

U.S. refuses aid to flood victims in Bangladesh

BY JAMES HARRIS

The death toll in Bangladesh has surpassed 125,000 in the aftermath of a cyclone that struck the country's coast April 30. With the lives of millions of refugees hanging in the balance, Washington has steadfastly refused to send the massive aid requested by the Bangladesh government in an international appeal.

Thousands of people are dying of snakebites, cholera, and lack of food and clean drinking water caused by the cyclone and resulting floods.

"An estimated four million people are now at serious risk," a League of the Red Cross statement read. Ten million have been displaced by the storm. The Bangladesh government estimates it needs more than \$1 billion in aid.

Bangladesh is one of the poorest nations in the world, with a foreign debt of \$8 billion as of 1988. The average life expectancy is 51 years old and the average income is less than \$20 a month. The literacy rate is 29 percent.

The cyclone struck particularly hard at the many landless peasants who eke out a livelihood tending cattle for landlords on silt islands along the coast. Victims of the disproportionate ownership of land by the few, the peasants are literally pushed into the ocean to find land and work.

They are at constant risk with the silt islands continually washing away, to be replaced by new ones. "When a new island appears a few feet above sea level," wrote the May 5 *Washington Post*, nearby landlords

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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.

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U.S. widens occupation in northern Iraq region



U.S. troops at Kurdish refugee camp in Turkey, close to Iraqi border. U.S. and allied forces have more than doubled size of their enclave in northern Iraq.

BY SETH GALINSKY

U.S. and allied forces more than doubled the size of their enclave in northern Iraq along the border with Turkey on May 2. According to an Associated Press report, U.S. officials said expanding the zone "was necessary to lure more of the Kurds down from their mountain camps."

As many as 800,000 Kurds, Assyrian Christians, Turkomans, and other Iraqis fled to the mountainous border region between Turkey and Iraq after a Kurdish rebellion was crushed by the Saddam Hussein regime. About 1.5 million fled to the Iraq-Iran border.

Washington favored Hussein's victory over the Kurdish rebels. An oppressed nationality in Iraq, Turkey, Syria, Iran, and the Soviet Union, the Kurds have fought for national self-determination for decades.

Allied forces entered northern Iraq on April 20, occupying a zone that stretched 18 miles south and 35 miles east of Zakho. The May 2 move 35 miles farther east to the town of Amidiyah was carried out by some 2,500 U.S., British, French, and Dutch soldiers. The total area under allied control is now roughly 1,500 square miles.

U.S. Navy troops occupied an airfield near Sirsenk, which is still pitted with craters from bombs dropped by allied planes during the war. Like much of Iraq, the town of Zakho is still without electricity for its drinking water system.

Far from acting out of "humanitarian" concern for the refugees, Washington and its allies fear the dynamic of the Kurdish fight for national rights and hope to defuse the struggle in order to bring stability to the region. Taking advantage of the desperate conditions of the refugees, the U.S. plan is to use food to "coax" the Kurds back into Iraq.

"It's like you are feeding a squirrel," U.S. Army Major John Curd said. "First you throw the food far away, slowly a little closer, then it's eating out of your hand."

"If the area is safe and they are hungry, they are going to come out," Curd added.

U.S. officials first announced that they

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Disease, devastation stalk Iraq in wake of war

BY RONI McCANN

The Iraqi people face a social and economic disaster in the aftermath of the seven-month imperialist war. The devastation is compounded by the stringent trade embargo that remains in effect, pressed unceasingly by Washington.

Many workers and rural toilers, in the southern city of Basra for example, are living in especially harsh conditions given the scope of the destruction wrought by the U.S.-led bombing.

On top of the ruination caused by the war, the Iraqi toilers suffer the repression of the Saddam Hussein regime — particularly the Kurdish population, millions of whom fled the country in one of the most massive exoduses in modern times.

