

Open the U.S. borders to the Kurdish people!

War goes on as Iraqi refugee death toll mounts

BY GREG McCARTAN

After being set up by Washington and its allies, who called for a revolt against Saddam Hussein during the war against Iraq, tens of thousands of refugees fleeing Baghdad's army now face imminent death from freezing weather, lack of food and water, and disease.

"Thousands of small children are grappling with death, afflicted with various diseases like diarrhea and vomiting because of malnutrition," said a broadcast from Tehran radio in Iran, reporting on the 1 million refugees at that country's border.

In the northern part of Iraq, the majority of the 2-3 million refugees are Kurds, an oppressed nationality living in a contiguous area divided between Iraq, Iran, Turkey, the Soviet Union, and Syria.

Significant numbers of other Iraqis are among the human tide trapped in the muddy,



Tens of thousands of Kurds walk along narrow mountain path on way from Iraq to Turkish border seeking refuge from war.

mountainous terrain along the borders of Turkey and Iran. Described by reporters as "reaching biblical dimensions," the refugee flow is one of the most massive, in such a short amount of time, in history.

Without an enormous influx of assistance, "we're going to see massive numbers of people dying on the sides of mountains," Tom Getman of World Vision Relief and

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U.S., allies, Iran must open doors to Iraq war refugees!

The United States government, its allies, and the government of Iran, must be pressed to take the only humane action possible, the one step that can immediately relieve the

EDITORIAL

suffering of millions of refugees — civilians and soldiers — from the Iraq war: Open their borders.

Thousands of Kurds and other Iraqis have already died on the muddy slopes of the mountains bordering Turkey and Iran. Some relief officials say that a thousand are dying each day, from dehydration, below-zero cold, malnutrition, and diarrhea.

Death rates could double or triple due to the near total lack of sanitary facilities, allow-

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Demands of 'Gates must go' continue despite truce called by L.A. mayor

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

LOS ANGELES — A superior court judge here put Police Chief Daryl Gates back on the job April 8, as the fight to oust the cops' commander continued. Meanwhile, new accounts of police brutality were made public along with information about a flyer circulating throughout the police department

here that jokes about cop beatings.

On April 13, 150 people turned out for what has become a weekly Saturday picket line in front of police headquarters at Parker Center. A new T-shirt being sold and worn at the protest said, "A threat to King is a threat to you." The brutal police beating of Rodney King touched off the pro-

tests in March. "If my brother is in trouble so am I," the T-shirt added.

The previous day the American Civil Liberties Union sponsored a news conference at which four young actors who are Black spoke out against racist abuse they have suffered at the hands of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD).

Wesley Snipes, star of the current movie *New Jack City*, accused the cops of pulling his rental car over about midnight April 7 and forcing him to lie face down, spread-eagled and handcuffed, on the pavement while one cop knelt on his neck and held a 9-millimeter gun to his head.

Snipes was joined at the news conference by TV actors Blair Underwood of "L.A. Law," and Reginald Dorsey of "Booker," and Tico Wells of the film, *The Five Heartbeats*. "If he [Snipes] were Tom Cruise," observed Underwood, "this would never have happened."

Underwood said he too had been pulled over by cops two years ago because they claimed he was driving a stolen car. As with Snipes, the cop pulled a gun. "I was livid," said Underwood. All four actors discussed incidents with police that they said confirm the cop brutality against King is not an isolated case.

"Every day and every night in the streets of Los Angeles, minorities are still being abused," Southern California ACLU executive director Ramona Ripston added.

"Because of the criminal profiles used by police in Los Angeles," Ripston continued, "a Black man driving a rental car is an

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Report from Israel: Palestinians resist continued curfew, repression

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS
AND DEREK BRACEY

EAST JERUSALEM — "After the end of the Gulf war most Palestinian workers continue to be under house arrest," Amjat Khalil, a construction worker from Bethlehem, said.

Khalil was referring to the continuation of many extraordinary restrictions imposed by the Israeli army on all Palestinian residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip since the outbreak of the shooting in the U.S.-led war against Iraq.

On January 16, as the massive bombing of Iraq began, Israeli authorities imposed a 24-hour blanket curfew in the territories of the West Bank and Gaza. This was replaced by a 4 p.m.-6 a.m. "night curfew" at the end of February, which continues to date in most areas.

Whole towns or cities are selectively put under all-day curfews without previous notice or reasons given on a daily basis. A curfew was declared April 5 while this re-

porting team visited Ramallah, a town five miles north of Jerusalem in the West Bank.

Residents are forbidden to leave their homes during curfews and can be shot on sight for violations.

According to a March 7 report by the Palestinian Human Rights Information Center, 11 Palestinians were killed; 858 were injured or wounded from beatings, live ammunition, or rubber bullets; 5,000 were arrested — about half for curfew violations; and 7 died since January 16 for being denied access to medical care. Many women were forced to give childbirth while waiting in line to get a permit to go to a hospital.

The repressive measures continue. On March 24, four Gaza residents were ordered expelled from their homeland. Four Palestinian youths were shot dead April 1 by Israeli troops while attempting to cross into the West Bank from Jordan. The youngest was 12 years old. On April 2, 28 youths were injured

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A book with facts on Washington's Mideast war

U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations is an irreplaceable tool in learning and getting out the truth about the brutal U.S. aggression against the Iraqi people. An introduction by Mary-Alice Waters reviews the systematic military buildup that preceded the war and the role played by Cuba at the United Nations.

Featured in the book are statements by Cuban Ambassador to the UN Ricardo Alarcon and President Fidel Castro that rebut the pretexts and arguments used by Washington to justify its aggression. Unionists, GIs, veterans, students, and workers involved in struggles against the employers' offensive at home can use this book to educate about imperialism and war.

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U.S. government ends ban on Cuban art

Giant victory won in court settlement to lift 30-year prohibition.

BY GEORGE BUCHANAN

The fight to end the U.S. government's 30-year ban on Cuban art won a giant victory March 27 with the filing of a settlement in the U.S. District Court in New York. The settlement permits unrestricted purchase of Cuban paintings and drawings and allows galleries and dealers to exhibit the works of Cuban artists and offer them for sale.

The agreement follows a lawsuit brought against the U.S. Treasury Department by the

National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee (NECLC), which has acted on behalf of a group of 17 art collectors, galleries, artists, art scholars, and the Center for Cuban Studies, which challenged the ban on importing art from Cuba.

In an interview, NECLC attorney David Golove said that at the point of getting a ruling from the court, the Treasury Department had caved in and "agreed that U.S. citizens could purchase or take on consignment paintings or drawings and pay for it in hard currency."

Golove explained the case's background: "Two and a half years ago Congress passed a law on free trade and ideas which said that when the president embargoes a country like Cuba or North Korea, that tobacco is not the same as a book. That the president shouldn't

be allowed to embargo ideas."

The law exempted books and publications and "other informational materials," said Golove, but did not specify paintings, drawings, and sculpture. After this, the Treasury Department proceeded to act as if the original embargo against Cuba remained intact, and that no paintings would be allowed.

The department's interpretation of this law was challenged in May 1989, when Miami art dealer Ramon Cernuda was charged with trading "with the enemy" and had 200 Cuban paintings confiscated by the U.S. Customs Service. Cernuda is also a board member of the Cuban Museum of Arts and Culture in Miami, which had organized a fund-raising auction in 1988 that included a handful of paintings by four artists living in Cuba.

In September 1989 the U.S. District Court

in Miami found Cernuda's activities to be exempt from the provisions of the Trading With the Enemy Act, and the confiscated paintings were returned. NECLC leader Edith Tiger said in a phone interview that the NECLC had taken the latest lawsuit in an effort to make the Cernuda victory binding on a national basis.

"This is a big victory," she said. "This is the first victory of its kind."

The agreement does place a limit on Cuban sculpture, of which pieces worth more than \$25,000 cannot be sold. Golove said that the plaintiffs, the NECLC, "reserve the right to go back to court before the same judge should this limit prove to be an obstacle" to First Amendment — freedom of speech and expression — rights.

One day after this court victory was registered in New York, a step backward occurred when Miami city commissioners went ahead with their plan to evict the Cuban Museum of Art and Culture from its city-owned building.

The commissioners' decision followed the resignation of a group of the Museum's directors in protest at the inclusion of "communist painters" in the 1988 auction. Following those resignations, right-wing exile organizations in Miami mounted a terror campaign, including death threats, against the museum. On two occasions bombs were exploded outside the building.

New Alliance files lawsuit to restrict election rights

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

NEW YORK — For the second time in less than a year, the New Alliance Party (NAP) has pulled the New York Board of Elections, Socialist Workers Party, Libertarian Party, and United African Party into court.

Last September the NAP asked the U.S. District Court to set aside the results of a Board of Elections lottery that determined ballot ranking in the November 1990 election for parties without permanent ballot status. That lottery placed the SWP first, the United African Party second, the NAP third, and the Libertarian Party fourth, behind the parties with permanent spots. U.S. District Court Judge Robert Ward denied the NAP's request.

Now the NAP is asking Judge Ward to rule that the Board of Elections lottery system is unconstitutional, adding the New York attorney general as a defendant in the case.

Since the Board of Elections ranks parties with permanent ballot status according to their previous gubernatorial vote totals, the

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15 youth leaders back Curtis defense at international meeting in Cyprus

BY ANNE HOWIE

NICOSIA, Cyprus — "The Mark Curtis case and what happened in Los Angeles to Rodney King show the war against workers by the government of the United States, the same government that organized the destruction of the Iraqi people," said Tarek Ammar of the Union of Democratic Youth of Lebanon.

Ammar was among 15 leaders of youth organizations who endorsed the Mark Curtis Defense Committee during the Youth Forum for a Just and Lasting Peace in the Middle East and the Eastern Mediterranean. The forum was held here March 30–April 1. It was sponsored by the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY).

Mark Curtis is a trade unionist and political activist who was framed up by the police in Des Moines, Iowa, for his activity in defense of immigrant workers. He is currently serving a 25-year sentence in the Iowa State Penitentiary in Fort Madison, Iowa.

The response of Matthew Thomas Rajaji, general secretary of the All India Youth Federation, was common. "We get very little information on political cases in the United States," he said, as he signed up as an endorser. "This is very interesting." The All India Youth Federation is affiliated with the Communist Party of India.

El Rasheed Kalafalla of the Sudanese Youth Union, who is also a member of the WFDY's general council and responsible for human rights cases, was also keen to follow up on the case.

Other endorsers of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee are Thierry Angles, national bureau member, Movement of Communist Youth, France; Pambis Kiritsis, general sec-



Militant/Argiris Malapanis
El Rasheed Kalafalla (center), responsible for human rights cases for World Federation of Democratic Youth, was among those backing Curtis defense.

retary, United Democratic Youth Organization, Cyprus; and Maquento Lopes, national secretariat member, Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) — Youth.

Also endorsing are Bashar Nimry, Jordanian Democratic Youth Union; Kim Gwang Hup, Socialist Working Youth of Korea; Yadava Reddy Kompally, vice president,

Yuva Janata Dal, India; Jaime Cedano Roldán, international relations secretary, Communist Youth of Colombia; Mohammed Saleh, Iraqi Democratic Youth Federation; Mauro Llorera, Democratic Youth Council, Philippines; Stefanos Kotronakis, Greek Left; and Vasco de Alreida, vice president, WFDY.



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Young socialist wins hearing on speaking tour in Midwest

BY BRUCE KIMBALL

MANKATO, Minn. — Angel Lariscy, national secretary of the Young Socialist Alliance, spoke to students here at Mankato State University March 29 as part of a three-city speaking tour at Midwest high schools and college campuses.

"The word 'socialism' stands for society," said Mohammad, a student who decided to join the YSA during the tour. "If you're not a socialist, what are you?"

He had met the YSA a few hours earlier at a literature table set up in the student union. Like many young people around the country, Mohammad wanted to belong to an organization that collectively educates, discusses, and is active in the fight against capitalism and the wars, racism, and sexism it breeds. He was particularly drawn to the revolutionary youth organization's stand against the U.S. war on Iraq, the focus of Lariscy's talk.

Mohammad explained that he is originally from Lebanon and moved here with his family a few years ago, attending high school in Mankato. To finance his education he joined the National Guard. He now wants to be discharged from the service, he said.

"The YSA is an internationalist organization," said Lariscy. "There are youth groups like the YSA in other countries such as Canada and New Zealand. And the YSA supports the Socialist Workers Party in the United States — a party that works with other rev-

olutionary parties around the world."

The previous evening the YSA leader spoke at a lively meeting at Winona State University, a campus of about 7,000 in eastern Minnesota. The event was organized by students who had organized opposition to the war against the Iraqi people the Middle East. Some had met YSA members on buses traveling to the January 26 antiwar demonstration in Washington, D.C. Several were young women building an April 6 state-wide "Students for Choice" meeting to defend abortion rights in Minneapolis. Students who are Palestinian and an antiwar activist from nearby Rochester also attended.

In her presentation Lariscy described the devastation wrought on Iraq by the U.S.-led war and brutal economic embargo. She explained the role that Cuba played in opposing these moves in the United Nations Security Council. Rising competition between imperialist powers, and a long-term downturn in the world capitalist economy was producing pressures that contributed to this war's development. These factors mean that more such wars are ahead as U.S. imperialist fights to hold onto its crumbling empire.

'Common interests with working people'

"Students, workers, farmers should view themselves as part of the world, with common interests with the working people of Iraq and elsewhere. We have nothing in common



Militant/Sara Lobman

Angel Lariscy, national secretary of Young Socialist Alliance, speaking to an American government class in a high school near Des Moines, Iowa.

with the handful of rich families that rule the United States, Britain, or other imperialist countries who gained from the war and want to control the Middle East," she said. Lariscy also described the war that the employers are waging against working people at home — assaulting their rights, union organization, and standard of living.

She concluded by explaining what kind of organization the YSA is and why young people should join it.

"The YSA threw itself into educating and organizing opposition to the war," she said. "It is also active in supporting union struggles, opposing police brutality, and fighting for women's rights. Young people need to work

together in struggle. I urge you to join us."

The discussion that followed focused on the political atmosphere on campus following the U.S. military victory in Iraq. "Our group just fell apart," explained Lisa, who had been an organizer of antiwar actions during the military buildup. Others added that most students had supported the U.S. government is war policy and that it now seemed hard to get anything done.

Another student, Beckry, noted a shift had taken place when Iraq was invaded. Earlier, he said, there had been big debates and discussion, but it became difficult to do so once the U.S. assault began. "The evolution of the discussion on the campus here seems to parallel the way it went in the rest of society," he concluded.

For a while, students at Winona who opposed the war had to fight for their right to protest. Prowar students tried to intimidate them and threw eggs at some demonstrators.

"Now that the war itself is over, it seems easier to have discussions," Beckry went on to say. Lisa added, "the war did bring together a group of us who wanted to do something about it."

Lariscy pointed out that more of the truth will now come out about the war and urged those in attendance to get out and have discussions with as many people as possible, exposing the brutality of Washington's assault, the devastation of Iraq, and the continued political upheaval in the region. She noted that what is not ahead is an era of peace, but rather an era of more such imperialist wars.

Students also discussed education cut-

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May 11 rally to back Canadian miners

BY ROGER ANNIS

BATHURST, New Brunswick — A May 11 rally has been called by the New Brunswick Federation of Labour here to support 1,500 zinc miners and smelter workers on strike at Brunswick Mining and Smelting Company (BMSC). The focus of the rally will be a demand that the provincial government enact a law prohibiting work at strike-bound factories.

A similar rally last October in support of striking paperworkers in Saint John, New Brunswick, drew 7,000 participants.

The 1,100 miners and the 400 smelter workers have been on strike since July 1990. There are members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Locals 5385 and 7085.

Brunswick is a division of Noranda, Canada's largest mining company and part of the mining, forestry, food, and real estate empire owned by the Edward and Peter Bronfman family. Its Bathurst mine is located in the largely French-speaking Acadian region of northern New Brunswick and is one of the largest underground zinc mines in the world.

The mine produces a zinc concentrate which is shipped out of the province and a lead-laced concentrate which is smelted at the BMSC smelter some 30 miles away.

Picketers at the mine and at the smelter explained that they are seeking wage increases, improved pensions, and improved safety conditions.

Local 5385 Recording Secretary John Gagnon said, "During the last ten years our wages have fallen far behind the miners at other major companies like INCO and COM- INCO and our pension plan hasn't improved. We decided that it's time to catch up."

The smelter workers launched their strike three weeks after the miners went out. "We figured that we would be stronger if we stood together with the miners," several said.

A key demand of both striking locals is for a full pension plan after 30 years of work.

At the same time, the workers are resisting the company's drive to erode seniority rights and to reduce jobs through combining skilled trades classifications.

The smelter workers are particularly determined to win improvements in safety conditions. A recent in-plant study conducted by specialists from McGill University in Montréal, confirmed strikers' worst fears — that lead levels in the smelter's air frequently exceed government-established safety levels.

"The company promises to improve the air quality, but it's not happening fast

enough," said one picketer. "This is a dangerous place to work. We understand and accept that. But we're not going to accept excuses for inaction. The company could be moving much faster to clean up the work environment."

What is more, they said, injured workers have faced increased harassment in recent years when filing for accident compensation.

The company has used scab labor and management to ship ore concentrate during the strike. Unionized Canadian National railway workers move the ore once it is away from company property. Maintenance work is being carried out by management, and workers from sub-contractors are crossing the picket lines.

Young Socialist Alliance: 'Gates must go!'

The following statement was released by the Young Socialist Alliance National Executive Committee April 4.

The Young Socialist Alliance joins with millions of youth and working people around the country in demanding that Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl Gates must go.

Gates heads the notoriously racist and brutal police force in Los Angeles. He has a long history of racism and antiworker bias and has given the green light to cops to be able to beat up on anyone they choose.

On March 3, cops under his command brutally beat Rodney King, a young Black worker. Including those who stood by and watched, 27 cops are directly responsible for this racist police assault.

This attack is standard operating procedure for the Los Angeles cops, just as it is for cops around the country who regularly victimize striking workers, antiwar protesters, Black rights fighters, and anyone else who stands up to defend their rights.

Gates and those who share his racist, pro-police views have begun conducting demonstrations in his defense. The cops in southern California, who were caught red-handed on videotape beating Rodney King, are now trying to turn King into the criminal. We need to answer this with mobilizations that demand "Gates must go!"

Forcing Gates out of his post would be a victory for all working people and youth. Already, cops around the country feel slightly less comfortable about using their nightsticks on Black youth or other working people. This is not because cops are fair-

minded; it is because they don't want to get caught.

Winning the removal of Gates would send a powerful message to other cops that brutality will not be tolerated. It would help push back the employers' ability to use cops against strikes or other social protest actions. It would also build pressure for more indictments like the ones of New York City cops for the beating and murder of Frederico Pereira this year.

