the true face of imperialism.

The U.S. government's refusal to allow Iraq to resume food and other imports and exports, and its refusal to withdraw U.S. occupation forces from that country, or even declare a formal cease-fire, show the inhumanity and brutal character of the tiny handful of billionaire families that rule the United States, Britain, and France.

The vote came after the six-week air war had devastated Iraqi society, the allied invasion had killed tens of thousands of Iraqi soldiers, and supplies of food and clean water in Iraqi cities had been nearly exhausted.

The fact that representatives of governments in semicolonial countries backed the U.S. resolution and refused to support the numerous amendments by Cuba shows the extent to which these governments are simply a creature of U.S. imperialist domination.

Standing on principles, Cuba not only voted against giving Washington continued UN backing for its aggression against Iraq but fought to the end to limit the continued damage U.S. imperialism could inflict on the Iraqi people.

The representatives of the governments in the Soviet Union and China, who claim to represent the interests of working people and the oppressed around the world, again

demonstrated their willingness to back Washington in its assault and their refusal to lift a finger in defense of even the basic rights of the toilers in the Mideast.

Students, youth, working people, and others should take a cue from Cuba's stand at the Security Council and also get out the truth about imperialism and its war.

March 16 local teach-ins and educational events provide an example of the kind of continued events that can be held. These forums are an opportunity to reach out and discuss and debate with all those who have learned the true horrors that imperialism can and will inflict on the world's working people.

Members of the Young Socialist Alliance set an example at their recent leadership meeting by deciding to redouble their efforts to distribute the *International Socialist Review*. This special supplement to the *Militant* provides the working-class political framework and explanation needed by unionists, students, and working farmers in the fight against the employers' war at home and Washington's wars abroad.

Reading and distributing the *International Socialist Review*, in addition to the *Militant* and the book *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*, are at the center of more working people and youth gaining an understanding of and joining in the fight against imperialism and its wars.

Defend the Palestinian people

Next to the Iraqi people the Palestinians have suffered the most from the U.S.-led imperialist war in the Middle East. Working people around the world should stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people and protest the blatant violations of their basic rights as well as the continuing denial of their right to self-determination.

Caught in the pincers of the imperialist war and Saddam Hussein's demagogic and false rhetoric claiming to support their struggle, the Palestinians are paying a great price.

Since the first hours of the Iraqi invasion, the 400,000 Palestinians living and working in Kuwait suffered the dislocation and hardship that all workers in the region confronted as the imperialist war drive began. Now, at the end of the war, they are being victimized by the Kuwaiti military forces. Palestinians are being rounded up, harassed, beaten, arrested and killed by the Kuwaiti army in alliance with U.S. Special Forces. Those who fled the country during the occupation are not being allowed to return to their homes.

The ruling rich of Israel regard any concessions to the Palestinians as mortal danger to their power. The extent the Israeli regime is willing to go to protect the interests of the Israeli ruling rich is shown by the continued curfew and the killing of Palestinians.

Israel was founded on the denial of land and nation to the Palestinians. A watchdog for imperialism in the region, Israel has continuously shown its willingness to wreak havoc

on the lives of all the peoples of the region. In addition to its original crime of confiscating the land of the Palestinians, Israel now occupies parts of Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon.

No Arab regime has shown itself to be a friend of the Palestinian people — many have the blood of Palestinians on their hands. The Iraqi government's cynical attempt to use the just struggle of the Palestinians to cloak their reactionary aims in Kuwait is just another example in the long line of similar moves by the various capitalist regimes of the region. With U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's trip to the Mideast, the readiness of Arab governments to recognize the state of Israel has become apparent.

In its drive to shift the relationship of forces in the region in its favor, Washington is seeking ways to weaken the Palestinian struggle. Their goal is the protection of the interests of imperialism in the region, not advancing the just cause of the Palestinian people.

Working people should support the struggle of the Palestinian people for self-determination and a homeland. We should support their call for a democratic and secular Palestine and demand that the U.S. government end its financing of the Israeli regime. This aid is essential to enabling the government to continue their criminal practices. Workers and farmers should demand an end to the curfew in the occupied territories and the removal of all occupation forces from the Mideast.