'108 death certificates in two hours'

Iraqis living in Basra, near the Kuwaiti border, suffered weeks of some of the heaviest bombing carried out by imperialist forces. According to a United Nations report released March 20 documenting the devastation of Iraq, of the 9,000 houses destroyed in the country by the allied bombardment, 1,900 were in Basra.

In a suburb of Basra called El-Maakal, London *Guardian* reporter Ed Vulliamy described the few houses still standing "like the few remaining teeth in a mouth that has had a boot kicked into it," and the open spaces strewn with rubble, metal scraps, burnt-out cars, and charred furniture on which children are playing.

Offices and factories are abandoned with their insides collapsed, a stump remains of what was once a water tower, and a network of bombed bridges is collapsed toward the water with cars and trucks piled onto one another, Vulliamy wrote.

Hundreds of Iraqis were killed in the air raids. From January 17 to February 27, U.S. and allied forces dropped 88,500 tons of bombs on Iraq.

One resident of El-Maakal, Nafel Faleh, said he counted 41 bodies after the first few nights. "We left our houses, and moved from zone to zone, and eventually we went to a mosque. But they bombed that too."

A doctor at the local hospital, Majid al-Hilali, was on staff during the third night of allied bombing. "I signed 108 death certificates in two hours," he said. "Later they came in with napalm burns on their faces and bodies. Those I had to send to the military hospital. I did not have the equipment to deal with them."

Electricity in the city stopped shortly after the air raids began January 16. The two main water purification centers that served southern Iraq were bombed and cannot be repaired because they require foreign-made parts — unavailable because of the economic sanctions.

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Japan sends 6 warships to Gulf; first deployment since WWII

BY GEORGE BUCHANAN

In its first deployment of military forces abroad since World War II, the Japanese government dispatched four minesweepers and two naval support vessels to the Arab-Persian Gulf April 26.

The move was condemned by opposition parliamentary parties, and expressions of protest included seaborne demonstrations as the ships departed and the refusal of five crew members to go. But opinion polls indicated a minority of Japanese opposed sending the naval vessels.

Tokyo's deployment of its military forces is one direct consequence of the Gulf war. In its assault on Iraq, Washington used its military power to defend and advance its own economic interests at the expense of Japanese imperialism, which is heavily dependent on oil imports from the Mideast. At a time of sharply intensifying economic competition between the imperialist powers, this outcome is forcing Japan's rulers to move to rearm and use its military forces abroad.

Despite the wishes of the Japanese Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) government, Tokyo was politically unable to contribute military units to the U.S.-led war on Iraq.

The LDP government introduced legisla-

tion in October 1990, deceptively named the "United Nations Peace Cooperation" bill, seeking to commit units of the Japanese military — known as the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) — to Washington's looming Mideast war. But in the face of overwhelming popular opposition, reflected in widespread protest action and growing rifts within the LDP itself, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu shelved the bill in November.

Tokyo did donate \$13 billion to the U.S. war effort, including \$2 billion to Arab governments affected by the conflict, and another \$2 billion for refugee aid.

Golden opportunity

As Washington's Mideast war drive mounted, Japan's rulers pressed to send military forces to the Gulf, a question long considered beyond discussion in official Japanese politics. As Tokyo daily *Asahi Shimbun* reported, top LDP leaders saw the Middle East crisis as "a golden opportunity to broaden the traditional interpretation of the Constitution."

But by last November, Japan's rulers clearly felt that they would pay an unnecessarily high political price if they proceeded

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Japan deploys six warships to the Gulf

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blindly with the plan to commit military forces to the Middle East. They nevertheless scored important advances when public opinion polls after the cease-fire showed a majority of Japanese people in support of the U.S. war effort, and in support of deploying the minesweepers. This contrasts with the level of opposition seen in the opening months of the U.S. war drive.

Washington's display of massive destructive military power has raised the debate in Japan's ruling circles to a much sharper level in the aftermath of the war.