The Young Socialist Alliance expresses our solidarity with all the oppressed and exploited throughout the world — from the

Iraqi people slaughtered by U.S. imperialism, to Rodney King and all victims of cop brutality. We call on all working people and youth to be part of protests demanding the removal of Gates. Messages condemning him and the cops who attempted to kill Rodney King should flood the Los Angeles police offices and City Hall. Demonstrations should be organized around the country. We must all demand:

INDICT, PROSECUTE AND JAIL ALL 27 COPS INVOLVED IN THE BEATING OF RODNEY KING!!
GATES MUST GO!!

Join us!

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

☐ Yes, I want to join the YSA.

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

New York forum hits police killing of Puerto Rican youth

BY JOSÉ ALVARADO

NEW YORK — "The events that have happened in Los Angeles have brought the problem of police brutality to light on a national scale," said Thomas Stickel, speaking in Manhattan at a March 30 Militant Labor Forum. Stickel is the attorney for the family of 21-year-old Frederico Pereira, a Puerto Rican youth strangled to death by New York police early February in Forest Hills, Queens.

A grand jury has handed down indictments against five cops on charges of murder, manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, and assault in the beating and choking death of Pereira.

"For the first time since 1973 and for only the third since 1924," Stickel related, "multiple murder indictments have been handed down to on-duty cops in New York City."

The lack of indictments over the past decade have nothing to do with a declining rate of police brutality. "In 1990, 41 deaths occurred at the hands of the cops — a 400 percent increase since 1984-85 when 12 — 15 deaths occurred at the hands of cops each year," Stickel said.

Pereira was accosted February 5 by five police officers sometime after one o'clock in the morning. He had been huddled asleep in a car with the inside lights on. The police said that the car was stolen.

Two patrol officers who radioed for a license plate check were first at the scene. With the arrival of three other cops in an unmarked car, Pereira was grabbed, thrown

to the ground, and beaten while handcuffed. The cops then hog-tied and choked him in what is known as the "camel clutch" chokehold.

By 1:40 a.m. Pereira was dead. He was then taken to St. John's Hospital where he was officially pronounced dead at 2:55 a.m.

The medical examiner's office determined that Pereira had been asphyxiated and ruled the death a homicide.

Statements of three witnesses who have stepped forward support the medical examiner's ruling. Two have told prosecutors of seeing the police beat Pereira while handcuffed and a third witness states that he saw the officers beat, hog-tie, and strangle Pereira. Stickel, who also represents the third witness, has disclosed that police officers tried to coerce his client into backing up the initial police version.

The cops on the scene and police investigators claim Pereira was in a violent frenzy of "cocaine psychosis." In this state he supposedly beat himself violently on the ground, rendering fatal blows to his head and neck.

Queens District Attorney John Santucci was quoted in the *New York Times* saying the suspect had a "moderate" amount of cocaine in his blood.

A toxicology laboratory report from the medical examiner's office, dated February 11, determined that one-tenth of a milligram of cocaine per liter was found, along with cocaine metabolite — broken-down cocaine, in Pereira's blood. An insufficient



Thomas Stickel (left), attorney for family of youth murdered by cops, and Samuel Sánchez, of Fuerza Latina.



Militant/Margrethe Siem

level, according to the medical examiner, to have put Pereira in the condition described by the cops.

At the Militant Labor Forum, Stickel said, "We owe a big load of thanks to that man with a video camera in Los Angeles." He noted that it was only after the airing of the videotape that a grand jury was convened in Pereira's case — a full month after his murder, in spite of the facts in the case and "witnesses being all over TV."

Once the grand jury was convened, indictments were handed down "in six days — a record for cop indictments," said Stickel. "The bottom line is that L.A. has a tape of a savage brutalization by the cops and New York City has clear evidence of homicide by cops, but still there is no justice. These type of cases are whitewashed by the police department," he said.

Stickel has been requesting a special prosecutor in several cases. New York Governor Mario Cuomo has yet to respond to Stickel's requests.

Also speaking at the meeting was Samuel Sánchez, of Fuerza Latina, an organization fighting cop brutality. In the Pereira case, as with others in the city, the cops are "attempting to make the victim look like the criminal," he said.

Ron Barnes, a central leader in the Frederico Pereira Justice Committee, urged the audience to attend a hearing in the Pereira case at the Queens Supreme Court in Jamaica, Queens, April 17 at 10:00 a.m. Barnes called for a large turnout. "We want to see faces of those we don't know. We won't put up with this any more," he said. For further information call the Justice Committee at (212) 614-5342.



PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

JAMES HARRIS

Pathfinder, located in New York with distributors in Australia, Britain, Canada, and New Zealand, publishes the works of working-class and communist leaders who have made central contributions to the forward march of humanity against exploitation and oppression. Pathfinder bookstores are listed in the directory on page 12.

As the results of Washington's war against the people of Iraq become more widely known and the political consequences and devastation of the population continue to unfold, more people want to learn the truth about the imperialist assault in the Arab-Persian Gulf. Sales of the Pathfinder book *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*, in English and Spanish, are brisk. The book has been reviewed in many publications as an alternative perspective on the war.

The May 1991 issue of *Class*, a Black magazine published in the United States and widely read in the Caribbean community, says, "In this little book you get some of the lowdown on Cuba's long standing opposition to U.S. imperialism and particularly its most recent swagger into the Middle East."

"In veteran socialist Mary-Alice Waters' Introduction, the ground rules are established and she thoroughly outlines how the U.S., through its control and manipulation of the UN, has shaped opinion and systematically prepared for war against Iraq. This point and others are expanded on by [Fidel] Castro and [Ricardo] Alarcón, as they present a series of resolutions and show how the U.S. violated each one of them in its march toward aggression."

Library Journal's March 15 issue carries a brief review which says, "For an alternative viewpoint on the Gulf crisis, this title and its Spanish-language version feature 10 U.S.-initiated resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security

Council and speeches related to those resolutions by Cuban President Fidel Castro and Ricardo Alarcón, the Cuban ambassador to the UN."

The March 1 issue of *Publishers Weekly* carries a review in an article on books on the war. The piece says, "The very first dissenting political book is probably *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* from leftist Pathfinder Press, which recounts Cuban U.N. efforts to turn aside war over Kuwait."

Peter Heathfield, the general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers in Britain, writes in a letter endorsing the book, "In a remarkable little book published by Pathfinder... facts not readily available elsewhere highlight the intentions of the U.S.A. and its military adventure against its former ally Saddam Hussein."

"The book presents a useful insight into how the Security Council was used by the U.S.A. in order to achieve its objectives," writes Heathfield. The book is an "invaluable reference for anyone seeking a better understanding of the affairs which led to the greatest assembly of military weaponry since World War II."

The Pathfinder book *Malcolm X Talks To Young People* is also selling briskly and has been reviewed in numerous publications.

Kliatt, a publication geared to high school librarians, writes, "In these speeches Malcolm claims that it was the African revolution that produced the Black Muslim movement in the U.S. and that pushed the civil rights movement. He said, 'Martin Luther King has held Negroes in check up to recently. But he's losing his grip, he's losing his influence, he's losing his control.' This and other statements were certainly provocative and provide a more radical picture of black protest than that found in most books."

Young Socialist Alliance tour wins wide hearing in Midwest

Continued from Page 3

backs in the Minnesota state budget. Tuition at Winona will be doubled next year for out-of-state students with additional fees charged as well. The state also plans to close its campus at Waseca, the center of Minnesota's farming region and the main campus for young people from farm families who want an agriculture-oriented education. Many protests have taken place against the school's closing.

Several students wanted to know more about the YSA. "What is the history of the YSA?" asked one woman. Lariscy answered that the revolutionary youth organization was founded in 1959. The organization attracted youth who were part of and learned from the civil rights battles of the day, and wanted to defend the Cuban revolution. "The YSA has always been made up of young people who want to change society and are active in social protest movements of the day," she said.

This led to a broader discussion about how to change society. One woman said she worked in the Democratic Farmer-Labor Party, the name of the Democratic Party in Minnesota. Lariscy encouraged the student to instead look to the power of independent political organization of working people as the key to change, rather than the twin parties of big business — the Democrats and Republicans. She pointed to the mobilizations of workers fighting for unions, the battles for civil rights, the movement that arose against the imperialist war against the people of Vietnam, and the battle to legalize abortion as examples.

YSAmember Gerardo Sánchez introduced himself at the meeting. He is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for board of education in nearby St. Paul. "I use my campaign to get out ideas — like the need to oppose the U.S. occupation of Iraq. The Democrats and Republicans both supported the war, and they're the same on most other issues. Neither will fight on behalf of working people."

The discussion continued long after the meeting itself ended. One woman who had been a central activist in the campus antiwar organization decided to join the YSA.

Lariscy also spoke before two sociology classes at Austin High School, where sev-

eral students argued in favor of the U.S. war in the Arab-Persian Gulf.

Britain: new rise in unemployment

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — According to government figures released here March 14, official unemployment in Britain topped 2 million in February. This is 7 percent of the work force, up from 6.5 percent in December. The monthly rise of 85,600 was the highest since 1980, and the fifth largest on record.

This was also the eleventh consecutive month in which rising unemployment statistics have been released. According to the March 15 *Financial Times* the trend is expected to continue upwards and "is projected to reach around 2.75 million by the end of the year."

The real jobless figure is higher still. Over the past 10 years, 18 adjustments have been made to the way in which unemployment is calculated. According to *Labor Research*, when official unemployment reached 1.85 million last November, the figure would have been 2.9 million had it been calculated on the old basis.

Working people are being made to pay for the economic recession. Government figures reveal that business failures in 1990 hit a 14-year high with 4,581 going bust.

Industrial output has declined for seven consecutive months. Manufacturing output in the last three months of 1990 was 3 percent lower than in the previous quarter, and 3 percent lower than in the corresponding period a year earlier. The largest drops in output in this period were in chemicals and metals, recording a 4 and 5 percent fall respectively. Employment in manufacturing fell by 112,000 in the year to December 1990. In January the figure for total employment in manufacturing fell below 5 million workers for the first time since the government began tracking that statistic in 1959.

According to the Low Pay Unit, 10 million people in Britain live below the Council of Europe's "decency" threshold of US\$302 a week. It says that the number below the threshold has risen by 100,000 since 1985.

'Gates out' demand continues

Continued from Page 1

immediate suspect of a crime. So is a Black man driving an expensive car, a car with a car phone, or an old run-down car."

'Stealth' baton

On April 12 the *Los Angeles Times* reproduced a flyer being widely distributed among cops. It advertises a weapon for police officers dubbed the "Stealth PR-24."

"Attn: Chiefs of Police," the flyer states. "The new Stealth PR-24 is made of a clear material rendering it totally invisible to video." The savage King beating came to light only as a result of a video filmed by a horrified observer.

Featuring a drawing of the fictional weapon, the cop flyer continues, "Avoid unpleasant publicity. Your officers will appear to be simply dancing or gesturing with their hands should any difficult person require special handling."

One cop told the *Times* that police officers are "notorious with coming up with sick stuff. The guys do this," he claimed, "to relieve tension."

The response of top LAPD officials was even more revealing. Gates — known for rash and crude public comments about Blacks, immigrant workers, and others — could find no words stronger than "silly and insensitive" to describe the flyer.

LAPD spokesman Lt. Fred Nixon added, "Regardless of the innocent intent, it represents the kind of insensitivity that the chief is determined to eliminate."

"This kind of carelessness," continued Nixon, who was clearly more concerned about the cops' image than the deadly reality of their behavior, "is just something we can't afford."

Recognizing the deep-going opposition boiling up over cop brutality as a result of the Rodney King beating, Nixon commented further about the flyer, "The timing makes it very serious. What you're risking is that someone might not know that your intention is playful."

"There is nothing 'innocent' or 'playful' about the flyer, and the reaction by Gates and his top officers is outrageous," Young Socialist Alliance leader John Evenhuis said in an interview. "It is just another sign of why Gates must go," said the 21-year-old activist in the "oust Gates" protests. "Getting rid of Gates will send a message to all the cops that we won't stand for their brutality or racist 'jokes' and that working people can and will fight back against it."

Court ruling

The April 8 court decision putting Gates back on the job came as a result of a lawsuit filed by Gates against the Los Angeles Police Commission. On April 4 the commission placed Gates on 60-day leave while it completes an investigation begun in the aftermath of the King beating.

On April 5 the Los Angeles City Council instructed the city attorney to settle the Gates lawsuit by putting him back on the job. The council is not empowered to reverse police commission decisions but is authorized to settle lawsuits filed against the commission.

So the council action, taken before Gates had even filed the lawsuit, resulted in reversing the decision to put him on leave.

Judge Ronald Sohigan issued a temporary restraining order claiming the police commission's action "has caused and will continue to cause irreparable damage," to Gates and the public.

However, Sohigan refused to sign an agreement that would have completely thrown out the police commission's action. He instead set an April 25 court date to consider whether the city council acted improperly in giving Gates his job back. Argument for this was presented by attorneys for the commission and a coalition of civil rights groups including the NAACP, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Urban League, and others.

Mayor Tom Bradley meanwhile pulled back further from any public effort to get Gates out. Prior to the police commission's April 4 vote, Bradley had publicly called for Gates to resign.

But on April 9, the day after the court ruling reinstating Gates, city council President John Ferraro, a Gates supporter, hosted a "summit meeting" with Bradley and Gates. At a follow-up news conference the three declared a "truce" to "give the people of this city a chance to cool off," as Ferraro put it.

"We hope that we can reduce the rhetoric that has developed," said Bradley, "and begin the process by which this culturally diverse city comes together."

"It's true that we do not agree on everything," Gates chimed in, "but we do agree that we need to get this city back in shape. We need to get it back in order."

Behind the legal wrangling and political maneuvering are simmering differences among the wealthy forces who rule this city and the political figures who represent them. They differ over how to handle the sharp polarization that has developed over the issue of Gates and police brutality, and how best to defuse public protest.

Bradley, for instance, was asked at the "truce" press conference if he still thought Gates should resign. Ferraro hurried to the microphone and responded, "We're going to work together now."

But Bradley answered the question stating, "I did make that statement. I believed it then and I stand by that statement."

The Gates forces are also dissatisfied with the so-called truce. On April 12 Gates' attorney Jay Grodin charged Bradley with "in-

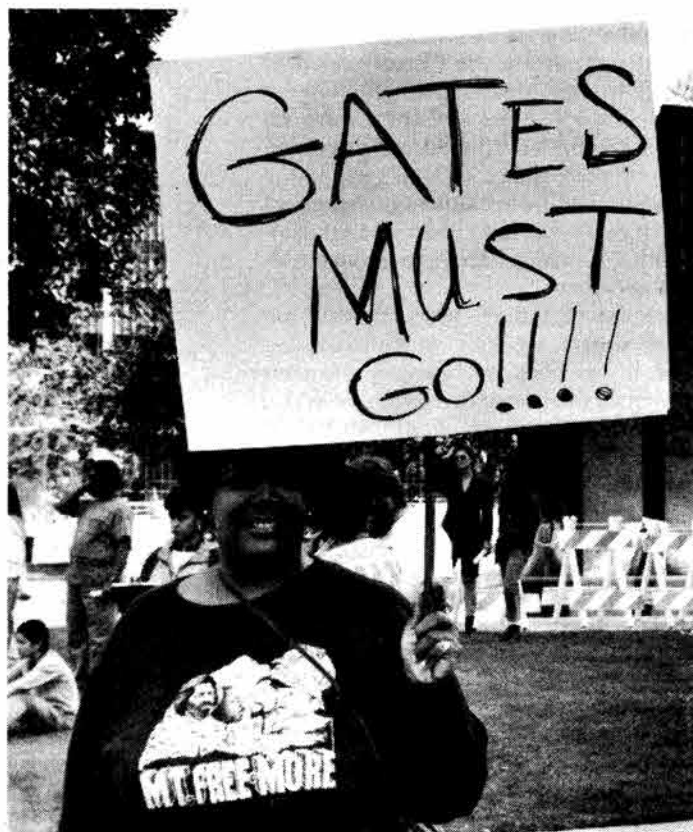
flaming" the controversy over Gates' future by secretly directing the police commission to file an appeal of the court ruling that reinstated Gates.

Bradley, who has left town on a two week overseas trade mission, made no comment on the charge before he left. However on April 11 an attorney hired by the police commission, citing a "constitutional crisis" in city government, filed a petition asking the state court of appeals to dissolve the temporary restraining order reinstating Gates.

The city attorney's office, acting for the city council, responded in court by branding the police commission "a dissident arm of city government."

'Where is the peace'

City council member Joy Picus, another Gates supporter, also objected to the police commission's appeal. "Where has the peace



Participant in March 30 demonstration of 5,000 against cop brutality in Los Angeles.

gone?" complained Picus. "I'm so disappointed that when the mayor and the police chief and John Ferraro send out a powerful image of peace, it apparently doesn't have any meaning."

The tactical differences among big business politicians are sharp enough that before he left town Bradley had to hold a special meeting with Ferraro to get him to pledge not to use his authority as acting mayor in Bradley's absence to replace members of the police commission.

Ferraro said publicly he has no such plans but threatened, "I could replace them. I could appoint somebody if the [city] council would go along with that."

Eli Green, Socialist Workers Party city council candidate in the recently completed April 8 elections, said in an interview that more actions like the 5,000-strong April 6 march are needed.

"There may be some differences among Bradley and Ferraro and the wealthy families they speak for," Green explained, "but none of them can be relied on to get Gates out. Only the independent action of working people and other opponents of police brutality can do that."

"We need to keep our eyes on the prize," the socialist and oil refinery unionist continued, "and 'the prize' is forcing Gates out. That victory will not be handed to us by any judge or politician. It can only be won through mobilizing the public outrage that the beating of Rodney King has helped unleash. Let Bradley, Ferraro and the various attorneys do what they feel they need to do. We should stay in the streets."

The next picket line is scheduled for Saturday, April 20, from 9 a.m. to noon at Parker Center. Another protest is planned for Thursday, April 25, in front of Superior Court when the challenge to Gates' reinstatement is heard. A march to Parker Center is scheduled for May 11.

The broad coalition of forces organizing to get Gates out continues to hold large open planning meetings every Wednesday. For more information call (213) 296-2630.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS



S. Korea police clash with youth protesting Gorbachev's visit

South Korean police clashed with 1,000 student activists at an April 12 rally at the University of Foreign Studies in northern Seoul, the capital of South Korea. There were no immediate reports of injuries or arrests.

The students were protesting the planned April 19 visit to South Korea of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. They charged that Gorbachev had been lured by the Seoul regime's offer of \$3 billion in economic aid and was coming to promise support for a South Korean attempt to become a member of the United Nations.

Neither North nor South Korea have membership status at the United Nations. Both maintain observer missions. The government in the North and supporters of Korean reunification have objected to separate membership, which they say would further institutionalize the division of the peninsula.

Gorbachev is to meet South Korean President Roh Tae Woo during a stop at Cheju Island off Korea's southern coast before a visit to Japan.