Our heritage and the Paris Commune

BY DOUG JENNESS

Two years ago on the 30th anniversary of the Cuban revolution, Cuban President Fidel Castro explained that the revolution was "not just the product of our own efforts. It is the fruit of centuries of struggle by the peoples, the efforts of the working class since the last century, the fruit of the Paris Commune although it wasn't victorious, the fruit of the October revolution, the fruit of the struggle of all people to create a world without slavery and exploitation of man by man, a world of true justice." (*In Defense of Socialism*, Fidel Castro, Pathfinder © 1989.)

This month marks the 120th anniversary of the Paris Commune, when working people briefly held power for the

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

first time. The fighting spirit of the French working class and the rich lessons of that experience have become a part of the heritage of workers throughout the world.

Since this first attempt at political power, working people succeeded in establishing their own government in Russia in October 1917. Since then workers and farmers have overturned capitalist governments and set up their own governments in more than a dozen countries. For an excellent review of the accumulated lessons, beginning with the Paris Commune, of the struggle of working people to take power, form governments, and expropriate the exploiters, see "Communism and the fight for a popular revolutionary government — 1848 to Today" by Mary-Alice Waters in *New Internationalist* No. 3.

In tribute to the 1871 Paris Commune, we are publishing excerpts from an article by V.I. Lenin, the central leader of the Russian revolution, written in 1911 on the 40th anniversary of the Commune.

* * *

Why does the proletariat, not only in France, but throughout the entire world, honor the men and women of the Paris Commune as their predecessors? And what is the heritage of the Commune?

It was an event unprecedented in history. Up to that time power had, as a rule, been in the hands of landowners and capitalists, i.e., in the hands of their trusted agents who made up the so-called government. After the revolution of March 18, when [Premier] M. Thiers' government had fled from Paris with its troops, its police, and its officials, the people became the masters of the situation and power passed into the hands of the proletariat.

But in modern society, the proletariat, economically enslaved by capital, cannot dominate politically unless it breaks the chains which fetter it to capital. That is why the movement of the Commune was bound to take on a socialist tinge, i.e., to strive to overthrow the rule of the bourgeoisie, the rule of capital, and to destroy the very foundations of the contemporary social order.

Two conditions, at least, are necessary for a victorious social revolution — highly developed productive forces and a proletariat adequately prepared for it. But in 1871 both of these conditions were lacking. French capitalism was still poorly developed, and France was at that time mainly a petty-bourgeois country (of artisans, peasants, shopkeepers, etc.)

On the other hand, there was no workers' party; the working class had not gone through a long school of struggle and was unprepared, and for the most part did not even clearly visualize its tasks and methods of fulfilling them. There was no serious political organization of the proletariat, nor were there strong trade unions and cooperative societies.

However, in spite of these unfavorable conditions, in spite of its brief existence, the Commune managed to promulgate a few measures which sufficiently characterize its real significance and aims. The Commune did away with the standing army, that blind weapon in the hands of the ruling classes, and armed the whole people. It proclaimed the separation of church and state, abolished state payments to religious bodies (i.e., state salaries for priests), made popular education purely secular, and in this way struck a severe blow at the gendarmes in cassocks. In the purely social sphere the Commune accomplished very little, but this little nevertheless clearly reveals its character as a popular, workers' government.

Finally, there was the famous decree that all factories and workshops abandoned or shut down by their owners were to be turned over to associations of workers that were to resume production. And, as if to emphasize its character as a truly democratic, proletarian government, the Commune decreed that the salaries of all administrative and government officials, irrespective of rank, should not exceed the normal wages of a worker, and in no case amount to more than 6,000 francs a year (less than 200 rubles a month).

All these measures showed clearly enough that the Commune was a deadly menace to the old world founded on the enslavement and exploitation of the people.

The memory of the fighters of the Commune is honored not only by the workers of France but by the proletariat of the whole world. For the Commune fought, not for some local or narrow national aim, but for the emancipation of all toiling humanity, of all the downtrodden and oppressed.

Unions should oppose cop interrogation at work

BY PRISCILLA SCHENK

DES MOINES, Iowa — A discussion has been taking place among members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) here on whether or not government agents and police have the right to interrogate us while at work.