"The feeling that America is a fearsome country is growing in Japan," Masao Kunihiro, an opposition member of the Diet, Japan's parliament, told the *Wall Street Journal*. "Once a tiger has tasted human blood, he is going to be a repeater, and the U.S. has tasted the sweet success of its concentrated bombing of Iraq."

Yukio Okamoto, who recently resigned from Japan's Foreign Ministry, warned bluntly in a *New York Times* interview: "There's a pent-up frustration on the part of Japanese. . . . Why shouldn't Japan be more free to strengthen our military forces, which is the only way to be again assertive to the United States?"

Japan's rulers were doubly galled to see their huge cash contribution to the Mideast war effort unable to make up for their impotence on the ground. The Japanese press drew attention to an example of this, an advertisement inserted in international magazines by the government of Kuwait, thanking Washington and other countries that deployed forces in the region, without listing Japan. "It just makes me gnash my teeth that the kinds of things we've done have not been properly valued," said Kaifu in a television interview.

Constitution renounces war

Japan's Constitution, which was forced upon the nation by Washington in the years following World War II, plainly states, in Article IX, that "the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation," and reject "the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes." In order to accomplish this aim, the Constitution adds, "land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained."

These constitutional provisions are often cited as proof that Japan is blocked from deploying its military forces abroad. But in reality such provisions have never stood in the way of a modern imperialist power wielding its military might.

Japan's history since the end of World War II and the imposition of the "peace constitution" shows that this document has never prevented the systematic buildup of a huge military machine.

As David Sanger, writing in the *New York Times*, pointed out, "Article IX is so clearly

worded that most Japanese constitutional scholars express little doubt that the mere existence of the Self-Defense Forces, with 240,000 troops, 1,200 tanks, 400 fighter jets and an expanding budget is blatantly unconstitutional."

Fourth largest war budget

Japan's "defense" budget is in fact the fourth largest in the world, with \$168 billion to be spent in the 1991-95 period. In recent years money spent on the armed forces has been growing 5 percent annually.

There are also some 50,000 U.S. troops stationed in Japan. The yearly cost of maintaining these forces is \$7.6 billion, for which the Japanese government paid out \$3 billion in 1989. Tokyo has long been under pressure from Washington to pay a higher percentage of these expenses, and in December 1990 agreed to raise the proportion it was paying from 39 percent to 50 percent over the next five years. Washington's request that Japan also pay for the garbage collection and telephone charges was declined.

A sign of the simmering tension behind this continuing U.S. military presence, combined with demands on Tokyo to bankroll an ever-increasing proportion of it, came to the surface in September, when the head of Japan's defense agency, Yozo Ishikawa, remarked that U.S. troops stationed in Japan should "just go back home." Two days later Ishikawa publicly apologized for the remark.

Trade disputes

At a meeting between U.S. President George Bush and Kaifu in San Francisco April 4 diplomatic smiles all around were aimed at masking the rising economic tensions between Japanese and U.S. imperialism which lie behind the new military push of Japan's rulers.

This rivalry had earlier burst into the open with a skirmish between U.S. representatives and Japanese government officials at an international food fair in Tokyo. After repeated refusals by U.S. promoters to take down a display that included a small quantity of U.S. rice, the Japanese Minister of Agriculture notified the American embassy that everyone associated with the exhibit would be arrested if they did not comply.

The Japanese rice industry is heavily protected. Penalties for importing rice without permission run to two years in jail or a \$22,000 fine. The retail price of rice is some two and a half times what it is in the United States.

The crusade by the United States and a number of other imperialist countries for "free trade" in several agricultural products, including rice, is resisted by several European governments — led by France and Germany — and Japan. A stalemate over this question led to the breakdown of the GATT talks at Geneva in December 1990.

This is just one of a number of issues in

the ongoing fierce competition between imperialist rivals for raw materials and markets. Behind every demand for free trade or protection stand the interests of one or another group of capitalists who would be hurt or advanced by changes in existing barriers. Japanese rice farmers, in particular a layer of capitalist farmers who are a base of support for the LDP, stand to lose a great deal if import restrictions on rice are not kept up.