Korea was divided into north and south following World War II in an agreement between Washington and Moscow. The Soviet Union was long considered an ally of North Korea, but in September 1990 Gorbachev established diplomatic relations with Seoul. The visit to Korea, to either north or south, is the first by a Soviet leader.

Cuban press agency reports unemployment on island

The Cuban press agency Prensa Latina reported at the end of March that the Cuban government was creating two categories of laid-off workers: "available" and "surplus." Surplus workers are those who lose their jobs, but can be relocated. Available workers are unemployed.

The near collapse of trade with eastern European countries and increasingly strained economic ties with the Soviet Union have imposed growing economic difficulties on Cuba. The government has moved to conserve fuel by replacing some tractors with oxen in agriculture and encouraging the use of bicycles in place of motorized transportation.

Unemployed workers will receive 100 percent of their salary for one month and 60 percent each following month.

Antinuclear groups in Japan demand nuclear plant shutdown

Antinuclear groups in Japan have presented petitions to the government signed by tens of thousands. They are demanding the shutdown of 17 nuclear reactors.

The action comes as the Japanese government closed three nuclear power plants since February 9 because of accidents. The Tokai reactor, operated by the Japan Atomic Power Co., was shut down due to a valve that would not work.

The first accident occurred when the Mihama plant, 220 miles west of Tokyo, released radiation into the atmosphere. It was the first accident in Japan in which the emergency core cooling system was set off to prevent a meltdown of the power plant's fuel rods.

The accident at Tokai is the fifth accident at nuclear power facilities reported in a month. Japan depends on nuclear power for more than 25 percent of its electricity.

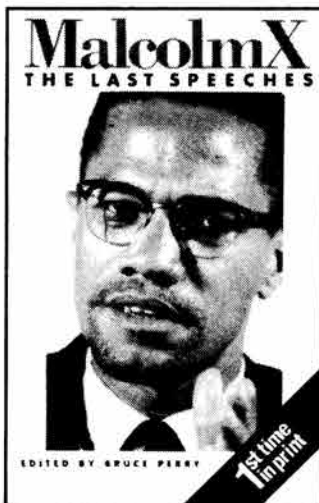
Georgia declares independence

In an April 9 vote, the parliament of the republic of Georgia unanimously declared its independence from the Soviet Union. The vote was timed to coincide with the second anniversary of the killing of 19 protesters by Soviet troops in Tbilisi, the Georgian capital. The republic is now the fourth to unilaterally assert its independence. The Baltic republics of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia were the first.

Worldwide increase in AIDS

The World Health Organization in Geneva reported that the number of AIDS cases jumped 9.8 percent in the first three months of 1991 to 345,533 in 162 countries. WHO officials said they believed many countries underreported figures and that the real number could be about 1.3 million people with AIDS.

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Che Guevara 'pioneered and defended' economic policies of revolutionary Cuba

Reprinted here is the introduction to *New International* no. 8: *Che Guevara, Cuba, and the Road to Socialism*. This new issue of the magazine of Marxist theory and politics is available from Pathfinder at the addresses listed in the advertisement below. Reprinted with permission. Copyright © 1991, 408 Printing and Publishing.

This issue of *New International* is devoted to a number of Ernesto Che Guevara's contributions to the leadership of the Cuban revolution, centering on the economic policies he pioneered and defended. It includes an exchange of views on the lasting importance and historical weight of these contributions to the political continuity of communism. Section one contains four articles that are part of a discussion of these questions under way both in Cuba and internationally. The second section contains two articles by Guevara from the early 1960s that have long been unavailable in English translation.

The articles by Carlos Rafael Rodríguez and Carlos Tablada first appeared in *Cuba Socialista*, a bimonthly magazine published by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.¹

Carlos Rafael Rodríguez is a vice president of Cuba's Council of State and a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party. Since the opening years of the revolution in the early 1960s, he has been part of the central leadership that charted the anti-imperialist and anticapitalist course that has marked the Cuban government for more than thirty years.

Rodríguez, born in 1913, was a veteran leader of the Popular Socialist Party (Communist Party) of Cuba in 1959, when the revolution triumphed under the leadership of the July 26 Movement. He helped lead the PSP to join forces with Fidel Castro, Ernesto Che Guevara, and other leaders of the July 26 Movement (as well as of the student-based Revolutionary Directorate) in forming a united revolutionary organization of Cuba's working class in 1961. That unified organization took the name Communist Party of Cuba in 1965.

Redressing unequal exchange

Since 1972 Rodríguez has been Cuba's permanent representative on the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA). The CMEA, now virtually defunct, grouped together the Soviet Union, most of the Eastern European workers' states, as well as Cuba, Vietnam, and Mongolia.² Within the CMEA, Rodríguez was an outspoken champion of an important international political battle pioneered by Guevara in the early 1960s: the fight to win preferential trade and pricing policies from the more industrially developed workers' states for Mongolia, Vietnam, and Cuba, as well as for other governments in the Third World facing intensified imperialist pressures.

Consistent with the facts that Guevara explained in clear and reasoned terms more than a quarter century ago, Rodríguez and other Cuban leaders have continued to insist

that such preferential policies are a necessary step toward redressing the way the world market perpetuates unequal exchange.³

Another article by Rodríguez, "Lenin and the Colonial Question," was translated and published in *New International* no. 1.

Carlos Tablada, born in 1948, is an economist who teaches at the University of Havana and has worked in the management of Cuban state enterprises. He is the author of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* (Spanish title: *El pensamiento económico de Ernesto Che Guevara*). For his work on this book, Tablada was awarded the Ernesto Che Guevara Special Prize in the 1987 literary competition of the Havana-based cultural institution Casa de las Américas.

In Fidel Castro's October 1987 speech commemorating the twentieth anniversary of Guevara's death, the Cuban president pointed to the importance of studying Tablada's work. "The author," Castro remarked, "compiled, studied, and presented in a book the essence of Che's economic ideas, retrieved from many of his speeches and writings — articles and speeches dealing with a subject so decisive in the building of socialism."⁴

Over the past three years Tablada has traveled widely, speaking on the issues discussed in his book on Guevara and their relevance to the Cuban revolution today. He has visited the Latin American countries of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela. In the fall of 1989 he conducted a two-week speaking tour of Canada, and in April and May 1990 spoke in some thirty cities and towns across the United States.

In late 1990 and early 1991, Tablada toured ten countries in Western Europe: Britain, Denmark, the Faeroe Islands, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Norway, Spain, and Sweden. He has spoken in Italy in 1988 and 1989. He is scheduled to visit Australia and New Zealand in 1991.

Tablada is currently working on a number of additional volumes that look in greater detail at particular aspects of Guevara's political contributions discussed in the article published here and in *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*; by Carlos Tablada (New York: Pathfinder, 1990), p. 45.

3. Unequal exchange refers to the exploitative draining of value from the oppressed nations of the Third World not only to the imperialist countries, but also to more industrially advanced workers' states that conduct trade on the basis of world market prices. Guevara's views on this are presented in two speeches, "The Philosophy of Plunder Must Cease" and "At the Afro-Asian Conference," in *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution: Writings and Speeches of Ernesto Che Guevara*, (Pathfinder), pp. 299-320, 337-46.

4. Fidel Castro, "Che's Ideas Are Absolutely Relevant Today," *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*; by Carlos Tablada (New York: Pathfinder, 1990), p. 45.



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Che Guevara doing volunteer work in Cuba in early 1960s. Volunteer minibrigades have been central to Cuba's rectification process, says Mary-Alice Waters in upcoming issue of *New International*.

nomics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism.

Continuity of Marxism

The article by Steve Clark and Jack Barnes takes up a number of points concerning the history of the Cuban revolution and the continuity of Marxism raised in the article by Carlos Rafael Rodríguez. It is based in part on a series of seminars held during an international gathering of more than one thousand workers and socialist activists in Oberlin, Ohio, in August 1989.

Participants in that leadership conference came from more than twenty countries. Communist organizations in Australia, Britain, Canada, France, Iceland, Iran, New Zealand, Sweden, and the United States, among others, participated, as well as representatives from organizations such as the African National Congress, the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, and the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement of Grenada.

Clark is managing editor of *New International*. He is the author of "The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop" in *New International* no. 6, and is the director of a project by Pathfinder Press to publish the Selected Works of Malcolm X.

Barnes is national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States. He is the author of several articles published in previ-

ous issues of *New International*, as well as the book *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: The Proletarian Party and the Trade Unions*.⁵

Barnes first began following the economic and political questions posed by Guevara, Rodríguez, and others in the leadership of the Cuban revolution some thirty years ago. In the summer of 1960 Barnes visited Cuba on a college research grant to study the economic transformation of Cuba under the new workers' and farmers' government. During the months he was there, virtually all the imperialist-owned industry on the island and many large enterprises that were Cuban owned were expropriated by the revolutionary government in a wave of massive workers' mobilizations.

Before the end of the year Cuba had established the economic foundations that made it possible to begin the transition to socialism and necessitated centralized planning. The political and economic alternatives discussed in this issue of *New International* — elements of which were already being intensely discussed by a vanguard in 1959 and 1960 — then began to be tested in practice and debated more widely and thoroughly.

The article that opens the first section is by Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *New International*. It is based on a presentation made in November 1989 at a panel on "Che Guevara's Thought in Contemporary Cuba" during a conference on "Thirty Years of the Cuban Revolution: An Assessment," held in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Waters is also editor of *In Defense of Socialism*, a selection of speeches by Fidel Castro on the thirtieth anniversary of the Cuban revolution, as well as *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* by Fidel Castro and Ricardo Alarcón, which documents Cuba's uncompromising opposition to the 1990-91 imperialist war against Iraq, an assault backed by all five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.⁶

In June 1988 Waters was one of two U.S. delegates invited to make presentations to the International Scientific Seminar sponsored by the National Commission to Pay Homage to Ernesto Che Guevara held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The seminar drew several hundred participants from virtually every country in the Americas.

The international conference in Halifax,

Continued on Page 7

1. Rodríguez's article appeared in issue no. 33 (May-June 1988) of *Cuba Socialista*. In issue no. 35 the Cuban journal opened a discussion in its pages concerning the transition to socialism. Tablada's article, which appeared in issue no. 39 (May-June 1989), was a contribution to that exchange. Other articles in this debate continued to appear through issue no. 45 (July-September 1990), after which publication of *Cuba Socialista* and numerous other Cuban periodicals and newspapers was suspended due to a severe shortage of paper and printing materials.

2. The CMEA (also sometimes called Com-econ) was founded in 1949 at Moscow's initiative. Its stated purpose was to coordinate trade and investment policies of the Soviet and Eastern European workers' states. In subsequent years Mongolia (1962), Cuba (1972), and Vietnam (1978) joined the council. Yugoslavia was not a member but participated in some CMEA bodies. Albania withdrew in 1961. North Korea and China were never CMEA members or associates.

In January 1990 the CMEA announced that its trade policies would be increasingly based on world market prices, payable in hard currency. Plans to dissolve the CMEA and replace it with a looser body called the Organization for International Economic Coordination were subsequently announced.

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BY CARLOS TABLADA

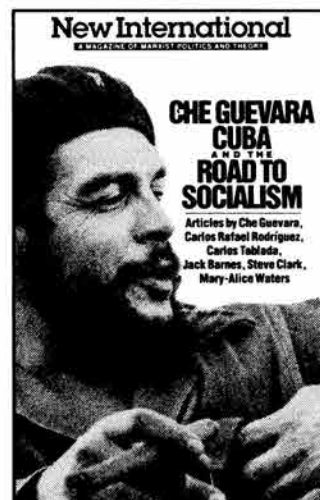
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BY STEVE CLARK AND JACK BARNES

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Join campaign to get out facts!

Mideast events boost sales of 'International Socialist Review'

BY RONI McCANN

Every day more facts are exposed about the horrific and widespread devastation wrought on the people in Iraq and the region during the brutal seven-month allied war. This includes the barbaric and inhumane conditions forced on hundreds of thousands of Kurdish toilers and Shiites in the south of the country, fleeing the criminal Baghdad regime in the aftermath of the slaughter.

Working people have an obligation to help make these facts widely known. Supporters and readers of the *Militant* are doing exactly

that by campaigning against imperialism and war. They are reaching out to unionists, co-workers, GIs and reservists, farmers, and high school and college students with the *Militant* and two issues of its magazine supplement *International Socialist Review* and Pathfinder books and pamphlets.

A December *International Socialist Review* features articles by Socialist Workers Party leader Jack Barnes that address: What is behind the imperialists' war drive? What is the character of the Iraqi regime? How did the government of revolutionary Cuba use

its seat in the United Nations Security Council to oppose Washington's course; and what must be the response by the toiling majority and its communist vanguard in the face of the ruling-class assault?

The new April supplement contains the text of the recent UN report on what its visiting delegation termed the "apocalyptic conditions" in Iraq today. *Militant* supporters are circulating the issue and explaining why the world's imperialist powers must be held responsible for this act of brutality.

Many people have reported on the results of the circulation effort in their area.

Louise Halverson from Pittsburgh writes: "Militant salespeople sold 47 copies of the April *International Socialist Review* to participants at two showings of a video here documenting the destruction in Iraq and suffering of the Iraqi people due to the war.

"More than 100 people turned out at three showings of *Nowhere to Hide: Ramsey Clark in Iraq*. Most people immediately dug out two quarters after looking through the *International Socialist Review* which documents what the video portrays: that Iraqi society is on the brink of catastrophe."

Gary Boyers from Detroit reports: "We would like to order an additional bundle of 75 copies of the April *International Socialist Review*. Socialist workers who are members of industrial unions here discussed and adopted a short sales effort to get this out. International Association of Machinists members took a goal of 25 and have sold 11 already. United Auto Workers members took a goal of selling 23.

"At a teach-in at Wayne State University sponsored by a local antiwar action coalition, the *International Socialist Review* was in demand. Out of the 200 in attendance, 41 bought copies and one person subscribed to the *Militant*."

Socialist candidates and their supporters in Newark used the April supplement as they petitioned for signatures to place their names on the ballot for upcoming elections there, writes Deborah Liatos. Out of a goal of selling 75 copies of the supplement, the candidates' supporters had sold 27 as of March 30.

In Stockholm, Sweden, *Militant* supporters ran out of the April *International Socialist Review* and ordered 20 more of the UN report.

Sales of the December issue of the *International Socialist Review* are also going well. Patrick Brown of Wellington, New Zealand, wrote in to report on discussions at a union-organized cookie factory. One worker decided to buy a copy of the supplement after discussing the war with a *Militant* supporter there. After watching a television account of the damage after a bombing raid on Iraq, she said she was horrified and would like to volunteer as a Red Cross nurse to go help in the area.

On April 11 the *Militant* received an order from an antiwar group in Rochester, Minnesota: "Please send 100 copies of the April '91 *International Socialist Review* and 10 copies of the December 1990 issue."

Join *Militant* readers and others in advancing a working-class campaign against imperialism and war. Help circulate both issues of the *International Socialist Review*! Order your bundle now!

* * *

Bundles of 100 or more of the April supplement may be ordered for \$30 each; \$3.50 for 10; \$2.00 for 5; \$.75 for single copies. Bundles of 10 or more of the December supplement may be ordered for \$1 each, a 33 percent discount. Single copies are \$1.50 each. Shipping included. Just send in the coupon below.

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April 26, 1991 The *Militant* 7

Guevara and Cuba's economic policies

Continued from Page 6

sponsored by the Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies, was attended by six hundred people, making it the largest gathering of its kind outside Cuba in the thirty-year history of the revolution. A delegation of forty participants from Cuba was headed by Ricardo Alarcón, Cuba's first deputy foreign minister, who is currently serving as ambassador to the United Nations. Carlos Tablada was among the Cuban delegates and spoke on the panel on Guevara together with Waters and several other participants. A reception celebrating publication of the English-language edition of Tablada's book was attended by some two hundred conference participants.

Political reorientation of revolution

The article by Waters places Guevara's contributions, and the current debate about them, in the context of the Cuban revolution today and the social dynamics of the political reorientation of the revolution launched in 1986 by the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba. The rectification process, as it is called, was initiated in response to growing evidence of the political demobilization and demoralization of working people in Cuba. This disorientation was a result of the political course that had begun to be implemented in the early 1970s based on economic and political policies largely copied from the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries.⁷

Since the beginning of 1990, Cuba has suffered increasingly onerous economic shortages and dislocations as a result of the sharp and sudden deterioration in the scope and terms of trade with the Eastern European countries and the Soviet Union. These countries have been Cuba's largest trading partners since the early 1960s. This new trade squeeze compounds the ongoing effects of Washington's brutal, thirty-year-long economic embargo of Cuba and its unrelenting policy of seeking by every means possible to erode popular support in Cuba and around the world for the revolutionary internationalist course of the Cuban government.

In January 1991, for the first time in three decades, the Soviet Union required Cuba to conduct much of the trade between the two countries in hard currency at world market prices. While terms to help buffer this change have been negotiated for 1991, these cushions are being phased out. There have also been increasing shortfalls and delays in deliveries of oil, wheat, and other items imported from the Soviet Union.

'Special period in peacetime'

As a result, Cuba faces substantial energy shortages, deficiencies in construction materials, and severe pressure on its limited foreign currency reserves. In August 1990 the Cuban government began instituting austerity policies to meet the economic challenges

of what it calls the "special period during peacetime."

In order to conserve energy and other raw materials, the length of the standard work-week has been cut by dropping the long-standing practice of working alternate Saturdays. Rationing has been extended to a much broader range of consumer items to ensure a more equitable distribution of reduced available quantities, and the production and distribution of consumer durables (refrigerators, washing machines, other appliances) and a range of light consumer goods have been severely cut back. Private energy use and purchase of gasoline and other petroleum products have been curtailed.

The Cuban government has also instituted a sharp reduction in planned new construction of social projects such as schools, clinics, day-care centers, and urban housing, although projects already under way are being completed. In addition, a number of major industrial, transportation, and communications projects have either been shut down or

'New International' No. 8 is devoted to Guevara's contributions to leading Cuban revolution.

their completion postponed. Resources and labor have been redirected toward projects most essential to (1) advancing toward self-sufficiency in food production and (2) attempting to increase needed hard currency earnings to meet steeply rising costs of vital energy and industrial imports.

These austerity measures are having an impact on important aspects of the rectification process discussed by Waters, especially the volunteer minibrigades and construction contingents, and the application of these methods of organizing work to other sectors of industrial production itself.

The brigades, based on the renewed mobilization of volunteer labor along lines advocated by Guevara, have been central to the advance of rectification during its opening few years, as Waters points out. Since 1987 the minibrigades have organized the building of much-needed housing, schools, day-care centers, and other social projects in Cuba. The construction contingents have taken on larger projects to improve Cuba's infrastructure of transportation and communications as well as its industrial capacity.

Many new social projects suspended

Under the conditions of the "special period," many of the new social projects that would have been undertaken by minibrigades have now been suspended in face of shortages of energy and building materials. In Havana and Havana City provinces, volunteer labor has been redirected toward agricultural work and the construction of housing and social facilities in rural areas as part of the push toward an expanded agricultural work force and more rapid progress toward food self-sufficiency.