This discussion is taking place because a coworker, Harold Searcy, and I were harassed by federal and state police agents at Emco, an auto parts factory. This happened during work hours on January 18. We are both known in the plant for opposing Washington's war against the Iraqi people and have been active in a local antiwar action

UNION TALK

coalition. I am currently running for Des Moines school board on the Socialist Workers Party ticket. I have been active in defending Mark Curtis, a packinghouse worker framed-up and jailed for his political and union activity.

Agents from the Secret Service and the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation interrogated each of us separately in company offices about our political ideas, activities, and organizations we belong to. They also asked us to identify others with whom we associate.

I refused to answer their questions; but the cops nonetheless denied me the right to have an attorney present and kept me in the office against my will. They tried to intimidate me with a totally false accusation that someone had overheard me and Searcy threaten to kill President George Bush and the governor of Iowa.

I repeated many times that I had nothing to say to them, but the cops proceeded to fire questions at me. I asked for a union steward. They said, "This isn't a union matter." When I kept insisting it was a union matter they finally agreed to get my union steward, who backed up my right not to answer their questions. Finally, I was allowed to leave the office.

'It could have been me'

If not pushed back I knew the company and the cops would try to use this to set a precedent at the plant and in the union. Other unionists who spoke out against government policy or employer assaults could also be dragged into the office and interrogated.

I told every coworker I could what had happened. Several said, "It could have been me in there," pointing out that

they had spoken openly about such things as company violations of the union contract, unsafe conditions in the plant, or their opinions of the government.

One coworker was angry about the incident and suggested I press the fight by getting an attorney and making the incident public. Taking up her suggestion, I went to a union meeting of UAW Local 1672 and reported on the harassment. We had a discussion there about it.

I also spoke with UAW Region 4 and Iowa Federation of Labor officials. One UAW official, Chuck Gifford, told the *Des Moines Register* that he "considers the investigation to be part of a trend in the United States to stifle antiwar sentiment."

Stifling antiwar sentiment and resistance to the employers' assaults at home is exactly what the government had in mind when it sent its cops to the plant. As during earlier imperialist wars, Washington and the employers, under cover of "patriotic" prowar propaganda and "supporting the war effort," have attempted to clamp down on democratic rights and get working people to concede to the bosses' demands.

Accepting the framework that "we" — the employing class and the working class in the United States — are in a war against "them" — the Iraqi people — not only dooms solidarity between working people around the world but the fight against the bosses here at home as well.

Bosses offensive at home and abroad

It is important for the union to oppose the imperialist war against the people of Iraq, the continued occupation of that country, and the blockade of basic necessities. Seeing ourselves as workers who share common interests with other workers around the world puts us in a stronger position to resist the drive by the bosses to bust our unions, lower our standard of living, restrict our rights, and send us off to war abroad.

A couple of union officials told me that there's not much that can be done to stop the company from bringing cops into the workplace. But I think the union can and should oppose any attempt by the company to cooperate with or participate in subjecting workers to government and police harassment.

No one has to talk to the cops — on the job or off. As in society as a whole the unions can fight to defend this and other democratic rights. Letting cops interrogate union members opens up the entire union to investigation, intimid-

ation, and government fishing expeditions.

Several years ago, under the guise of the "war on drugs," some employers and the federal government made a move to permit police to come into work places to search workers and their possessions or to do random drug tests.

A UAW administrative letter, posted on the union bulletin board where I work, explains that the UAW has "opposed drug testing programs because they are an unjust invasion of worker privacy, can result in discipline regardless of any showing of on-the-job impairment, the procedures are often unreliable and may violate certain provisions of the U.S. Constitution. We continue to oppose employer drug testing."

Drug testing, searches of workers, the government's use of informers posing as workers, interrogations like the one I received, and other methods of government harassment are intolerable. The union must fight to preserve the rights of every worker. The Constitution and Bill of Rights do not disappear when we enter the factory, mine, or mill.

Contract expires in March

Our union contract with Emco expires in March. We have a lot at stake. In the last contract the company cut wages to \$6 an hour in the packing department where I work. They also kept wage increases in other departments so low that they don't even begin to make up for inflation.