One of the biggest areas of steadily sharpening competition is the auto industry, where cars manufactured in Japan continue to encroach on the traditional markets of the "Big Three" in the United States. Japanese auto and auto parts sales of \$28 billion to the United States in 1990 contrasted with a mere \$685 million of U.S. autos sold to Japan. The continuing Japanese advance in the U.S. market led Chrysler's chairman Lee Iacocca to write President George Bush March 6 seeking protection from the Japanese imports.

Clyde Farnsworth reported in the *New York Times* that "it still takes six years to develop an American car, 42 months for a Japanese car."

The competitive strength of Japanese autos is just one sign of the long-term decline of U.S. imperialism in relation to its major rivals. Japan now has the highest per capita gross national product in the world — \$23,400. The United States ranks second with a \$19,800 per capita. The *Wall Street Journal* reported that Japan's "capital investment is believed to have risen 16% to \$700 billion [in 1990] and, in absolute terms, to have outstripped U.S. spending by 33%."

U.S. imperialism, unable to reverse its economic slide, can, however, wield its overwhelming military superiority to attempt to compensate for this.

Japan's vulnerability

Despite its great economic strength, Japanese capitalism is highly dependent on imported oil, obtaining 70 percent of its oil needs from the Persian Gulf.

This fact alone explains Tokyo's willingness to hand out \$2 billion to Arab regimes affected by Washington's blockade and war against Iraq, in contrast to its hard-nosed refusal even to offer loans to the Soviet Union



Japanese paratroopers. Tokyo dropped attempt to send troops to Gulf war but has now deployed six navy vessels to region.

in response to Mikhail Gorbachev's pleas for aid during his recent visit to Japan. It also explains the virtual boycott by Japanese companies of trade with Israel.

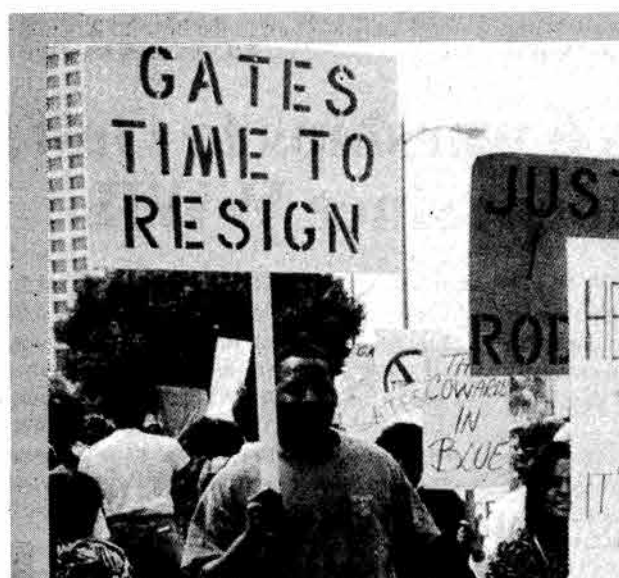
Prime Minister Kaifu emphasized Japan's vulnerability when he sought parliamentary backing last October for sending the SDF to the Middle East. "As a country without its own natural resources, Japan should not be isolated in the world," he urged.

Kaifu's framework at the time was the desire to side with Washington by supplying a modest "noncombat" military force to the war buildup. When he failed to achieve this, Japan's rulers felt pressured to pile billions of dollars more on their initial monetary pledges to the war.

But events showed that the giant donations counted for very little indeed. Japan not only failed to get a mention in the Kuwait government's "thank you" advertisements, but Japanese companies have not received any of the lucrative contracts for rebuilding Kuwait.

These experiences have prompted Japan's rulers to set an important precedent of deploying their own military forces abroad by sending the four minesweepers now on their way to the Gulf.