The balance of priorities for the construction contingents has also been shifted toward projects in line with the government's current development plans, such as dams, irrigation projects, and other waterworks related to the food program; major construction projects more directly linked to plans to expand export earnings; and tourism aimed at earning hard currency.

Given the effects of these tightening eco-

nomie conditions and social pressures, the issues discussed in the articles that follow are all the more central to the challenges confronting Cuba and its leadership today, including prospects for further advances along the revolutionary course of the rectification process.

The second section of this issue of *New International* contains two articles by Guevara written in 1963-64. Both were contributions to a public discussion in several Cuban journals on economic planning and management in Cuba. At issue were the political and social perspectives served by alternative courses being implemented by and discussed within the leadership, and the consequences for communists in advancing the transition to socialism.⁸

At the time of this debate, Guevara was the director of the Ministry of Industry, which organized enterprises accountable to it along the lines of what was called the "budgetary finance system." An alternative "economic accounting system" was in use in enterprises organized by the National Institute of Agrarian Reform, headed by Carlos Rafael Rodríguez from 1962 to 1965. The economic accounting system was also implemented in enterprises responsible to the Ministry of Foreign Trade, directed by Alberto Mora. (An explanation of these two methods of economic planning and management and contrasting viewpoints on them run throughout the articles in this issue.)

Guevara's two most comprehensive contributions to this debate are "Planning and Consciousness in the Transition to Socialism ('On the Budgetary Finance System') and 'Socialism and Man in Cuba.'" Both articles — together with many others related to the matters discussed in this issue — are available in English translation in *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution: Writings and Speeches of Ernesto Che Guevara*.

The two polemics by Guevara published here are not contained in that Pathfinder collection. They are reprinted for the first time in nearly twenty years. New English translations have been made by *New International* for this occasion. "On the Concept of Value: A Reply to Alberto Mora," originally appeared in Cuba in the October 1963 issue of *Nuestra Industria, Revista Económica* (Our industry, a journal of economics), published by the Ministry of Industry.

"The Meaning of Socialist Planning: A Reply to Charles Bettelheim," was published in the June 1964 issue of *Cuba Socialista*. Bettelheim is a French economist who at the time was serving as an adviser to the Cuban government; his article, "On Socialist Planning and the Level of Development of the Productive Forces," had been published in the April 1964 issue of *Cuba Socialista*.

These two articles by Guevara, as well as the articles by Carlos Rafael Rodríguez and Carlos Tablada, have been translated into English by Michael Baumann and Michael Taber for publication in *New International*. Except where otherwise indicated, the notes to the articles in this issue have been prepared by *New International*.

April 8, 1991

8. English translations of sixteen of the major articles from this discussion are available in *Man and Socialism in Cuba: The Great Debate*; Bertram Silverman (ed.), (New York: Atheneum, 1971).

9. An English translation of Bettelheim's article is available in *Man and Socialism in Cuba: The Great Debate*, pp. 31-59.

7. For further information on the rectification process in Cuba, see: "Cuba's Rectification Process: Two Speeches by Fidel Castro," including the introduction "Cuba: A Historic Moment" by Mary-Alice Waters, in *New International*, no. 6 (1987); the October 1987 speech by Fidel Castro, "Che's Ideas Are Absolutely Relevant Today," published as an introduction to Tablada's book *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*, as well as the publisher's preface to that book; *Cuba Will Never Adopt Capitalist Methods* by Fidel Castro (New York: Pathfinder, 1988); and Fidel Castro, *In Defense of Socialism: Four Speeches on the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution*, including the editor's introduction.

Baker trip reveals Mideast war failures

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

JERUSALEM, Israel — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived here April 8 on his second visit to the Middle East since the March 3 cease-fire in the war against Iraq.

The visit comes in the context of deepening awareness that despite its military victory over the Iraqi army, Washington is suffering a political defeat. It has failed to accomplish its goals of a subservient regime in Baghdad or increased stability for imperialist interests in the Middle East.

Instead, Washington is faced with growing political problems: massive new refugee flows in Iraq, to destabilized governments in the region, and the continued Palestinian *intifada* in Israel.

The U.S. government has been hoping to use its intervention in the Arab-Persian Gulf to win open recognition of Israel by Arab governments in return for possible Israeli government concessions on land for some form of Palestinian autonomy. Egypt is still the only Arab government that recognizes Israel.

Baker's visit sparked a debate among members of the Knesset, the Israeli parliament. Members of the Likud party took a hard line towards Baker and any idea of "land for peace."

Labor party Knesset member Gad Ya'acobi disagreed, saying that the Israeli government should "bid farewell to its illusion that one can achieve peace without ceding territory according to Security Council Resolution 242. The government must cease settlement in areas of dense Palestinian population."

As Baker was arriving here, Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens ordered the release of 1,000 Palestinian prisoners. There are more than 14,000 Palestinians in Israeli jails who have been arrested during the *intifada*.

The prisoner release announcement drew fire from sections of the Israeli ruling class. Housing Minister Ariel Sharon called it "a grave mistake."

Plans for a peace conference

Following Baker's meetings with Israeli officials on April 9, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy told a press conference that the U.S. and Israeli governments had reached agreement on a joint approach on how to organize a conference involving Arab states, Palestinians and Israelis.

According to the *New York Times*, the U.S. government hopes the meeting "would simultaneously satisfy Arab demands for international cover for talks with Israel as well as Israeli demands for direct talks with" Arab governments.

The Israeli government wants the conference to open with a purely ceremonial meeting, led by the United States and Soviet Union, and then "fold its tent." In the Israeli proposal the conference would immediately break down into individual talks between Israel and Arab governments and Israeli and Palestinian representatives.

Israel insists that there be no PLO representatives or residents of East Jerusalem among any Palestinian delegation. Israel has formally annexed East Jerusalem.

At the press conference, with Levy standing at his side, Baker stated, "I hope that there is not any rush by journalists with respect to the fact that something has been completely agreed to, because that is not the case."

"There are still many, many, many, many questions," the U.S. secretary of state said, "that have to be addressed and looked at and ironed out."

Intensified restrictions on Palestinians

Baker also met with a six-member delegation of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza. The delegation, sanctioned by the PLO, was headed by Faisal Husseini from East Jerusalem. Baker had met with a larger Palestinian delegation during his first visit a month ago.

In a letter presented to Baker, Husseini said that the Israeli response since the first visit was "to intensify the restrictions on the Palestinians — which effectively translate into economic strangulation and the fragmentation of our society into Bantustan-like areas cut off from our capital, East Jerusalem." Husseini pointed out that 15,000 new settlers have moved into the West Bank and Gaza in the last year and that thousands of acres of

land are being cleared for new settlements.

Following the meeting, delegation member Zacharia al-Agha, head of the Gaza Medical Association, said at a press conference, "I personally think there is no change in the American position. They are insisting on the principle of not letting the PLO participate in the peace process."

Some Palestinian groups had publicly called for a boycott of the meetings with Baker, including the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Communist Party. Hamas, an Islamic Palestinian organization with a strong following in Gaza, called a one-day strike to protest Baker's visit.

Following his trip to Israel, Baker flew to Cairo and then Damascus, meeting with the government officials from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria.

Baker won support from the Saudi and Egyptian governments for the conference.

The U.S. secretary of state also met with Taher al-Masri, foreign minister of Jordan. This was the first high-level contact between U.S. and Jordanian officials since Jordan's King Hussein criticized the U.S. assault on Iraq in February.

"Jordan will attend the conference," stated al-Masri, although he attached some prior conditions.

But Washington could not report any advance with the Syrian government, a key to any diplomatic success. The Syrian government wants the return of the Golan Heights, conquered by Israel in 1967. After five hours of discussions with Syrian President Hafez Assad, Baker refused to comment on the results of their talks.

"It's been a long night," Baker said. "We're hoping people wouldn't rush to judgment."

Growing disillusion of U.S. rulers

Baker's trip comes at a time of growing

disillusion among the U.S. ruling class over the results of the U.S.-led war against the people of Iraq.

Writing in the April 12 *Wall Street Journal*, Fred Ikle, former undersecretary of defense in the Reagan administration, says, "The news from Iraq is bad. After the brilliant military victory, a colossal human tragedy is emerging that is bringing the U.S. to the edge of a political defeat."

"Many critics now fear President Bush has walked away from this final round, leaving Iraq a vast disaster area, like an abandoned Chernobyl reactor, and condemning Kurds and Shi'ites to choose between permanent refugee camps, prison or death," Ikle adds.

"Don't despair," Ikle says without much conviction. "The great victory in the Gulf War — now looking so tattered and tarnished — can yet be saved."

In spite of Ikle, some supporters of Washington are openly despairing. Columnist David Broder, writing in the *Washington Post*, states that "since Bush declared the hostilities suspended, the miscalculations have been on our side."

But Broder has no alternative course. "To change the outcome we would have had to destroy those remaining Iraqi divisions," he writes. "Those who charge Bush with moral callousness toward the Kurds do not explain how we would have been on a higher moral plane if we had massacred surrendering Iraqis."

In an April 10 editorial the *Wall Street Journal* stated, "The stable Iraq that was supposed to result from leaving the Baath



Shaded area indicates Kurdistan

government intact and able to protect itself from external threats is in fact not stable and clearly has little prospect of becoming stable."

The *Journal's* solution?: Use any means, "military or otherwise, that may be necessary to reassert control."

U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney gave his response to the widespread criticisms.

"If you're going to go in and try to topple Saddam Hussein, you have to go to Baghdad," Cheney said. "Once you've got to Baghdad, it's not clear what you do with it. It's not clear what kind of government you would put in place of the one that's currently there now. Is it going to be a Shi'a regime, a Sunni regime or a Kurdish regime?"

As each day goes by, the divisions grow, but Washington has no viable solutions.

Staff writer Seth Galinsky in New York contributed to this article.

War goes on as refugee death toll mounts

Continued from front page

Development told a *New York Times* correspondent.

With at least 1,000 people dying daily, *Washington Post* reporters say private relief officials indicate the numbers could triple "as the near total lack of sanitary facilities allows infectious diseases to spread among people who are rapidly getting weaker."

The war against the population in Kurdish areas of Iraq continues. The Iraqi army has been involved in battles with rebels in several towns, including Azmar and around Kirkuk. Kurdish rebels also said Iraqi government troops shelled the Izmer mountain range north of the town of Sulaymaniyah.

Refugees in south

In the southern part of Iraq, tens of thousands more refugees are in camps located in the U.S. armed forces-occupied zone. Reports indicate an increase in the numbers of those seeking refuge or prisoner-of-war status. Only Iraqi soldiers who can provide documentation of their military status are accepted for asylum by the occupation forces. Civilians are turned away. U.S. and Saudi officials are organizing to send most soldiers back to Iraq.

U.S. military forces are under orders not to provide any civilians transportation to the few civilian refugee camps that exist.

A United Nations force, called the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission, is expected to take up positions in mid-April along a six-mile swath of Iraq north of the Kuwaiti border. U.S. forces in southern Iraq are now pulling back to the UN zone. Many refugees, unable to emigrate, are fearful of possible persecution by the Iraqi regime once it retakes control of the area. Newly arrived refugees say fighting with government troops continues in several areas of southern Iraq.

The UN force is to be made up of troops from Norway, Finland, Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Canada, Italy, and Malaysia, in addition to forces from each of the countries that are permanent members of the UN Security

Council — Britain, China, France, the United States, and the Soviet Union.

Borders closed

To date no government has opened its doors to the refugees created by the Iraq war. Stung by criticisms that its military victory ended up creating more instability in the region and a political debacle with the spectacle of the mass refugee flows, the Bush administration began airlifting more food and provisions over northern Iraq April 12.

"The sad and embarrassing plight of the Kurdish and Shiite refugees fleeing the Iraqi government's wrath already has thrown off the administration's postwar plans for making the Middle East more safe and secure for U.S. interests," read an April 12 *Wall Street Journal* news article.

Opinion columns in the big-business press were just as sharp. Senate Foreign Relations Committee member Orrin Hatch wrote in the *New York Times* that the allied governments must "modify their goals to include his [Saddam Hussein's] ouster and internal autonomy for the Kurds." He suggests linking the lifting of sanctions against Iraq to "a change of regimes." Without such a move "we will taint our troops' victory in Operation Desert Storm."

Abbas Amanat from Yale University wrote in the *Times* that the Kurdish refugees "may prove to be the prelude to a political disaster like that of the Middle East's other stateless people, the Palestinians."

On April 11 the Bush administration rejected a European Community plan to create a militarily-protected enclave in northern Iraq for the Kurds. The Iraqi government called the plan part of "the chain of plots against Iraq's sovereignty."

'Stay in Iraq'

UN officials urge the refugees to return to their home towns in Iraq. White House spokesperson Marlin Fitzwater agreed, saying, "Our preference is to have these refugees be able to stay in Iraq and ultimately to be able to return to their homes."

Instead of mobilizing resources to bring all who want to leave out of Iraq, Bush warned Iraqi President Saddam Hussein not

to send his military forces north of the 36th parallel. "We are going forward to give relief to these people where they are," Bush said at a White House press briefing April 11.

Keeping the refugees inside of Iraq has been the policy of both the Turkish and Iranian governments as well. The two governments have only let the refugees enter into small areas across each border, Iran a larger number than Turkey.

David Hearst, a reporter for the British *Guardian*, described one scene on the Turkish border. "Turkey's insistence that the refugees stay in Iraq means only one thing each night: commandos with blue berets beating the frantic crowd back up the slope with their rifle butts. One carried a machine gun, others had alsatians [dogs]," he wrote.

On April 9 the Turkish government formally requested that 22 countries, including the United States, accept some of the Kurds. Several days later a Turkish official, revealing the brutality of all the governments involved, asked the *Guardian's* Hearst, "Do you British, want these Kurds, 300,000 of them? Do the Germans want them? So why should Turkey have them?"

Baker's 7-minute stop

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker went to the Iraq-Turkey border area April 8, where thousands of Kurds are stranded. During his 7-minute stop, several Kurds managed to talk to Baker through his heavily armed security guards.

"We are suffering. Our children are suffering. We don't have enough water, food, and medicine," one refugee told him, according to a *Newsday* correspondent. "We are pleading with all the nations of the world just to help all the people here."

Many refugees have expressed varied opinions on who is to blame for their plight. Some expressed anger at the U.S. government for not toppling Hussein. The fault lies "seventy percent with the United States, the rest, God knows who," one said.

"Is this your new world order?" Jamal Kuchur, who walked through the mountains with his family to the border region, asked a reporter. "Look at me now."

Gulf war hits workers, farmers in Gaza

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — "About 50 to 60,000 workers from here used to work in Israel before the war in the Gulf. Now there are hardly 10,000 who have gotten work permits to go to their jobs there. Agricultural production has been totally disrupted. Farmers are forced to dump tons of fruit and vegetables," said Dr. Haidar Abdel Shafi, head of the Red Crescent relief effort here.

Gaza, a 10-mile-wide by 25-mile-long strip of land, is located north of the Egyptian Sinai peninsula off the Mediterranean Sea. It has been occupied by the Israeli army since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Some 750,000 Palestinians live here, many of them refugees. Over 200,000 are crowded into grey cement apartment buildings in Gaza City. South of here, in the Shoti refugee camp, up to 50 people live on the floor of 4-5 room tin-roof shacks. The camp, run like others here by the United Nations Relief and Works Administration (UNRWA), houses 35-40,000 Palestinians, mostly refugees from Palestinian villages demolished by the Israeli army in 1948.

The Coca-Cola bottling plant, a few food processing factories, and some construction companies employ a small number of workers locally. "With most of the workers who worked in Israel unemployed, there is more competition for jobs. Bosses use it to suppress wages," said Riyadh Saleh Al-Ghoul, an unemployed worker and political activist.

Citrus, strawberries, tomatoes, cucumbers and other vegetables are produced year-round in the fertile land of the strip, mostly for export.

Mohammed Humuda Abu-Khalim is a farmer in Beit Lahia, north of Gaza city. His greenhouses are full of tall green plants bursting from the weight of unharvested tomatoes, half of them rotting on the ground. Tons of overripe strawberries fill the fields in nearby farms.

"Because of the curfew during the war we could not go to the farms during picking season for eggplants and strawberries," said Ismail Mohammed el-Massry. Massry is one of over 400 family farmers who belong to the Beit Lahia Agricultural Cooperative. The cooperative was formed in 1973 "to unite Palestinian farmers to negotiate prices and conditions for export with Agrisco [the Israeli state agricultural export monopoly]," Massry added.

For years, cooperative members have faced severe restrictions in their activities and have had to deal with strict limits on how many farmers they could recruit. As a by-product of the *intifada* — the uprising of the Palestinian people which began in December 1987 — and the resulting pressure from European governments, Massry said the cooperative was allowed for the first time last year to export directly to Europe and to significantly increase its membership. Over 300 farmers joined in one year.

"But we have to export through Israeli airports," Massry said. "In the last few months airport authorities delay sending the shipments. So out of 100 tons of tomatoes, 20 spoil and the remaining 80 are in bad condition when they reach Europe. This is how Israeli authorities make sure that direct contracts with European merchants are cancelled," he added.

Agrisco has not bought any citrus or vegetables from Gaza in the last few months. This has driven prices to less than \$30 per ton for oranges. A 30-pound box of tomatoes sells for less than \$2 here, while in Israel the same box goes for over \$12. Massry estimated that farmers in Gaza would lose about \$1.5 million in sales from the tomato and strawberry crops alone this season.

Starving out Palestinian farmers

Massry explained that this is an escalation of previous attempts by the Israeli authorities to starve Palestinian farmers out of business. He said that Agrisco told Palestinian farmers it needed dozens of tons of eggplants last year. But during the harvest season it did not honor its contract and only bought 7 out of the 250 tons produced. The remaining had to be dumped.

Israeli military authorities also control the water used to irrigate fields. Meters are installed on water pumps which are checked regularly. If farmers exceed their water quota they are heavily fined. Their land can also be confiscated.

"We can't find any other work in construction or in the factories either. So we just work

the land to feed our families," Massry said. Despite these conditions Abu-Khalim, Massry, and other farmers seemed determined to continue to fight for a free Palestinian homeland.

"Tell people in America we are not afraid of the army," a 13-year-old junior high school student said outside of his school on the main street in Gaza City. Israeli soldiers had just raided the school attempting to arrest some students. Hundreds of youth had gathered in the school yard, on the sidewalks, both sides of the road, and nearby rooftops waiting for the army jeeps to come back. "We'll show them," said another student waving a rock.