There are many violations of safety and health conditions as well. A woman broke two fingers a couple of weeks ago and the company doctor sent her right back to work with no time to recover. Another coworker got her arm crushed in a machine. The company tried to force her to perform jobs that were physically impossible with her injury. They then told her there were no jobs at her pay scale and forced her to work at a much lower paying job.

Fights for safety, higher wages, and decent health care are facing our union and other unions. The right to speak and organize, free from government harassment, is an essential part of resisting company and government assaults.

Organizing to let the company and government police agencies know that our union won't tolerate them interrogating our members is one way to defend the labor movement and be in a better position to fight the employers' offensive at home and their war drive abroad.

Priscilla Schenk is a member of United Auto Workers Local 1672 at Emco Industries in Des Moines, Iowa.

LETTERS

Malcolm X & youth

I enjoy the work that you people do on Comrade Malcolm X in every issue of the *Militant*. Keep up the good work, because it is so true that young people all over the world are into Malcolm X.

I, too, am greatly interested in his work, simply because he was a man who spoke his mind.

I am not educated in any particular field, but I do have sincerity and dedication to liberate the minds of young people here in this prison about the stand Malcolm X took against Amerikkka and all its evils.

A prisoner
Trenton, New Jersey

Patronizing tone

We are subscribers to the *Militant* and very much appreciate your coverage of issues like the Palestinian situation, Mark Curtis, Eastern Airlines, and so forth, which are scarcely if at all mentioned in the conventional media.

As regards improvements in the paper, we get really irritated by the rather patronizing tone of some of your articles.

Also, you hardly touch on the so-called "Third World." While understanding the problems and costs of having correspondents on the spot in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, it is here that many working people are risking their lives to build new societies in the face of debt, imperialist aggression and Western/Northern-supported puppet governments. Nonsectarian solidarity and information against racism and imperialism, for socialism, is the paramount struggle.

The balance between urging workers to protest the war in the Gulf, to buy more copies of the *Militant* — on the one hand — and providing information to support arguments for socialism against the pervasive lies of imperialism — on the other — is not equal in the *Militant*.

As to reports from work places,

we are not interested in selling newspapers. We are skeptical whether these days, numbers of bodies on the streets in demonstrations is the least bit effective in combating capitalism or forwarding the cause of socialism.

Could we suggest that it may be timely to do an in-depth analysis of C.L.R. James and his immense contribution to radical socialist politics?

Hannah Vowles
Glyn Banks
London, England

Unthinkable

During these times of Washington's war in the Middle East, it would be unthinkable not to receive my weekly *Militant*. As you recently stated in the "Learning about socialism" column, "you surely don't want to miss a single issue during a time like this. . . . The *Militant* doesn't censor what it prints to accommodate the needs and interests of any government or exploiting class or privileged layer."

Many of us here in prison agree with you, especially after listening all week to Tom, Dan, Peter, and Ted, spokesmen of big business and establishment news reporting generally.

I request that my subscription be renewed for another year through your prisoner subscription fund. Please relay my support to Mark Curtis in his struggle for vindication.