The stakes in these developments are extremely high. The last time Japan was starved of oil by U.S. imperialism was in 1940 and 1941, when Washington froze Japanese assets and embargoed oil sales in response to Japanese military encroachments in China and Indochina. That led directly to Tokyo's decision to attack the U.S. Navy at Pearl Harbor, launching the inter-imperialist war in the Pacific.



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Union representation vote begins at Northwest Airlines

Defeat for Machinists would set back labor movement

BY KATHIE FITZGERALD

DETROIT — "Fight for My Union? Damn Right I Will!" says the International Association of Machinists (IAM) union button worn by a growing number of ground-service workers here at one of Northwest Airlines' largest hubs. Other workers, mainly aircraft mechanics, wear jackets with "Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association" emblazoned across the back.

These Northwest workers are part of a debate over how airline workers can best defend themselves against accelerating company attacks.

The Airline Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA), a company-minded outfit, has been trying to break mechanics away from the IAM, not just at Northwest but at a number of union carriers. The IAM is the largest union representing mechanics and ground-service workers in the airline industry.

AMFA's raiding operation at Northwest received encouragement from the federal government April 8 when the National Mediation Board ruled that AMFA had submitted enough authorization cards to force a representation election. The election, by mail ballot, began May 2 and ends May 31.

The IAM currently represents more than 22,000 workers at Northwest. They include aircraft mechanics, plant maintenance mechanics, inspectors, janitors, cleaners, baggage handlers, and ticket and reservation agents.

The only workers AMFA currently represents are the 89 mechanics at the Trump Shuttle.

The mediation board ruled that mechanics and aircraft cleaners at Northwest will be classified together in the election. This means the election will be among about 8,000 workers — 6,250 mechanics, 1,400 cleaners, several hundred janitors, and 100 inspectors.

"It's one of the largest representation elections in recent years," said Lew Townsend, a mediation board spokesman.

If the majority of workers abstain from voting, these 8,000 Northwest workers will

automatically become nonunion.

AMFA plays on the concerns of airline workers who have faced a more than decade-long offensive by the employers. The airline owners have sought to overcome fierce competition and falling profit rates by attacking the living standards and working conditions of airline workers. In February, Al Checchi, chairman of Northwest, asked the IAM, the Air Line Pilots Association, and the Teamsters to grant concessions to the company.

AMFA does not offer any concrete perspective for how workers can combat the employer onslaught. Instead the association concentrates its efforts on trying to split the mechanics from other airline workers.

Mechanics have 'true clout'