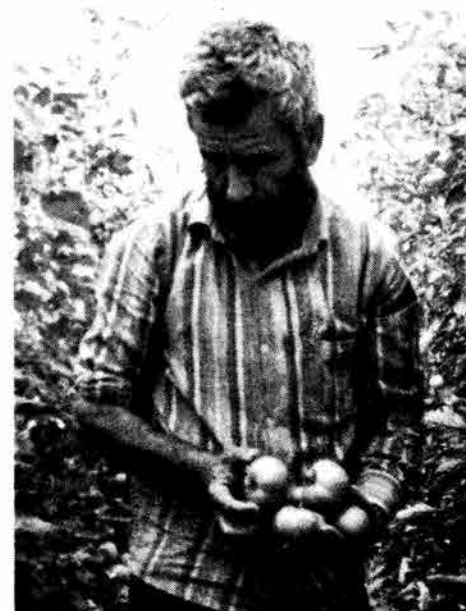
Clashes between Palestinian youth and Israeli troops are a daily occurrence here. "These are our soldiers," our taxi driver said, pointing to the students.

On the way to the Shoti camp the taxi driver swung by the central hospital. Despite daily efforts by the occupation forces to paint them over, the walls around the hospital yard were covered with slogans, such as "The

PLO is our only voice." "This is where the *intifada* started," the driver said, explaining the month-long occupation of the hospital by Palestinian youths in December, 1987, which marked the beginning of the uprising in Gaza.

At the Shoti camp was the rubble from a three-story building used by the Israeli authorities as a detention center. This is where many Palestinians were tortured. After repeated protests the army was forced to evacuate the hated detention center. The following day, camp residents tore down the walls so the building could not be used again. Blood stains can still be found on the now torn-up walls.

"They have not been able to break our spirit," said Riyadh Saleh Al-Ghoul who spent 15 years in Israeli jails for his political activity. Israeli authorities have recently ordered his house to be demolished. "The struggle against the occupation of any people is totally legitimate. Every time they arrest or kill an activist he is replaced. The *intifada* is our only hope," he said.



Militant/Argiris Malapanis
Tomato grower in Gaza. Farmers have been forced to dump tons of produce.

Kuwait to hold elections, 'God willing'

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

Kuwait's emir, Sheik Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah announced April 7 that parliamentary elections would be held "during the coming year, God willing." He did not set a specific date.

In his first radio and television broadcast since Washington declared a unilateral cease-fire March 3 in its war against Iraq, the emir said that leading up to any election "we shall study" the participation of women and review the status of those known as "second-class" citizens in the country.

Of the 2.2 million people that the government estimated were living in that country at the beginning of August 1990, only about 28 percent, or about 700,000 people, were Kuwaitis, according to Planning Minister Abdul Razek al-Mutawa.

Those actually eligible to vote if elections are scheduled are literate males over 21 years of age who can trace their origin to families here before 1920. Kuwait's parliament, first set up under the 1962 constitution, was dissolved in 1986 by the emir. He cited tensions of the Iran-Iraq war as the reason for his action.

In reference to the rocky political and economic situation, the emir also explained elections would be held "after matters stabilize."

Twenty-two members of the Kuwaiti cabinet resigned in March amid criticism of the government's inability to organize reconstruction of the country following the war. Since then, the crown prince, Sheik Saad al-Abdullah al-Sabah, who headed that cabinet as prime minister, has been holding meetings with opposition leaders and members of prominent families outside his own in an attempt to form a new government.

The U.S. Army's 352d Civil Affairs Command has taken over much of the day-to-day running of Kuwait and is also giving advice on the reconstruction of the country.

The Kuwaiti government has been besieged by criticism from Kuwaitis for disorganization in distributing emergency food rations and for delays in restoring water service, electricity, and telephones.

Many Kuwaitis have complained that bread and other foodstuffs, brought in following Washington's cease-fire, spoiled before it could be distributed because government officials refused to use food distribution networks set up during Iraq's occupation of the country.

"Grown-ups cannot bathe and children are getting skin irritations because of dirty clothing," said Saleh Khalid al-Misbah, deputy director of the Rumaythiya supermarket cooperative, complaining of the government's slow pace in providing medicine, food, clothing, electricity, and water. "Children cannot have any biscuits or cocoa or sweets. Our supplies of gas have been cut off and so we cannot cook anymore."

Government continues martial law

In the context of this instability, the Kuwaiti government has continued to impose martial law and a curfew, declared even before the government, army, or police had returned from exile.

Under the guise of searching for "Iraqi collaborators," members of the ruling Sabah family, the army, and the police have carried out repressive measures against

Palestinians and others living in Kuwait.

According to the Palestine Human Rights Center in Chicago, prior to the Arab-Persian Gulf war, there were 394,000 Palestinians living in Kuwait.

The April 3 *New York Times* reported comments by a western diplomat that members of the Sabah family had formed "goon squads" to attack Palestinians. In response, Colonel Ron Smith of the 352d Civil Affairs Command, which is working with the Kuwaiti police, said, "We're putting severe pressure on them [Sabah family] that 'you don't want to look like Iraqis.'"

But in the opinion of Middle East Watch, a New York-based human rights organization, the assault is much broader. The group believes as many as 2,000 people, mainly Palestinians, are being held in military prisons, police stations, schools, private homes, and hospitals.

The human rights group said they think many are being tortured with the full knowledge, and frequently the participation, of officers of the Kuwaiti Army. Middle East Watch has traced some 40 executions so far.

Palestinian prisoners who have been released have told the group's officials that U.S. officers have been present when torture is going on. However, U.S. military officials deny their officers have been involved.

In addition, a major part of Kuwait's work

force, particularly in the government sector, is Palestinian. They have been told not to return to work. In fact most of the other foreign-born workers in Kuwait — Egyptians, Jordanians, Pakistanis, Filipinos, Indians, Bangladeshis, and Sri Lankans — have not been allowed back to work.

Roughly 78 percent of all managerial and professional jobs, and virtually all laborer jobs were held by foreign workers.

Adding to Kuwait's precarious economic and political conditions, it is estimated that more than 500 uncapped wells in the country are on fire. Many were torched by the Iraqi forces just before the U.S. invasion. Some are losing 5-6 million barrels each day, worth roughly \$100 million on the world market.

In Kuwait City, dark billowing clouds of smoke from the fires are so deep that cars have been driven with headlights on, and residents have been spotted carrying lit flashlights in the middle of the day.

The burning wells emit a daily load of 50,000 tons of sulfur dioxide — a prime cause of acid rain — and 100,000 tons of sooty smoke into the atmosphere. The remainder is mostly carbon dioxide. Joel S. Levine of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and reportedly an authority on biomass burning, has called the well fires "the most intense burning source, probably, in the history of the world."

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Miners in Britain's coalfields protest pit closures

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

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

lines during the 1984-85 miners' strike against pit closures.

Speakers addressing the rally included NUM General Secretary Peter Heathfield, who blasted British Coal for carrying out "harassment and intimidation throughout the coalfields" as it continues to close pits.

tract comes up for review in 1993. The *Independent* newspaper speculated that their orders could be cut in half, leading to the loss of 30,000 mining jobs.

The National Labor Relations Board upheld a judge's ruling that the Geo. A. Hormel & Co. meatpacking plant must reinstate fired labor activist Bob Langemeier with full back pay. In a March 14 interview Langemeier called the judgment "a real victory, not just for myself but for all workers."

Hormel has appealed the January 10 NLRB decision, but Langemeier is confident that "it's just a matter of time" before he's back at work at the company's Fremont, Nebraska, plant. The ruling shows that "the company has nothing to base their case on, just delaying tactics," he said.

Langemeier had worked at the Fremont meat-packing plant for 22 years. He was fired in 1985 for his activity in support of the strike against contract concessions by United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local P-9 at Hormel's Austin, Minnesota, plant.

Langemeier was originally disciplined for posting literature on a plant bulletin board. He was then fired for wearing a "P-9 Proud" sticker at work. Hormel subsequently argued he shouldn't be reinstated because he allegedly promoted a boycott of Hormel products

as a means to aid the strikers in Austin. He filed suit in 1985 against the firing and has faced years of delays and legal maneuvering by the company since then.

Under the terms of the concession contracts imposed in the 1980s at the Fremont plant, all workers have suffered a considerable drop in income. Langemeier pointed to the situation facing younger workers. New hires currently start at a base rate of \$7.25 an hour — more than \$3.00 an hour less than more senior workers receive. The company has made record profits seven years in a row.

Langemeier said that some dozen workers at the Hormel plant who are in the military reserves "were supposedly sent to the Mideast to defend freedoms the company is taking away — freedom of speech and expression. The government rules that Hormel is wrong, but rewards them with a contract for the military."

About 150 farm workers and their supporters marched more than eight miles March 24, from Sunnyside to Granger, in the Yakima Valley of Washington state. The event was sponsored by the United Farm Workers of Washington State (UFWWS) to win support for the union's organizing efforts as the asparagus season opens this month.

Tomás Villanueva, UFWWS president, welcomed the marchers at a brief rally. He highlighted a few of the union's accomplish-

ments over its five-year existence, calling attention to improvements in health and safety conditions. The union has been fighting, he explained, to force changes in laws that exempt farm workers from many protective labor laws that other workers have won.

Villanueva also pointed to the array of social causes that the union has championed and the tour it sponsored in the Yakima Valley for Cuban artist Aldo Soler.

Despite unusually cold and rainy weather, the 150 participants, including children, enthusiastically marched the eight miles to the union hall in Granger.

Because asparagus is a ground-level crop, many children are employed as pickers during this season. One sixth grade student said that Yakima Valley schools are now holding night sessions for youth under 16 who have to work in the fields during the day. The UFWWS has been fighting to win child-labor legislation for farmworkers, who are currently not protected by child labor laws.

Leaders of the UFWWS used the gathering to encourage attendance at the 5th UFWWS convention, scheduled for April 7.

Pete Clifford from Sheffield, England; George Chalmers and Mark Weddleton from Omaha, Nebraska; and Robbie Scherr from Seattle, Washington, contributed to this column.

ON THE PICKET LINE

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

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

Five hundred members of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and their supporters attended a march, rally, and social in Sheffield, England, March 16 to commemorate the lives of David Jones and Joe Green. Both these union members died on the picket

Noting British Coal's recent announcement that it intends to close Sutton Manor pit in Lancashire, Heathfield pointed out that only six months before, miners had been transferred there from another closed pit and promised a secure job. The miners at Sutton Manor have responded to the closure announcement by voting overwhelmingly to challenge British Coal's decision.

Ken Homer, general secretary of the Yorkshire Area of the NUM, told the rally that another five pits in Yorkshire were in the process of being closed, with the loss of 3,000 jobs. Homer charged British Coal with "reducing the size of the industry to prepare for privatization."

Energy Secretary John Wakeham announced February 13 that privatizing the coal mining industry soon is a government goal. Two electricity-generating companies, National Power and PowerGen, are the main customers of British Coal. Their con-

Palestinians resist continued curfew, repression

Continued from front page in clashes with the army in Gaza.

Most of the 120,000 Palestinian workers from the West Bank and Gaza who held jobs in Israel were prohibited from entering Israel during the war. Work permits have now been issued to about 50,000 of these workers, according to Israeli government figures.

"Because of the repeated curfews, military roadblocks, and the issuing of 'green cards', the actual number working inside Israel does not exceed 10,000," Sami Saman, a leader of the General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU) in Ramallah, said. "We are being squeezed to starvation."

Amjat Khalil, like at least another 12,000 Palestinians in the West Bank, had his identity cards replaced with a "green card" by the Israeli authorities. Holders of green cards are prohibited from entering Israel for any reason. The card identifies its bearer as someone who had been "under suspicion or a political detainee," according to Saman. "It's an official blacklist," Khalil said.

"Soldiers often beat and humiliate us because of the card at military checkpoints," Khalil added. "It also means I can not go to

most towns north of the West Bank since roads pass through East Jerusalem which Israel considers part of its territory."

Unemployment among workers living on the West Bank and in Gaza has soared. The few Palestinian-owned factories have been idled and workers and farmers have been prevented from going to the farms during picking season. According to Shafer Sa'ed, general secretary of the GFTU, unemployment stood at 45 percent at the beginning of the year.

In some areas, such as the Dheishe refugee camp near Bethlehem of about 7,000, unemployment exceeds 70 percent. Palestinian workers who are laid off, fired from their jobs, or prohibited from working because of curfews or other restrictions receive no unemployment benefits.

In addition, no remittances are being sent to Palestinian families in the West Bank and Gaza from most of the 250,000 Palestinians who worked in Kuwait before the Iraqi invasion and the subsequent U.S.-led assault.

Crops destroyed

Many Palestinian farmers lost their crops during the war against Iraq. Of the 20,000

residents of Jericho, for example, 3,000 are farmers. Only 20-30 were issued work permits during the war and about half of the permits were later destroyed by Israeli soldiers, according to a report by Aseel Information and Research in Jerusalem. As a result, banana, cauliflower, cucumber, and tomato crops in Jericho were destroyed.

"We couldn't pick the citrus because of the curfew," Abd Hamamre, a Palestinian farmer from Hussan, Bethlehem, said. "Now that we've managed to pick it we have difficulty selling it because they close the roads or the tax authorities come after us. So we've been forced to destroy some of the fruit or leave it on the trees."

Bethlehem, like many other West Bank cities, has been declared a closed military zone for the last few days. That means residents cannot go in and out of the area without special permits. These orders, issued on top of curfews, are enforced by the Israeli army with military roadblocks and patrols on all major roads. At roadblocks, arrests and confiscations of property are a daily occurrence.

Ismail Nimr Eidebat is a 23-year-old driver from Jebel Mokaber, a village east of Jerusalem. "On March 24," Eidebat said, "I was transporting vegetables from Bethlehem to Ezaria. Customs authorities demanded that I pay a fine of 1,000 shekels (US\$2,220) al-

though I was moving the goods to and from areas in the West Bank. No permit was required."

Some 480,000 Palestinian students were prevented from attending schools during the blanket curfews. Since the official reopening in March, most schools do not function. Teachers cannot reach them because of repeated curfews or roadblocks.

Samia Saman, a 16-year-old activist from Ramallah, said that classes are often held in homes for students who can attend. "Often we organize classes for younger children," she said. "But the repression by the [Israeli] army does not intimidate us. It makes us more determined to continue with the intifada, to fight for a free homeland."

'Militant' Prisoner Subscription Fund

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



Roadblock erected by Israeli army in town of Beit Jala, West Bank, after clashes with Palestinian youths.

New Alliance challenges ballot rights

Continued from Page 2

NAP argues that the same system should be used to rank those who obtain ballot status through collecting signatures on nominating petitions. This change would place the NAP, once it has fulfilled petitioning requirements, on the ballot immediately behind the parties with permanent ballot spots, for the next three years.

"Arguments by the NAP that it deserves a higher ballot spot because of previous election results serves only to support the view that bigger, more 'legitimate' parties deserve special rights in the elections," said Craig Gannon, the SWP's 1990 candidate for governor of New York. "This lawsuit, if successful, would make the New York election laws even less democratic. New parties, for example, would automatically be shoved to the bottom of the list."

In hearings before Judge Ward in October 1990, SWP attorney Edward Copeland, of the Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky,

& Lieberman law firm, introduced court rulings that held that ballot placement based on elections results are unconstitutional.

"This new lawsuit," Gannon explained, "goes hand in glove with the NAP's attempts to use any existing obstacle set up by the state to thwart efforts by working people to expand their participation in elections." During the 1990 elections the NAP used the courts to remove both the United African Party and the Unity Party from the ballot on technicalities.

"Despite all of its rhetoric about being a defender of democratic rights," Gannon said, "all of these moves by the NAP have served to reinforce ballot restrictions and have given a handle to the state to drive parties off the ballot."

The Socialist Workers Party is making an emergency appeal for funds to assist in responding to this court challenge. Contributions may be sent to the New York SWP at 191 Seventh Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10011.

Their most recent good deed?
— Responding to the outcry against its brutality, the Los Angeles Police Department ran a newspaper photo



Harry Ring

ad showing a couple of cops rescuing two youngsters from a fire. The photo was snapped 30 years ago.

Setback for the new world order
— A bill permitting eateries to pay half the minimum wage to workers

who get tips died in the Washington state legislature after union disclosure of a memo from the director of the restaurant association. Calling on members to attend a rally for the bill, the memo declared, "Consider yourself the elite troops and me Gen. Schwarzkopf... Let them know the new world order has begun and 'business' is going to kick some butt."

Then why not get out? — "We feel a little picked on. Everybody's treating us like an occupying army."
— A Los Angeles police captain.

Nothing like scab service — At the Los Angeles depot of strike-bound Greyhound, some 200 ticket-holders complained they had waited

up to two days for buses to the California Bay Area. Greyhound's regional manager said he doubted anyone waited more than 12 hours. Added an information clerk, "Hey, when you pay a cheap price, you get cheap service."

And the ultimate magician — Lt. Gen. Thomas Kelly, who did the Pentagon briefings during the onslaught against Iraq, retired with a salute from Gen. Colin Powell. He declared Kelly an "American folk hero" who showed the world "a reassuringly human and feeling Pentagon."

Signal or signal? — Ken Rodriguez, president of Cignal, a chain of fashion shops, says they have

dropped their practice of writing a code note on the back of customers' checks — "W" for white, "H" for Hispanic, and "07" (company shorthand) for Blacks. The halt was declared after a Latino customer spotted the practice and blew the whistle.

Upping the bottom line — In Japan, big-ticket toilets are a hot item, with one model running over \$3,000. The technical apex is a bidet that will analyze your urine and check your weight and blood pressure. Results can be read on a computer screen, printed out, or sent by modem hookup directly to your MD.

Reliable as a cop's word — In

Adelaide, a new police radar camera recorded a stationary telegraph pole as traveling at 45 mph. Australian police officials insisted the cameras are quite reliable.

Used smoke can do all that?
— Findings that passive smoke increases the risk of heart attack among nonsmokers was decried by William Simmons of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco. He declared that studies on this "have looked only at nonsmoking spouses of smokers, a group of individuals who tend to eat fewer vegetables, exercise less and eat more saturated fats than the spouses of non-smokers."

Miners discuss labor law ruling against Decker

BY TONY DUTROW
AND NANCY BOYASKO

SHERIDAN, Wyoming — In February the National Labor Relations Board upheld a previous court ruling that Peter Kiewit and Sons, which operates the Decker Coal Company, committed unfair labor practices. Those practices forced United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) locals 1972 and 2055 into a strike in 1987.

The board found that Decker violated federal labor law on several counts, including refusing to reinstate strikers who offered unconditionally to return to work in 1988, and illegally attempting to permanently replace strikers.

"This is a great day for our members at Decker and, indeed, working people everywhere," said Richard Trumka, international president of the UMWA.

Larry Deeds, president of Local 1972 said, "The full NLRB, the ultimate rulers of the National Labor Relations Act, have spoken loud and clear. Decker and its parent companies, Peter Kiewit and Sons Inc. and Pacific Corp., are not above the law."

The February 23 *Sheridan Press* reported that Gary Houston, vice-president of Kiewit and Sons, said that the company would file an appeal in the federal appellate court.