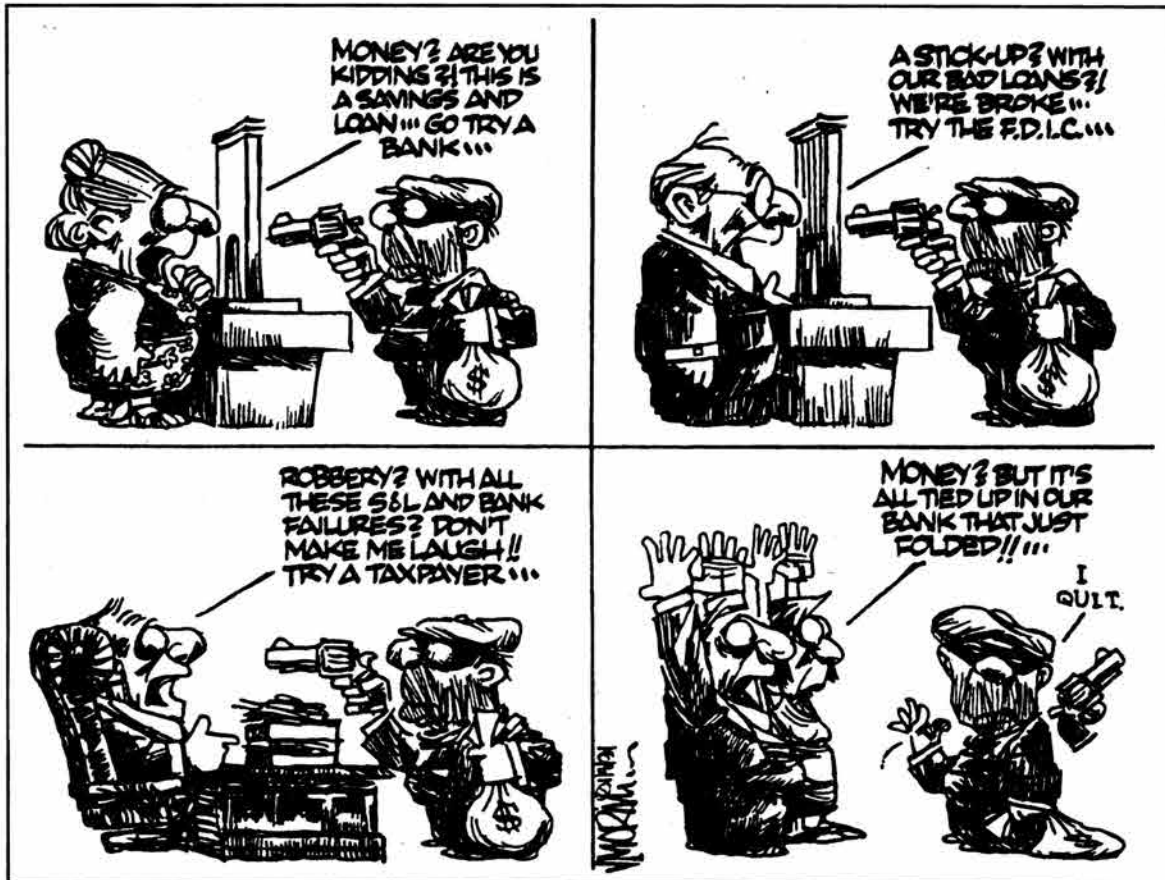
If at all possible, I would like to get a copy of *New International No. 7*, the special issue on the war, and the pamphlet *Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*.

A prisoner
Repres, California

Fair coverage

I wait for the paper because of the fair coverage. Give us more on the outcome of events.

E.F.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Film stereotypes Mideast

What is at stake in the Persian Gulf is indeed, as George Bush said in August 1990, "our way of life." This statement seems to echo the voice of Betty Mahmoody, embodied by actress Sally Field, in the film *Not Without My Daughter*.

In the film, Betty, an American, and Mooty, an Iranian doctor, are married and have a small daughter. Having lived in the U.S. for twenty years, he still has great attachments to his family in Iran.

Mooty lies to Betty in order to take her to his country. He swears on the Holy Book, the *Koran*, that they will be safe there and that they will return in two weeks.

In Iran, Mooty gradually affiliates and identifies with the collective forces of his culture. The camera chooses to focus on the sheep and the dirt and never on the glowing,

shimmering domes of the magnificent architecture. As it happens, the film is shot in another Middle Eastern country where the cityscape and even the mosques are quite different from those of Iran.

What does it matter as long as the film achieves the standardized molds and stereotypes through which the East is viewed? As if the only intention is to prove that "our way of life" is endangered by these barbarians.

Even before her husband tells Betty that he has no intention of returning to the U.S., she never shows any interest or inclination toward the culture that she is visiting. Once it is revealed that he was deceiving her, his behavior becomes quite intolerable, giving her enough reason to want to escape, which she successfully does.

Violence against women is intolerable and should be resisted every-

where, the Middle East being no exception. However, in the U.S., where statistics point to a woman being raped every fifteen minutes and there are extensive reports of wifebattering, it becomes questionable why the issue of violence is addressed in such a manner to another country.