In October 1987, 240 members of UMWA Local 1972 struck Decker Coal Co. The strip mine, owned by Peter Kiewit and Sons, the largest U.S. construction company, and Nerco Coal, is located in Montana, just north of here. Five days after Decker miners went out, Local 2055 at Big Horn Coal, also located near here, went on strike. Big Horn Coal is solely owned by Kiewit.

At issue in both strikes were job security and benefits. The company demanded cuts in medical care coverage and a wage freeze. The miners had only received one five-cent-an-hour raise since 1982.

The miners faced a highly organized union-busting effort by the company, cops, and the courts. On the second day of the Decker strike, the company sent out letters to all the miners telling them they would be replaced if they did not return to work in 10 days. The company placed advertisements for scabs in local papers and chartered buses to get the strike-breakers and company personnel into the mine.

Kiewit hired some 200 scabs and began herding them across the picket lines. The miners responded by conducting sitdowns at the entrances to the mine.

Over the next two weeks there were dozens of arrests by the cops. Court judges kept ruling in favor of Decker Coal and restricting the union.

In addition, Decker hired Baker and Associates, a notorious union-busting outfit, to intimidate the strikers.

'Vicious battle' since 1983

At the union office here Larry Deeds explained that the fight with Kiewit predates the 1987 strike. "Kiewit has been trying to actively bust this union since 1983. We've been in a vicious battle to retain our union ever since."

Wyoming is a state with a population of just under half a million. It is dominated by the energy monopolies, Deeds said. "With such a low population, Kiewit wields tremendous power here. Decisions made in Omaha, Nebraska, [Kiewit and Sons corporate offices] are about profit, not the community, not the miners, and not their families."

The UMWA has been in Sheridan County since 1907; the Big Horn mine Local 2055 — one of the first surface mines in the United States — was established in 1945. Kiewit opened the Decker Coal mine in 1972.

Kiewit promoted the Progressive Miners Union when it opened the mine, a union which "represented the company more than the workers between 1972 and 1983," Deeds said.

In 1980 the PMU was forced out on strike. Deeds was a picket captain at the time. He later was elected president of the PMU in 1983. Deeds said, "The president of the PMU at the time of the 1980 strike told us to sign the contract, and that if we didn't come back to work we'd be replaced by scabs."

In 1983 the miners decided to join the UMWA, and defeated the company union by seven votes in a representation election. "The company bargained until it could get the PMU-minded workers to petition for another election in 1984. The company lost once again. In January 1985, the UMWA won by a large majority and in October 1986 the local voted to accept a one-year agreement with the company. That agreement expired in 1987," Deeds said.

"Kiewit's strategy after that was to reach an impasse and force the union to take strike action," he said.

"In June 1988 we made an unconditional offer to return to work. At that point we felt the pressure on Kiewit was not coming from our economic strike and we shifted tactics. From the time we filed in June 1988 until this is settled, the clock has been running out for Decker Coal Company," he said.

Ruling says lockout illegal

Deeds looks with optimism at the prospects of winning solidarity in their struggle to force Kiewit and Sons to reinstate the illegally fired unionists. He pointed out the latest NLRB ruling verifies the illegality of Kiewit's strategy which amounted to locking out the unionists on October 1, 1987.

However, Deeds also raised that Kiewit has the option of taking each one of the 104 miners' cases individually rather than en masse, thus dragging the hearings far beyond May 21. Either way it goes, he said, the union is prepared to continue the fight.

According to miners here, the NLRB's ruling will aid them in explaining to working people what they're up against. Miners say if the NLRB can enforce its ruling, the company could be forced to pay up to \$20 million in back wages and reinstate the remaining 152 miners fired for strike misconduct.

So far, based on the February 1990 decision upheld in the February 22 ruling, 80 members of Local 1972 were put on a list to be reinstated. To date close to 70 have gone back to work.

Kiewit and Sons claimed that because of "strike related violence" it had the right to fire 250 miners and replace them with scabs.

In fact the miners were peacefully sitting down at the gates protesting while the bus loads of scabs were escorted into the mine. Using videotapes as evidence, the company — after it replaced the miners — trumped up charges of so-called "strike related misconduct" to justify this flagrant union busting operation.

Hearings on 104 illegally discharged Decker miners will take place in Sheridan May 21. The NLRB has agreed to argue in their behalf; 49 members still are not included in the complaint. The union is appealing this and hopes to have these members in-



Picket by UMWA miners at Kiewit corporate headquarters in 1987
Militant/Steve Warshell

cluded after the spring hearings.

In a separate set of firings, 18 Big Horn miners had their cases heard March 12. Deeds said the hearings went very well and thought the miners stood a good chance of winning their jobs back.

At the time the Big Horn miners were forced out on strike, Kiewit had shrunk the work force down to 40 miners. Today seven work in the mine. Close to 300 were working at the Decker mine at the time of the expiration of their contract October 1, 1987. The two locals have fought together ever since.

Over the course of their three-and-a-half-year battle, the miners have garnered much solidarity from other UMWA locals, and from other unionists as well.

During the strike, for instance, several solidarity rallies were held and dozens of unionists from throughout the region participated. Rail unions in particular have helped the miners. The union miners have been conducting a campaign to bring their story to working people in Chicago and other cities where Kiewit has coal contracts.

Deeds explained to us that the stakes in the fight are high and have repercussions beyond Decker Coal, reaching into the Powder River Basin. The basin is located east of Sheridan and covers territory in Wyoming and Montana. Adjacent to it is the Thunder River Basin. There are at least 14 nonunion coal operations in this vicinity.

The February *United Mineworkers Journal* reports that Wyoming is now the number one coal producing state at 171.4 million tons, followed by Kentucky and West Virginia, at 158 and 151 million tons respectively.

This means that Wyoming produces 17.5 percent of all coal mined in the United States. Most of this coal is produced by 2,000 non-union miners working surface mines located primarily in Campbell County in Wyoming. The unusually thick coal seams, some over 100 feet thick and very near the surface of the earth, have not escaped the eyes of the profit-hungry energy monopolies.

Saudi Arabia and Campbell County

"There are two places in the world where there is a huge concentration of energy monopolies in the world: Saudi Arabia and Campbell County," Deeds said.

"The government talks about democracy in the war in the Mideast, but what about the right to organize a union in Campbell County? Their fight over there is not for democracy but to fill their coffers."

The UMWA convention in September discussed a campaign to organize this important coal producing region. Miners who are part of the organizing drives in the mines near Gillette keep in regular contact with the Sheridan miners. Many attended a Oct. 6, 1990 third anniversary rally in Sheridan, and were greeted with a standing ovation by the 300 in attendance.

The UMWA has set up an organizing center for the miners in Gillette, the main city in Campbell County. They call the effort "Campaign for Work place and Community Democracy" on a sticker they circulate.

One miner, Dan Roberts, was able to go out on solidarity tours for the Decker and Big Horn struggle. He's worked at Decker Coal since 1977.

"We're not just in a fight with Decker Coal. We're fighting the owners of the 15 operating mines in the Powder River Basin," he said. Roberts is one of the 152 miners charged with so-called picket line violence and fired after the sitdown at the Decker gates.

Roberts did a stint of organizing last summer in Gillette, some 90 miles east of Sheridan. "What keeps us together is the realization that this fight goes way beyond Decker Coal — this part of the country is where a big part of coal mining will take place. When we're done with this struggle, it's going to be Shell Oil, ARCO or Amax alone — or with us!" the unionist said.

Inside the Decker mine

Another miner, Tom Smith, explained what it is like inside the Decker mine. He was part of a second group of miners reinstated under the February 1990 court ruling. "The company had the scabs greet us with T-shirts that read 'Just say no to the union.' Now they're not wearing them much anymore." The unionists countered with "Union Yes" buttons.

He told us some of the replacement workers have had their confidence in the company shaken. They were promised that their jobs

Continued on Page 12

ARIZONA

Phoenix

Stop Police Brutality. Speaker: Eli Green, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Los Angeles City Council District 10. Sat., April 20, 7:30 p.m. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (602) 279-5850.

Salt of the Earth. Film of 1951-52 strike by Local 890 Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers at Empire Zinc mine in New Mexico. Speaker: Mike Shur, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America Local 3937. Sat., May 4, 7:30 p.m. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (602) 279-5850.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

The Fight for Immigrant Workers' Rights in the United States. Speaker: Bob Miller, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 27, meatpacker fired for defending immigrant workers' rights at Mash's smokehouse and packaging plant. Sat., April 20, Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Stop Police Brutality — LAPD Chief Gates Must Go! Panel discussion. Sat., April 20, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Out of the Darkness. The Mine Workers' Story. Video. Sun., April 21, 2 p.m. 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

L.A. Police Brutality: An Exception or the Rule? Speaker: Rodney Holt, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists, activist in the fight against police brutality. Sun., April 28, 2 p.m. 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

The Kurdish Struggle for Self-Determination. Panel discussion. Sat., April 20, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

The Free Trade Agreements: What Stand Should Working People Take? Sat., April 27, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

The People of Iraq Face "Imminent Catastrophe." Speakers: Jeremy Frahm, member Youth for Peace; Hilda Cuzco, Socialist Workers Party, member United Food and Commercial Workers. Sat., April 20, 7 p.m. Translation to Spanish. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (402) 553-0245.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

The Fight Against Police Brutality from Los Angeles to Plainfield. Speakers: Venus Hannah, president, Plainfield Afro-American Association; Salaam Ismael, president, United Youth Council, Inc.; Al Duncan, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New Jersey State Assembly,

28th A.D. Sat., April 20, 7:30 p.m. Translation to Spanish and French. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

The Current Stage of the Struggle against Apartheid in South Africa. Sun., April 21, 5:30 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

TEXAS

Houston

The Fight Against Police Brutality. Speakers: Ray Hill, prison rights activist; Mary Selvas, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 20, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

The Crisis in the Texas School System. Sat., April 27, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

The Fight Against Police Brutality. Speaker: Sheila Ostrow, member Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 20, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Stop Police Brutality! Community Control of the Police. March and Rally. Sat., May 11. Assemble, 12:00 noon, Broadway and Olympic; march, 1 p.m.; rally, 2 p.m. at Parker Center, First and Los Angeles streets. Sponsors: Rainbow Coalition, NAACP, American Civil Liberties Union, Brotherhood Crusade, L.A. Coalition against U.S. Intervention in the Middle East, others. Tel: (213) 296-2630, 655-3728, 487-1720.

Stop Police Brutality! Keep the Pressure On! Vigils at Parker Center, First and Los Angeles streets. Every Saturday. 9 a.m.-12:00 noon. Tel: (213) 296-2630, 655-3728, 487-1720.

MINNESOTA

Austin

The War Drive Abroad; The War at Home: How Workers and Family Farmers Can Unite to Defend Our Interests. Speakers: Sylvia Giesbrecht and Gale Shangold, Socialist Workers Party candidates for Austin school board. Sun., April 21, 6 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign. Tel: (507) 433-3461.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Haiti Progrès: 8th Anniversary Celebration. Cultural presentation, dinner, entertainment. Sat., April 27, 8 p.m. St. Francis of Assisi Auditorium, 400 Lincoln Rd. Donation: Adults, \$15. Children under 12, \$8. Reservations and Tickets: 1398 Flatbush Ave. Tel: (718) 434-8100, 434-3940.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Lessons for Today from World War II — Not a War for Democracy. Speaker: representative, Communist League. Sat., April 20, 4 p.m. 19 Terry St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: 02-281 3297.

BRITAIN

London

The War at Home and the War Abroad. Speakers: Geoff Revell, president, London Transport District Council, Rail Maritime Transport, leader of the fight against redundancies; Lee Parlett, member Amalgamated Engineering Union, Acton Works, victimised for opposing management attacks; Doreen Weppler, Communist League, member Transport and General Workers' Union, airline worker involved in actions against increased productivity. Fri., April 19, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 71-401-1229.

Opening Guns of World War III. Speaker: Jonathan Silberman, executive secretary, Communist League. Fri., April 26, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 71-401-2293.

Manchester

Assault on Iraq: The Imperialist War Drive Continues. Speaker: member, Communist League. Fri., April 19, 7:30 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 061-839 1766.

Sheffield

Fighting the Recession. Speakers: Tim Rigby,

Communist League candidate for parliament, member Rail Maritime Transport; representative National Union of Mineworkers. Sat., April 27, 7:30 p.m. 2A Waverley House, 10 Joiner St. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 0742-729469.

CANADA

Toronto

How the Birmingham Six Won Freedom. Speaker: Paula Frampton. Sat., April 20, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (416) 861-1399.

Vancouver

Anti Free-Trade Campaign — A Nationalist Trap for Working People. Speaker: Ned Dmytryshyn, member Communist League. Sat., April 27, 7:30 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

Political Frame-Ups. Lessons of the Birmingham Six. Video introduced by Bob Van Ruyssevelt from Information on Ireland. Speaker: Patrick Brown, Communist League candidate for Wellington city council, on frame-up of Mark Curtis. Sat., April 20, 7 p.m. 157a Symonds St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Socialist Forum. Tel: (9) 793-075.

One Hundred and Twenty Years after the Paris Commune. Continuing the Fight for a Workers' and Farmers' Government. Speaker: Kate Rhodes. Sat., April 27, 7 p.m. 157a Symonds St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Socialist Forum. Tel: (9) 793-075.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Forum on Palestine. Sat., April 20, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. University of Technology, Broadway, Room 41. Sponsor: Palestine Human Rights Campaign.

Free Tim Anderson! Public Meeting. Tues., April 23, 6:30 p.m. Glebe Town Hall. St. Johns Rd. Glebe. Sponsor: Campaign to Expose the Frame-Up of Tim Anderson.

Wyoming miners discuss labor-law ruling against Decker Coal

Continued from Page 11

would be permanent, he said. To make the point, the company went so far as to clear out the union miners' lockers during the strike. The company simply tossed out the miner's personal belongings, put them in a big heap in front of the scabs, and hauled it off to the city dump.

Smith said, "This fight is being won because our families have stuck together — my kids had to fight it out at school, my wife on her job. This united our family and made the whole union our family." Sheridan is not a union town, he said, "so we had a double battle to fight."

Smith is chief steward at the mine. He said the company has been forced to recognize the union safety representative on the job site. "They've also been forced to give us time off for union business," he said. However, this defacto recognition of union rights only

goes so far. "At the same time, they work you out of your job classification, so in reality they don't fully recognize our contract."

Because of the injunctions and court orders issued since the 250 miners were replaced by scabs, Roberts said he felt "the only legal recourse we have is the corporate campaign to win this labor dispute."

"In June 1988 we showed up at the gate and offered to return to work. At that point Kiewit locked us out in an unfair labor practice strike," Roberts said. "We can last one day longer no matter how long they drag it out. We're at war."

If you would like more information for your local union, on the Decker and Big Horn struggle or to make donations to back this important resistance to the coal barons, you can reach them at UMW Local 1972/2055, P.O. Box 66, Sheridan, Wyoming 82801, or call (307) 672-6864.

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Blacks demand regime return stolen lands

Continued from back page

the U.S. Congress imposed on South Africa in the 1986 Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act."

The African National Congress (ANC) welcomed de Klerk's February proposals, describing them as a "fundamental departure from the apartheid framework." However, ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela added a warning: "The reality is that apartheid is still in force. We still have no votes. We cannot become MPs [members of parliament]. The state organs are still dominated by whites."

Mandela added that the international community should maintain sanctions "until there is a fundamental change in the living conditions of the majority."

Response to legislation on land

When de Klerk's land legislation was introduced, the ANC issued a statement expressing "outrage and deep disappointment." The organization stressed that neither the ANC nor the communities who had been dispossessed of land had been consulted about it.

"Until the present government recognises the reasons for the present situation and commits itself to rectifying the wrongs of the past, no attempted Land Reform can ever hope to win legitimacy or credibility from the majority of our people," the ANC said.

"Restoration of land to the victims of forced removal must form the underpinning of any credible land policy. ... Redistribu-

tion cannot be left simply to the market," the statement continued, referring to the fact that most Africans lack resources to buy land.

An article in the *Washington Post* noted that "the government's land reform program is heavily skewed toward blacks living in urban areas. ... A million black families will benefit immediately from its decision to convert 99-year leaseholds on homes into title deeds."

Small proportion

On the other hand, if the 1.2 million acres to be set aside from state-owned lands were divided into areas the size of most white-owned farms — 1,500 acres or more — fewer than 1,000 new African farmers would be created. Even if the new farms created are from 70 to 120 acres in size, as is more likely, this would set up about 13,000 new farmers — perhaps 100,000 people counting their families. When compared with an estimated 4 million urban and rural landless people, even 100,000 being put on new farms represents only a very small proportion.

A statement from the Mfengu people, who participated in the March gathering of dispossessed groups, declared, "This business about reform holds nothing for us," except the right to buy back their land for \$12 million. "We received no compensation for our rights to the land whatsoever from which we were simply robbed at gunpoint."

The ANC has long fought for a land reform guaranteeing access to land to all those who work it. The Freedom Charter — the program adopted in 1955 for a nonracial, dem-

ocratic South Africa and advanced by the ANC — has a section devoted to this. Entitled, "The land shall be shared among those who work it," the section declares in part:

"Restrictions of land ownership on a racial basis shall be ended, and all the land rededicated amongst those who work it, to banish famine and land hunger."

The charter also stipulates other measures essential to any genuine land reform: "The state shall help the peasants with implements, seed, tractors, and dams to save the soil and assist the tillers."

Without such guarantees, opening all land to the free market could see Blacks not only failing to gain land, but losing some of that which they currently work. In the 13 percent of the country reserved for Africans, for example, much of the land is nominally owned by the Bantustan governments. Aninka Claassens, ANC land commission member, warned, "If these areas are simply opened to the free market, many people who have owned and occupied land for generations may find their land sold from underneath them by the nominal owners."

ANC demands curbs on violence

The ANC has also called on the government to take measures to curb political violence against anti-apartheid activists by police and supporters of the Inkatha Freedom Party, a political organization that has ties to the apartheid regime. Such violence has claimed more than 1,200 lives since August. The ANC's demands included:

- The dismissal of Defense Minister Magnus Malan and Law and Order Minister Adrian Vlok, as well as military and police officers responsible for criminal actions directed against the anti-apartheid movement. These actions have included assassinations of the regime's opponents both inside and outside South Africa. Recently revelations show some of these killings were committed by the Civil Cooperation Bureau, an army undercover unit.
- A ban on weapons at public rallies. The government has allowed supporters of Inkatha to carry spears, clubs, and other so-called traditional weapons, which have been used in attacks on ANC supporters.
- The dismantling and disarming of "counterinsurgency" units of the police and army, including an army unit of Angolan mercenaries.
- The suspension of policemen involved in shootings of African demonstrators in Sebokeng on March 22, 1990, and Daveyton on March 24, 1991.

• An assurance that security forces would use "acceptable and civilized methods" of crowd control and would not use live ammunition at demonstrations.

The ANC demands followed a series of incidents in March, at which police or Inkatha supporters massacred anti-apartheid activists.

On March 24, 11 ANC supporters attending a rally that did not have official authorization in Daveyton township were gunned down by police. The demonstrators were monitoring an Inkatha rally, addressed by Inkatha President Mangosuthu Buthelezi, which was taking place a few miles away.

Three days later 15 people, including several members of the ANC-affiliated Congress of South African Students, were shot and stabbed to death while attending a funeral vigil for another ANC supporter killed in the township of Alexandra. Inkatha supporters were suspected of carrying out the massacre, which was not the first of its kind.

Peace initiative

Following the renewed violence, Nelson Mandela took a new initiative to win a common front with Buthelezi against the regime, cancelling a two-week trip to West and North Africa so that an urgent meeting could take place. It was the second such meeting with Buthelezi this year.

Mandela had opened his earlier meeting with Buthelezi, held in January, by remarking, "We have not come here to apportion blame. If we are to fulfill the true purpose of our get-together, there must be no victors or losers." Most African people wanted peace, he said, but the defenders of white minority rule — "the angels of death and destruction" — wanted the strife to continue. "We must satisfy and disappoint in equal measure," he told the ANC and Inkatha supporters present. "We must deliver."

At the second meeting Mandela and Buthelezi agreed to cooperate more closely to stem the continuing violence, in implementation of the accord they had reached at their January encounter.

Following the ANC's latest series of demands on the government to curb violence, including acts by Inkatha supporters, Buthelezi openly sided with de Klerk, warning the government that it could not survive if it accepted the ANC demands.

Mandela stressed that the ANC's demands should be addressed by the government prior to further talks. He also telephoned Buthelezi, reportedly assuring him that the demands were directed against the government, not at Inkatha.

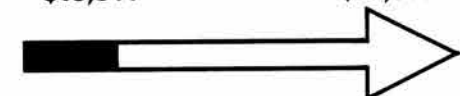
Young Socialists give boost to Des Moines fund meeting

BY CINDY JAQUITH

A dozen young people spearheaded the successful celebration of the publishing of the Marxist magazine *New International* held in Des Moines, Iowa, April 6. They were among the 65 activists who turned out to hear Socialist Workers Party leader Ernie Mailhot speak on "Washington's Assault on Iraq:

NEW INTERNATIONAL FUND

Collected: **\$15,844** Goal: **\$75,000**



Opening Guns of World War III."

Kevin Dwire reports that one student came from Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, and joined the Young Socialist Alliance by the end of the evening. She also helped build a meeting on her campus for YSA National Chairperson Greg Rosenberg.

Four students came from Drake University in Des Moines. A high school student showed up who had recently heard YSA National Secretary Angel Lariscy speak in his school. Lariscy just concluded a tour in Iowa.

Many other activists came as well, including veteran civil rights fighter Edna Griffin.

Des Moines supporters telephoned activists leading up to the event to inform them of *New International*'s publishing plans and to ask for donations to the New International Fund, whose goal is to raise \$75,000 by June 1. Out of these calls, two people came to the meeting and another supporter, from Ames, Iowa, sent a \$30 contribution.

A total of \$2,590 was pledged or donated right at the meeting. The Des Moines collection and those at other recent fund events have pushed the total collected internationally to \$15,844 — 21 percent of the goal and a substantial increase from last week.

The contributions come at a good time. *New International* no. 8, featuring articles on Che Guevara and the building of socialism, will be off the press before the next issue of the *Militant* is printed. It will be followed very soon by issue no. 7, a special issue on imperialism and war.

Both issues will be available as supporters begin publicizing the next round of fund meetings, scheduled for May, and as the socialists' circulation efforts get under way this spring.

The major articles from issue no. 7 will appear in Spanish, in *Nueva Internacional*, and in French, in *Nouvelle Internationale*, soon after.

To contribute, send your check to New International Fund, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Scoreboard

Area	Goal	Paid	% of Total
Charleston, W.Va.	1,400	1,100	79
Houston	1,500	910	61
San Francisco	3,500	1,740	50
Pittsburgh	1,900	860	45
Los Angeles	6,000	2,535	42
Atlanta	2,300	928	40
Miami	1,200	468	39
Austin, Minn.	750	270	36
Omaha, Neb.	750	240	32
San Diego	1,000	320	32
Salt Lake City	1,700	530	31
Chicago	2,600	795	31
Albany, N.Y.	350	100	29
Cleveland	1,600	455	28
St. Louis	2,000	460	23
Philadelphia	2,000	450	23
Newark, N.J.	3,800	735	19
Birmingham, Ala.	1,750	330	19
Boston	1,500	200	13
Phoenix	750	40	5
New York	7,000	280	4
Morgantown	1,250	10	1
Baltimore	900	0	0
Des Moines	1,000	0	0
Detroit	2,100	0	0
Greensboro, N.C.	750	0	0
Price, Utah	600	0	0
Seattle	2,250	0	0
Twin Cities, Minn.	1,750	0	0
Washington, D.C.	1,250	0	0
TOTAL U.S.	57,200	13,756	24
Canada	4,250	1,943	46
Montréal	1,529	638	42
Toronto	1,370	301	22
Vancouver	791	494	62
Other	560	510	91
Australia	500	0	0
Britain	6,500	0	0
London	1,850	0	0
Manchester	1,600	0	0
Sheffield	1,600	0	0
Other	1,450	0	0
France	1,000	0	0
Iceland	300	0	0
New Zealand	3,000	0	0
Auckland	770	0	0
Christchurch	1,286	0	0
Wellington	955	0	0
Sweden	1,000	0	0
Other	145	0	0
TOTAL OVERALL	73,750	15,844	21
SHOULD BE	75,000	26,357	35

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People
April 25, 1966 Price 10c

DETROIT — Mayor Jerome Cavanagh, hotly pursuing the political support of the Negro and liberal community in his bid for a seat in the U.S. Senate, has now publicly renounced his demand for a stop-and-frisk law.

On Nov. 18, 1965, Cavanagh called for a state law allowing police to stop and search citizens on "reasonable suspicion."

There was immediate opposition to such legislation from local civil rights groups. Detroit Negroes insisted that a stop-and-frisk law would give police further license to harass the black community. Mayor Cavanagh insisted, "It's a good law and citizens need it for their protection."

A city crime conference was scheduled in order to bring all protesting parties together and brainwash them into supporting stop-and-frisk. Opposition to the law remained so intense and became so widespread that the crime conference was never held. Cavanagh began to backtrack on his stand and in January he denied that he had really asked for such a law.

The question comes up: What kind of legislation will Cavanagh propose when he is no longer worried about courting the support of Detroit's large Negro population?

And last but certainly not least, the plain truth of the matter is that *stop-and-frisk* is being used every day by Detroit police — constitutional or not!

THE MILITANT

Official Weekly Organ of the Socialist Workers Party

April 26, 1941

WORKERS FORUM

Editor:

There were a number of soldiers here who started writing personal letters to the President and their Congressmen, protesting against some of the things they didn't like in the army setup.

One day the officers assembled the whole company and gave us a warning that this practice must be stopped. They said it was a court-martial offense to write letters to your Congressmen or to the President.

So far as I know, however, no one has yet been prosecuted for this offense. I think, though, that the mere threat was enough to stop this practice. A fellow sleeping next to me had been writing such letters but I didn't know it till they gave this warning. He had never said anything about it to anyone.

Camp X

Worker soldier

The army's court-martial system is bad enough, but it says nothing against writing letters to Congressmen or to the President. No one, to our knowledge, has ever been court-martialed for it, nor could he be under the military law. Of course, on this score as on many others, an officer out to "get" a man would find another pretext if he wanted one; the whole system lends itself to officers wreaking vengeance on the lower ranks.

Editors

Support the railroad workers!

Working people should stand with railroad workers demanding a contract with the carriers and call on the federal government to back off from its attempt to force the unions to accept a concession pact.

After dragging out negotiations for nearly three years, the rail bosses are seeking wage cuts and the elimination of jobs.

On behalf of the bosses, the Bush administration hopes to force rail workers to accept a contract that not only does not keep pace with inflation, but also includes cuts in pay over a six-year contract.

The employers' demand that they be allowed to further reduce crew sizes will worsen working conditions and increase safety hazards in the rail industry.

The rail owners have been raking in huge profits over the last seven years. Meanwhile, the living standard and working conditions of rail workers have deteriorated.

The rail unions not only face the employers, but the federal government as well. The attempt by the Bush administration to impose the Presidential Emergency Board's proposals for union concessions exposes the government's role in backing up the employing class as they attempt to wring even more profits out of the hides of rail workers.

The employers and the government are also working overtime attempting to undercut potential support for the workers' demands by threatening layoffs in other industries should rail service be interrupted. In particular, they say that hundreds of thousands of auto workers

would be immediately affected.

Management hopes to undermine support from among the traveling public by stating that a strike would affect commuter service.

The blustering by government officials that "interruptions" in rail service "would affect every American in one way or another" is aimed at shifting blame for any possible disruption onto the workers. But the blame rests squarely on the shoulders of the employers, who in their drive for increased profits insist that rail workers grant givebacks in wages and benefits.

The concession demands of the owners should be viewed as part of the overall offensive against the labor movement by the employing class and their government.

That is why it is important for all working people to recognize we have common interests with the rail unionists.

As one rail worker put it, "Management says they need concessions to compete with truckers and other railroads. It is not our job to compete with our brother and sister workers in other industries or railroads. Competition is a corporate thing."

The display of solidarity at the recent round of union support rallies points to the possibility of winning many more working people to solidarize with the cause of rail workers.

This solidarity will become crucial as the contract deadline passes. The labor movement should lead a campaign to win as many working people as possible to back the rail workers.

Victory for democratic rights

Working people across the United States, supporters of democratic rights, opponents of the criminal U.S. trade embargo against Cuba, and partisans of the Cuban revolution should celebrate the recent victory won with the help of the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee and its attorneys.

On March 27 Washington was finally forced to permit Cuban paintings, drawings, and sculpture to be imported, exhibited, and sold in the United States.

The successful challenge against the U.S. ban on art from Cuba pokes another hole in the more than 30-year U.S. trade embargo against the Caribbean island ninety miles from Florida's coast. It extends a victory won two and a half years ago when Congress passed a law prohibiting the U.S. government from blocking the free flow of ideas across borders. This law, for example, made it possible — for the first time since the trade embargo was imposed — to subscribe to and use U.S. dollars to pay for Cuban publications, including *Granma*, the Cuban Communist Party's daily.

Lifting the ban against Cuban art helps further tear down the wall of isolation that Washington has attempted to impose on Cuba. It also offers the public in the United States and working people in particular the opportunity to know, learn, and appreciate more about Cuba, its people, and their revolution. It strikes a blow at efforts by opponents of Cuba's socialist revolution to dehuman-

ize and demonize the Cuban people.

The Miami city government's move to shut down the Cuban Museum of Art and Culture by evicting it from its city-owned premises is an attempt to push in the opposite direction. The city commissioners' action is government censorship plain and simple. It is an attempt to push back democratic rights and to narrow the breach in the U.S. economic and ideological blockade against Cuba.

Forces supporting the museum's shutdown do not want working people to know the truth about Cuba; and their attack on democratic rights is part and parcel of the U.S. employer-government offensive against the rights, unions, and standard of living of working people.

For the U.S. rulers, Cuba's socialist revolution is a beacon that must be extinguished, or at least concealed. They fear what working people will learn from Cuba's example — the accomplishments possible when a people throws off the yoke of U.S. imperialist domination; the principled opposition of the Cuban government to Washington's imperialist war against Iraq; and the unconditional internationalist solidarity and aid that the small Caribbean island nation extends to working people struggling for liberation and justice around the globe.

The victory against Washington's ban on Cuban art shows that attacks on democratic rights like those being carried out in Miami can be pushed back.

Open the doors to Iraq refugees

Continued from front page

ing infectious diseases to spread. In what is one of the largest movements of refugees in history, as many as 3 million people have tried to flee Iraq.

But this unfolding human tragedy has not moved President George Bush's heart of stone, the hearts of the United Nations officials, or of the capitalist regimes of the region. They all say that the refugees should go back to Iraq. Bush claims the refugees will be aided "where they are."

Turkish soldiers have beaten refugees with sticks and rifle butts, shot bullets over their heads, and attacked them with German shepherds, to force them back up the mountains.

The catastrophic economic and social conditions in Iraq, the massive exodus of refugees, and the unstable governments of the region, are the result of the U.S.-led imperialist assault. According to some figures, 80 percent of Iraq's electric generating stations, 75 percent of its oil refining capacity, 52 major bridges, every airfield, and the country's entire telecommunications network were destroyed by the U.S. attacks.

Washington killed hundreds of thousands in the war, set up the Kurds and Shiites, and then made it clear they were on Saddam Hussein's side in crushing the rebellions.

Now Bush and his allies want to wash their hands of the whole mess.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker demonstrated Washington's concern with a record-breaking seven-minute trip to the border area. One Kurdish refugee managed to make his way to Baker's delegation and say, "We want to go to other countries!"

All countries should open their doors to the refugees from the war in Iraq. They should be allowed into Turkey, Iran, the United States, Britain, France, Germany, or anywhere else they choose to go.

The U.S. government has the resources and the logistical capability to make this a reality.

One refugee said they only have two choices: death in the mountains or to face the Iraqi army. Every day of delay is a day of justice denied. Without any exaggeration it is a matter of life and death.

Open the borders! Welcome the refugees with open arms! These are the demands that working people the world over can place on the imperialist and capitalist governments that are responsible for so much suffering.

Daniel Pipes, director of the Foreign Policy Research Institute, gives the real view of the capitalist rulers in a column in the *Wall Street Journal*. "President Bush is basically right not to intervene" on behalf of the Shiites and Kurds, Pipes says. "Iraqis — including Shiites and Kurds — are our opponents."

Working people in the United States and around the world, have a different view. We have common interests with working people in Iraq. We need a united fight against imperialism and war.

Demanding that all those fleeing the war in Iraq be granted refuge in the United States or wherever they want, strengthens solidarity between workers in the imperialist countries and working people in Iraq. This kind of international solidarity points the way forward to defending the interests of workers and farmers as the world heads into a period of more wars of mass destruction.

SWP 'Open the Doors' demand in the 1930s

BY GREG McCARTAN

Following an April 11 meeting with representatives of governments in Europe, U.S. President George Bush said that any relief supplied to the 2 million Kurdish refugees would only be given "to these people where they are." His statement highlights the character of the criminal policy that is leading to the deaths of thousands of Kurds set up by the war against Iraq.

An editorial in this week's *Militant* calls on governments to open their borders to the Kurds.

The SWP waged a similar campaign in the 1930s against Washington's refusal to allow the victims of fascist terror

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

in Europe to immigrate to the United States. Through the party's newspaper, at that time called *Socialist Appeal*, revolutionists sought to mobilize the broadest possible forces to demand that the borders be opened to all.

When Hitler became chancellor of the German government in 1933, he transformed the anti-Semitic actions of the Nazi goon squads into official state policy against the 350,000 Jews in Germany. By 1938 the anti-Jewish pogrom was in full swing and refuge in other countries became a matter of life and death for hundreds of thousands of Jews and other fighters against fascism — not only in Germany but in Hungary, Romania, Poland, Austria, and Czechoslovakia as well.

By 1939 there were enough applications for U.S. entry visas on file in U.S. consular offices in Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia to fill the existing U.S. immigration quota for the following five years.

The Roosevelt administration followed a consistent policy of barring entry into the United States for these refugees, thereby condemning millions of them to death.

An editorial in the July 9, 1938, *Socialist Appeal* explained: "Revolutionary socialists must everywhere fight for unrestricted immigration into other countries, and especially for the right of asylum for all victims of reaction."

The SWP also helped establish the American Fund for Political Prisoners and Refugees, an organization established in June 1938 to raise money for the relief of persecuted revolutionists who were ignored by the official "rescue and relief" agencies.

Roosevelt's murderous policy during the refugee crisis was backed by Zionist forces and many leading non-Zionist Jewish organizations. The Zionists aimed to secure the backing of U.S. imperialism for a Jewish state in Palestine, seeking to show how the founding of Israel would benefit imperialism's plans in the Middle East.

In an October 29, 1938 editorial *Socialist Appeal* pressed its fight against the U.S. government:

"... the American workers, including the Jewish workers, can perform a far more useful service to the refugees, including the Jews, by making forceful demands not on the British government [to admit refugees to Palestine] which need not and will not pay the slightest attention, but on 'their own' government. We must demand the open door for refugees not merely in far-away Palestine, but here at home in the United States.

"Why has not Roosevelt attempted to have the quota law completely abolished — or even revised upwards? This would be really practical aid to the refugees. It would be an excellent way to combat anti-Semitism because it would mean an educational campaign against race prejudice conducted in the ranks of the working class."

The editorial concluded: "For the abolition of the quota law and for the reestablishment of the United States as a haven for political refugees! This is the only real democracy — the fight for the Open Door for all refugees!"

Two weeks later, on November 10, 1938, the Nazis unleashed a pogrom against the Jews — the infamous *Kristallnacht*, the "Night of the Broken Glass." This orgy of revenge for the assassination of the German ambassador in Paris by the son of a Polish Jew expelled from Germany by the Nazis included the burning of some 195 synagogues, the destruction of more than 800 Jewish-owned shops, and the looting of some 7,500 others. Twenty thousand Jews were arrested and sent to concentration camps.

Still Washington refused to budge.

Socialist Appeal carried a front-page statement by the National Committee of the SWP in its November 19 issue.

"... Workers!

"Solidarity with those who suffer at the hands of fascism is one of the best ways of establishing, in this country, an unbreakable wall against the advance of American Fascism.

"Unite! Join Hands!

"Show the Hitlerite assassins and pogromists the real position of American labor by your protest meetings!

"Show them that the American working class means it seriously when it says that it detests Anti-Semitism and the Anti-Semites like the plague!

"Show the victims of the Fascist terror that you mean it seriously, by stretching out to them the hands of fraternal solidarity, by demanding of the American government the free and unrestricted right of asylum for the Jewish scapegoats of Fascist barbarism!"

Potential for sales of socialist newspaper abound

Sales of the *Militant* during the last several months, in the middle of the U.S.-led war against the people of Iraq, show what will be possible in the upcoming international sales

get out the facts about the U.S. war drive. The *Militant's* weekly coverage of the battle to oust notorious Police Chief Daryl Gates is also appreciated by activists in the fight

Yervani, *Militant* sales coordinator in Los Angeles. "Last week we had three street sales in Black and Latino neighborhoods, and we want to increase that."

Los Angeles activists also want to improve the regularity of their sales to workers at plant gates. Last week, a team sold at Farmer Johns, a large meat-packing plant. They sold one *Militant* to a worker who wants to talk more about socialist politics. Team members arranged to meet him over coffee to talk about the U.S. war drive and police brutality.

Teams to nearby Ventura County, where many farm workers live, have also been successful. Three teams have gone there in the last six weeks. They sold 10 subscriptions to the Spanish-language monthly, *Perspectiva Mundial*. Most of these were renewals.