Another thought that comes to mind is the timing of the film's release with the Gulf war. Is it really a coincidence or does it help protect this image of "our way of life"?
Mojdeh Memarzadeh
Santa Monica, California

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.

Canadian government tries to block support for a sovereign Québec

BY JOE YOUNG

TORONTO — The Canadian government has launched a major "Canadian unity" campaign in an attempt to counter growing support among the population of Québec for sovereignty. Québec is one of Canada's 10 provinces. Its 80 percent Québécois population is an oppressed French-speaking nationality in Canada.

"Canada is not up for grabs," declared Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in front of a joint meeting of the exclusive Empire and Canadian Clubs on February 12. "I intend to strengthen it and I intend to keep it," he added.

In Québec City the next day he denounced "those who are calling for a hasty referendum to destroy Canada," and warned that "a new Canada cannot be built with threats and ultimatums" from Québec.

Mulroney's comments were prompted by a Québec Liberal Party report released January 29. The Allaire report, as it is widely known, proposes that the Québec government be granted "full sovereignty" over 22 areas of government jurisdiction currently shared with, or under the domain of, the federal government in Ottawa.

These areas include central issues in all previous attempts by Québécois to gain more political power in order to fight their national oppression: language, social services, and education. The Québec Superior Court would replace the federal Supreme Court as the highest judicial body in the province under the plan as well.

The Allaire report also proposes that a referendum be held in Québec in the fall of 1992 either on an agreement between Québec and Ottawa for a radically revised federal system — if one can be reached — or on a sovereign Québec.

Support for Québec sovereignty

These far-reaching proposals reflect the growing resistance to national oppression and the rising support for Québec sovereignty among Québécois. Less than two weeks after the publication of the report, a poll showed that among all people living in Québec, 41 percent supported the report and 42 percent were for an independent Québec.

Québécois suffer systematic discrimination on the basis of their language. In



Montréal demonstration in 1990 for national rights. Signs read, "Our real country is Québec." Following a report released in January by the Québec Liberal Party calling for "full sovereignty," Canada's prime minister declared that "Canada is not up for grabs."

1985, a French-speaking person in Québec earned on average \$3,043 less than an English-speaking person. Schools and hospitals serving French-speaking people are distinctly inferior to those serving people who speak English. The Québec government has been consistently denied the powers needed to overcome national oppression.

"People were almost sleepwalking to separation," said Norman Spector, the Prime Minister's chief of staff in Ottawa, adding

that the federal government had to act much more decisively.

No alternative to Québec sovereignty has yet been proposed by the federal government. Its last effort to introduce revisions to the Canadian Constitution to win support among Québécois — it was called the Meech Lake Accord — was decisively defeated last June.

A recent poll showed that 57 percent of those living outside of Québec felt that the federal government should do nothing if Québec became sovereign. The federal gov-

ernment's "national unity" offensive aims to turn this around.

The New Democratic Party (NDP) has sided with the Canadian ruling class in its antisovereignty campaign. British Columbia NDP leader Michael Harcourt recently denounced what he called the bully approach of Québec and "the old rules of Québec comes first and the rest of you better grudgingly give in or else."

No 'dismantling of Canada'

On December 19, Ontario NDP Premier Robert Rae insisted that his government "would never accept that Québec withdraw from the Canadian federation. . . . The dismantling of Canada is not negotiable."

He was answered the day after by Québec Minister of Canadian Affairs, Gil Rémillard. "It is ourselves, Québécois, who will take decisions on our constitutional status, no one else," Rémillard said.

A majority of provincial governments and the federal government have set up commissions on the constitution as part of the drive to deny Québécois their right to self-determination.

The commissions have now proposed holding a "Canadian" referendum in response to the Allaire proposal. The referendum was the main topic at the first day of hearings of a special parliamentary committee set up by the Canadian government.

Such a referendum should be "held before that in Québec, on a different vision that leaves beating the heart of the Canadian state," argued the *Toronto Globe and Mail* in an editorial on January 31.

"It is important that Canada not allow [Québec Premier Robert] Bourassa alone to define the agenda for the nation," the editorial added. "If Brian Mulroney is not to preside over the disintegration of the Canadian state, he must be the catalyst in redefining it."