Militant distributors have been traveling to Ravenswood, West Virginia, almost every week for the last five months to sell the paper to workers who have been on strike against Ravenswood Aluminum Corp. and to strike supporters. The strike started in November 1990, when the company locked out 1,700 members of United Steelworkers of

America after the workers rejected major concessions in wages and work rules.

Mary Nell Bockman, who has been on several *Militant* sales trips to the area, said, "There are cops everywhere. Some of the doors you knock on are striking workers and others are the homes of scabs."

Over the last six months, teams from Charleston and Morgantown, West Virginia, have sold more than 200 copies of the *Militant*. The teams often sell out all the papers they bring with them.

A month ago a team of *Militant* distributors attended a strike support rally and sold dozens of papers. One woman called the Pathfinder Bookstore in Charleston after buying a copy of the *Militant* at the rally. She wanted to know how to get a subscription to the paper and a copy of the new Pathfinder book *The Eastern Airlines Strike*.

The Charleston bookstore has a special offer for strikers and their families: a 12-week subscription to the *Militant* and the book on the Eastern strike for only \$16, a substantial discount.

The woman from Ravenswood had her check in the mail the very next day.

Not everyone likes the *Militant*. Bosses in Philadelphia tried to take advantage of the war against the people of Iraq to restrict the right to sell and distribute the socialist paper.

Police at Philadelphia International Airport and the Sun Oil Refinery in Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania, threatened to arrest *Militant* distributors who were selling at the two locations.

Militant supporters decided to fight to defend their First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, especially in time of war. They held meetings with an aviation official at the airport and a municipal government representative where the refinery is located.

The socialist activists gave the officials copies of major legal decisions upholding the right to distribute literature and sell newspapers in public areas. At the height of the war, the *Militant* salespeople returned to the airport and refinery plant gates and sold without police harassment.

Floyd Fowler from Portland, Oregon; Samad Yervani from Los Angeles; Maggie McCraw and Mary Nell Bockman from Charleston, West Virginia; and Maureen Coletta from Philadelphia contributed to this column.



GETTING THE MILITANT AROUND

drive, which begins April 27 and runs to June 15.

More than 122 copies of a special *Militant* supplement, the December *International Socialist Review*, were sold in Portland, Oregon, by supporters there, including several new members of the Young Socialist Alliance.

The December supplement features the article "Working-class campaign against the imperialist war drive." The papers were sold at demonstrations, on campuses, and at plant gates.

Militant supporters in Los Angeles have begun planning ways to increase their sales of the paper to

against police brutality.

Seventy-two *Militants* were sold at a 5,000-strong demonstration in Los Angeles April 6 that called for Gates' ouster, bringing total sales that week to more than 100. But distributors think the potential is much higher, both for sales of single issues and for subscriptions. One woman at the action said she depends on the *Militant* for news both about the Middle East and police brutality.

Los Angeles distributors recently began selling at three area high schools. At one, Manual Arts High School, students bought two copies of the paper.

"We want to start selling more in the community," says Samad

LETTERS

Cuba & human rights

I read with dismay the very one-sided article in the April 5 *Militant* by John Studer on the UN's decision to investigate political rights in Cuba.

My disagreement with the article lies more with what was omitted than with what was included. I agree with the article's main thrust against the hypocrisy of the Bush Administration and other "civilized powers" in the way they only selectively condemn human rights abuses. Of course, the U.S. — the country that sponsored the inhuman war in El Salvador and the Vietnam War — has no natural credulity in the field of human rights.

However, Cuba hardly stands as a model of political freedom or democracy. This fact is avoided in the article.

I have been to Cuba, and I admire its many social achievements. It's undeniably true, though, that the Cuban government locks up people who disagree with its direction.

Here are just two examples: on March 13, 1990, the *New York Times* reported that Cuban human rights activists were arrested simply for sending a congratulatory letter to the U.S. delegation to the UN Human Rights Commission. Americas Watch reported that 31 people have been detained without trial or sentenced for political crimes since September 1988.

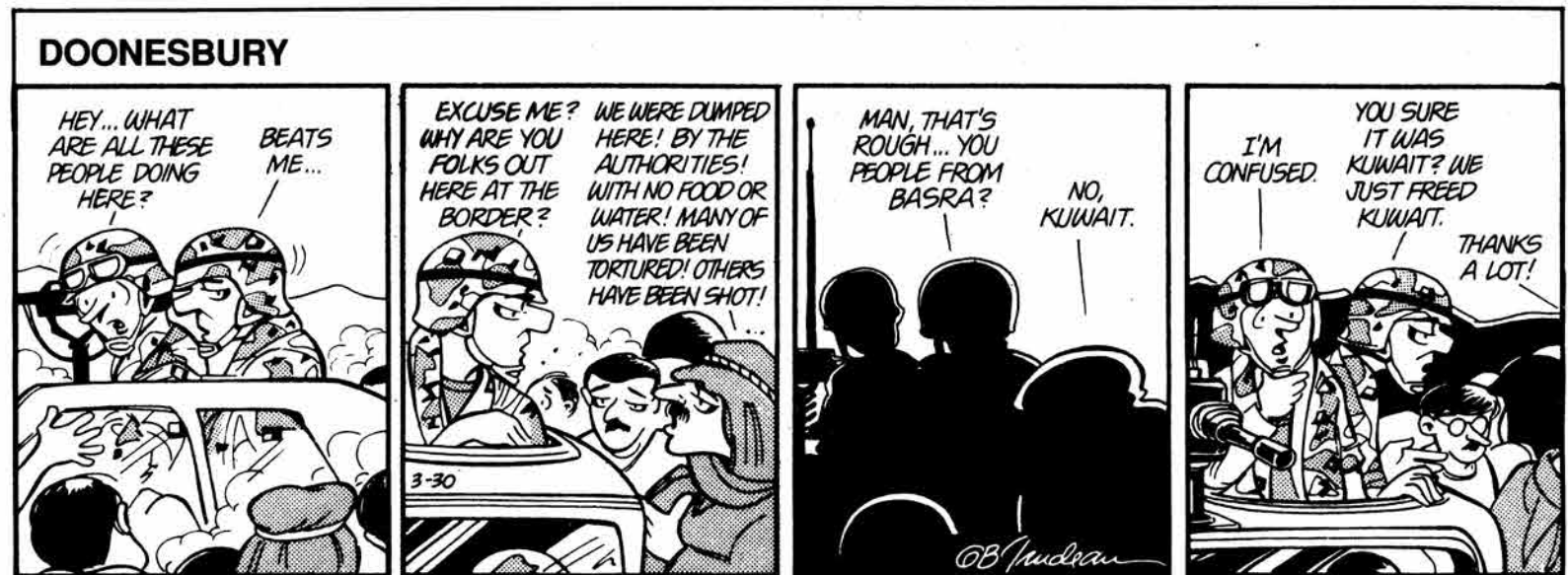
Unless and until we socialists distance ourselves from repression — regardless of a country's other progressive positions — we will have a tough time winning adherents. Albert Fried-Cassorla
Melrose Park, Pennsylvania

Farm attrition

Day by day, year by year, fewer American family farmers remain on the land. It has been observed that 2,000 farm families have been leaving the land each week in recent decades. That adds up to about 100,000 farm families a year.

Many who were once full-time farmers have been subsidizing their efforts at farming with off-farm work.

The Global Corporate State (GCS) has declared war on the traditional family farm system. A few years ago Ronald Reagan said



clearly: "Some farmers are doomed to bankruptcy... but those who survive will enjoy a better business climate."

It seems that multinational corporations intend to control the entire food industry from field to table. They will probably control the table, too.

Progressive farm groups have been the only serious forces trying to stop this process. However, attrition continues to demoralize them and is wiping many of them out. Also, confusion within their ranks has been counterproductive.

This confusion and discordance marginalizes the farm agenda because the humongous American Farm Bureau Federation dominates the message of farmers with its historic bias toward the business community and the GCS.

Paul Kabat
Scheller, Illinois

War in Arab lands

The cause of the U.S. imperialist war in Arab lands isn't as complicated as it may seem. The war is being fought for redivision of the world — the drawing of new boundaries, sparked by industrial and commercial rivalry for control of markets and prices.

When oil supplies fall below demand, prices rise. Whoever controls the means of petroleum production can control supply and prices.

The Euro-Amerikkkan governments' greedy demand for control of the oil is to satisfy their interests. It has nothing to do with democracy.

But to the poor and oppressed Arab and Afrikan masses, the ultimate defeat of the Euro-Amerikkkan imperialist powers means liberation and economic self-reliance.

As the Englishman George Orwell wrote in his book *Animal Farm*, "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others." Whoever has the power can make the laws to suit their interests any way they want; to justify what they want. And anybody who doesn't have the power can't do anything about it.

A prisoner
Michigan City, Indiana

Honduran antistrike law

The U.S. taxpayer's money has been lavishly spent on El Salvador, Panama, Guatemala, and for acts of sabotage and terror in Nicaragua. But in the last ten years the greatest share of our dollars has probably gone to Honduras. There the Pentagon has constructed 15 new military bases for our own army and air forces; there our government created, based and armed the Contras; and there the influence of our embassy is paramount.

In Honduras, a beautiful nation which nevertheless has 50 percent unemployment and 60 percent illiteracy, a new law is about to come onto the statute books. Article Ten of the new Public Health Law would make anyone who goes on strike in the public health sector subject to a criminal charge of sedition.

On the basis of "He who pays the piper calls the tune," ordinary U.S.

taxpayers ought to register protest at the introduction of this law. It is a law American citizens would not tolerate at home.

In a part of the world where our government proclaims its devotion to nurturing democracy, it sends the wrong message and brings the biting chill of Soviet-style gulags to what ought to be the peaceful resolution of public policy in the U.S. "backyard."

Tom Stevens
Glasgow, Scotland

'We the people'

The foreign policy of the United States is a Big Gun policy, to force all the world to conform in the name of Democracy. If the smaller nations do not agree, then they are attacked verbally, economically, and if all else fails, the marines invade their once peaceful country.

To topple any government, all the United States need do is set its sights, inform the CIA, and the rest is history. However, when other nations set the same goal, but with less drastic action, they are criticized,

embargoed, and terrorized by the American government. They are made outcasts in their own country and on the world stage of politics, held hostage by the whims of a government that cannot even properly care for its own people.

The American news media has done a good job of brainwashing people. Perhaps if more people would read publications such as the *Militant*, they too would share my views.

It should be clear to all that "We the people of the United States" includes only the few who are ultra-rich and agree with the people on the Hill.

A prisoner
Marianna, Florida

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

Militant Prisoner Fund

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

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip _____

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

Dispossessed Blacks demand return of land stolen by apartheid regime

African National Congress calls for 'restoration of land to victims of removal.'

BY GEORGE BUCHANAN

"We, the victims of forced removals, are determined to return to our land. We demand the proper addressing of past injustices!"

The speaker, Thobile Markamba, was representing 400 families from Tsitsikama on South Africa's Cape Province coast. He spoke at the close of a meeting in late March, according to a report in the *Washington Post*, at which representatives of 13 communities and more than 6,000 families dispossessed of their farm lands over the past 30 years discussed plans to reoccupy territory stolen from them by the apartheid government.

Most of the representatives said that they would begin to carry out the reoccupations in April, with or without approval from the

government. But they decided on a final attempt to gain official permission and planned to send a delegation to talk with government officials.

The meeting followed the March 12 introduction of legislation to parliament by President F.W. de Klerk that would repeal several laws that have formed the pillars of apartheid in South Africa.

These begin with the Natives' Land Act of 1913, known among Africans as the "law of dispossession," which reserved more than 90 percent of the land for white ownership and control, including the richest grazing lands, the forests, and all areas with known or potential mineral deposits. Today whites number 13 percent of South Africa's 37.5 million population.

When de Klerk's proposal becomes law, Blacks will have equal rights to buy and sell land anywhere in the country.

De Klerk's legislation will also repeal the Group Areas Act of 1966, which mandated racially segregated neighborhoods, and the

Black Communities Development Act of 1984, which imposed similar segregation on African townships.

Effect of apartheid laws

These laws confined Africans to their own townships and forbade them to own property outside the miserable Bantustans — the "homelands" in which they were assigned to live.

As a result of these laws, while arable land available to Africans in the Bantustans today is 0.5 acres per capita, the amount of arable land available to whites averages 7.2 acres per capita, or 14.5 times as much.

During the past three decades alone some 3.5 million Africans were forcibly removed from land they were farming, either as legal owners or as "illegal" tenants on white-owned property. Stripped of their land, livestock, and other means of farming, Africans became a vast migratory labor force for the country's capitalist enterprises in mining and manufacturing.

Some of these expropriations occurred

within the past 12 years. Yet a government position paper issued at the time of the new land legislation ruled out any restitution to the victims of forcible removals. The paper called repossession of such property "unfeasible" because of what it called "the vast potential for conflict" and "overlapping and contradictory claims to such land." The victims can return to the land from which they were evicted only if they buy it back.

In addition to the repeal of several laws basic to the apartheid system, de Klerk announced proposals to make 1.2 million Africans the owners of their township homes by transferring the titles to them, and to set aside 1.2 million acres of state-owned farmland for the settlement of Africans as small commercial farmers.

The all-white opposition Conservative Party responded to de Klerk's legislation by declaring that whites had "no choice but to rise up in the struggle to defend our living space and our freedom with the necessary means at our disposal." It accused the government of intending to "destroy the economic and social order in South Africa" and to make land the property "of all and sundry."

In his speech to the opening of parliament on February 1, de Klerk also announced the government's intention to repeal the Population Registration Act of 1950, which separated South Africans into four racial categories: whites, Indians, mixed-race, and Africans.

Easing of sanctions

Following de Klerk's February 1 speech, the 12 members of the European Community announced their intention to "prepare the necessary steps" to ease sanctions against South Africa.

The *Washington Post* predicted March 13 that "once the five laws are enacted by the end of June and all political prisoners have been released, President [George] Bush is expected to begin rolling back some of the many financial and economic sanctions that

Continued on Page 13

Rail workers rally against contract

BY GREG PRESTON

ALLIANCE, Nebraska — At an April 5 rally sponsored by the Western Nebraska Labor Coalition, 150 rail workers, their families and other unionists gathered to protest the Presidential Emergency Board proposals (PEB) for a contract between the major freight-hauling railroads and rail unions.

The Western Nebraska Labor Coalition is an organization that consists mainly of rank-and-file activists and local officials from the rail unions at the big Burlington Northern terminal in Alliance. The coalition began by organizing a letter-writing campaign to congressional politicians but soon turned its attention to organizing a rally in February to protest the PEB proposals.

The three-member Presidential Emergency Board was appointed by President George Bush to come up with a recommendation for a contract between rail management and the unions. The PEB proposals contain numerous concessions to the rail bosses from the workers. (see the article "Rail workers protest contract proposals" in the April 12, 1991 *Militant*.)

Since the first rally in Alliance in February, rail workers, with support from miners in the western coal area of Gillette, Wyoming, held an action March 23. Another protest rally in Guernsey, Wyoming, March 9 attracted 200 workers from 23 unions. The actions were called to build unity among the 10 rail unions and other area unions in preparation for the April 17 strike deadline.

Participants at the Alliance rally included members from nine of the rail unions. Rail workers from as far away as Sheridan, Wyoming, and Denver, Colorado, made the trip to attend the rally.

Speakers at the rally condemned the PEB proposals and urged rail workers to unite in preparation for a possible strike.

Ed Doberstein, Vice General Chairman of the Transport and Communication Union (TCU) explained that, "We must be prepared to conduct an effective strike to aid and assist our sister organizations."

Referring to the rallies and other activities being carried out by the rail workers in Alliance, labor historian Peter Rachleff declared, "Because of the way you're fighting, building solidarity union to union in rail — involving other unions, families, politicians and the media — you'll be stronger five years from now whether you win this round or not."

Citing government statistics, Rachleff explained that between 1984 and 1989 rail workers' productivity increased 56 percent while wages only rose 16 percent and infla-

tion rose 20 percent. "The railroads are in better financial shape than any time during our lifetime," he said.

Representing the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way, General Chairman Paul Swanson explained that the PEB proposals "represent a rape of our contracts by the railroads. We are here fighting for all workers in all industries. We will show that workers will stand together like the Pittston miners." United Mine Workers Union members waged a hard-fought battle against the Pittston Coal Company in 1989.

"Rail management says they need concessions to compete with trucks and other railroads. It is not our job to compete with our brother and sister workers in other industries or railroads. Competition is a corporate thing, not a union thing," Swanson said.

Rallies are scheduled to take place in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area and Roanoke, Virginia, on April 10 and Sheridan, Wyoming; Lincoln, Nebraska; Chicago, and Denver on April 13.

BY LARRY LANE

SELKIRK, New York — Two hundred rail workers from 11 railway unions picketed Conrail's division headquarters here April 10 to highlight the lack of a contract for the past three years and to alert the public that a nationwide rail strike may be called April 17.

The pickets were joined by Greyhound strikers, New York State AFL-CIO officials, and other unionists. A number of rail workers said that this was the first time they could recall that all the rail unions had come together for a protest.

Second shift workers at this sprawling yard complex south of Albany started the picket. They were replaced by workers coming off the first shift after a rally chaired by local Transportation Communications International Union official Russ Oathout.

In speeches to the rally, often punctuated by supportive horn blasts from locomotives, union officials pointed out that only by all the unions sticking together could the rail bosses be pushed back and a decent contract won.

Paul Cole, secretary-treasurer of the New York State AFL-CIO, pointed to the strike by workers at the *Daily News* as an example of several unions sticking together and reaching out for support.

BY DIANE SHUR

ROANOKE, Virginia — Hundreds of rail workers, their families, and supporters par-

ticipated in two labor rallies here April 13. Roanoke is a major rail center in the mid-Atlantic region, where the Norfolk Southern railway shops and yards employ thousands of workers.

At a united labor rally in this city's downtown, 200 unionists from the International Union of Electronics workers, the United Mine Workers of America, and building-trades unionists rallied; later that afternoon 400 rail workers and their supporters assembled at a nearby high school to protest attacks on the rail unions.

"These are not concessions any more," said one worker. "This is our blood." The proposed contract would result in the layoff of many carmen, he said.

New York City college students strike



Militant/Greg Rosenberg

Students throughout the City University of New York system have been protesting for more than a week since Gov. Mario Cuomo unveiled a proposed budget that included \$92 million in cuts and a tuition hike of \$500. Classes were suspended the week of April 8 at three colleges and students are occupying buildings at three more, as well. On April 12 James Murphy, president of City University, sent a memorandum to presidents of its 21 colleges and graduate schools urging them to strictly enforce suspension provisions against students and to reject their "demands for total and unconditional amnesty." On April 14, 37 students were suspended from four campuses. A university system spokesperson said students at Brooklyn College ended their occupation "voluntarily after discussions with school administrators." A student protester, however, reported they were taken away by security guards.