Anti-Québécois actions

Ottawa's campaign has opened the door to anti-Québécois chauvinist mobilizations and economic blackmail.

On February 8, Allan Taylor, chairman and chief executive officer of the Royal Bank, Canada's largest bank said he doesn't believe an independent Québec could use the Canadian dollar as its currency. "I don't know how you could possibly have one currency for two separate political units," said Taylor.

Hearings set up by an Ontario government commission have been utilized by anti-francophone groups such as the Association for the Preservation of English in Canada (APEC) and the Reform Party to promote their English-only position. "I don't want a new Canada. I want a return to the values that created [Canada] and held us together," said an APEC member to the commission in February.

APEC was at the center of the movement that last year led 50 municipalities in Ontario to declare themselves English-only. Francophones make up 5.4 percent of the province's population. The APEC organized a number of anti-Québécois mobilizations. Some included burning the Québec flag.

The Ontario NDP government's opposition to Québec sovereignty is shared by virtually all political parties and human rights organizations outside of Québec. Most unions have avoided taking a clear position.

On the other hand, all political parties and union federations in Québec support some form of sovereignty for Québec ranging from extensive autonomy to outright independence.

The only major exception to this is a layer of both English and French-speaking capitalists, as well as a significant proportion of Québec's anglophone minority. However, for the first time ever, polls show that many of Québec's anglophones support some form of sovereignty for the province.

Australia socialist launches campaign

BY LEE WALKINGTON

SYDNEY — Ron Poulsen, the Communist League's candidate in the New South Wales state elections, launched his campaign in the midst of the U.S.-led bombing of Iraq.

"Our starting point in launching this campaign is to get out the truth to working people, working farmers, youth, and soldiers about the imperialist war against the Iraqi people," Poulsen said at a February 17 campaign meeting.

Poulsen outlined the objectives of the Communist League's campaign at the event and in a subsequent interview.

"Through this election campaign we aim to speak to as many people as possible about the need for working people to take united action in our own interests," he said.

The communist candidate pointed to the growing capitalist economic crisis around the world. Inside imperialist countries this has brought rising unemployment; assaults on unions, democratic rights, and the standard of living of working people; and deteriorating health care and rising homelessness among the worst-off sections of the working class.

In the semicolonial world, he said, the economic crisis, combined with enormous Third World debt, is bringing devastation to wide layers of working people. "All that

capitalism has to offer working people today are recessions and another depression and more wars of conquest," he said.

Mideast war

"We begin," Poulsen said at the February 17 meeting, "by calling for an end to the bombing of Iraq and Kuwait. We call for all foreign troops to be withdrawn immediately from the region. In addition, the people of Iraq have been suffering under a criminal embargo since last August. This blockade of even basic food items must be lifted."

"The Australian government under Prime Minister Bob Hawke has been deeply involved from the outset in this war against the Iraqi people," Poulsen said. "Step by step it escalated its military involvement."

Poulsen said that the Australian government sent three warships to the Arab-Persian Gulf and placed them under U.S. command. "An even greater aid to the U.S.-led war effort was that the giant U.S. communication bases — Pine Gap, Murrumbidgee, and North-West Cape — have been allowed to be used as a key nerve center in the electronic guidance of the death and destruction rained on Iraqi cities by air," he said.

Examples of the wider deployment of forces planned by the government included

Defense Minister Robert Ray's January 25 announcement that 23 naval frogmen were being sent to the Gulf task force. Tanks were also loaded on transporters at a Sydney army base and troops were being trained for desert warfare, Poulsen said.

The government insisted that no new forces would be sent "beyond our current commitment." The Communist League candidate said that "by this they mean their secret commitments to their allies in Washington and London on behalf of the wealthy capitalist families who rule Australia — not their fake commitment to working people in Australia who have no interest in this war."

Poulsen called on the Australian government to close all U.S. bases in the country and "to instead use every cent of the money from the war drive for a massive public works jobs program." During the war he and his campaign supporters participated in numerous antiwar actions in Australia.

"Now that the war is over," Poulsen said in a March 3 interview, "working people, students, and others should demand that the imperialists cease their war drive against Iraq by ending their occupation of the country, lifting the blockade, and withdrawing all the foreign troops."