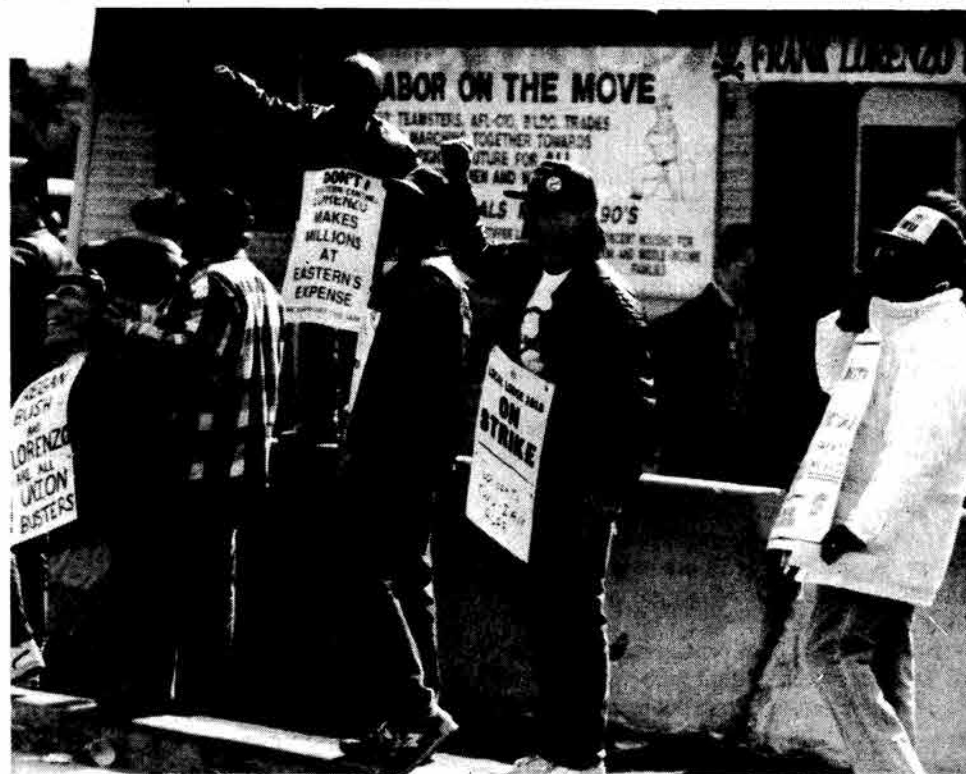
In a Dec. 15, 1990, flier, AMFA gives its view of the past decade: "An era is coming to an end. One by one the nation's airlines are toppling the wage structure. Falling with the wages are the industrial unions that are supported by the unjustifiable pay-scale level of the less skilled. The truth of the matter is the IAM cannot afford to have the mechanics leave the bargaining table and allow the unskilled to negotiate for themselves. Only those with true clout (pilots and mechanics) can command the upper scale salaries and benefits at today's airlines."

In a statement distributed at United Airlines in October 1990, AMFA calls on mechanics there to sign cards for AMFA and "help rid yourselves of the unskilled who have been riding on your coattails all these years."

AMFA's reactionary point of view was taken to its logical conclusion in one scrawl of graffiti spotted in an airplane cargo bin. "Bag smashers are unskilled apes. Vote AMFA," it read.

AMFA's view on Eastern strike

AMFA officials did not support the strike at Eastern Airlines and called it a "crushing defeat." In the flier distributed at United Airlines (UAL) in 1990, AMFA said, "If the IAM were to initiate a strike at UAL the



Machinists, supporters on Eastern picket line in 1989. Airline Mechanics Fraternal Association, which seeks to split mechanics away from Machinists union, calls strike a "crushing defeat."

company could easily break them by farming out ALL the ramp, stores, and cleaning work just like Lorenzo did at EAL [Eastern] and have the Mechanics back on the job by offering them a raise of \$3 or \$4 more per hour."

But that is not what happened at Eastern Airlines. Frank Lorenzo, who headed Eastern, tried to break the unions and set up a nonunion carrier with low wages and no benefits. He came up against the unity of the Eastern strikers, especially among the mechanics, cleaners, ramp workers, and other members of the IAM. These strikers not only won tremendous support from workers, both union and nonunion; they also learned that they needed to give solidarity to other fighters.

The most important lesson that can be learned from the Eastern strike is that it is better to stand up and fight than give concession after concession to the employers. By fighting, the rank-and-file Eastern strikers stopped both Lorenzo and the federal government's attempts to create another profitable nonunion carrier.

Class collaboration of IAM officials

In the face of the employer offensive, the IAM officialdom has sought to deepen its collaboration with the bosses by urging union members to take concessions.

AMFA takes advantage of the IAM

bureaucracy's record of collaboration in arguing that workers should join AMFA.

One flier signed by Tom McDonald, chairman of AMFA's organizing committee, is titled, "How the IAM Plans to Give Away Your Job." It concludes by saying, "Maybe it's time to give away the IAM's job instead! VOTE AMFA. You can't afford the alternative."

In a letter to Northwest workers explaining why they should vote for the IAM, Mike Flynn, president of IAM Local 1690, said, "In the final analysis, the comparison of the Machinists Union with AMFA is like comparing a superpower to a Third World country. Even if the superpower has faults, it still has the means to effectively protect the interest of its citizens."

AMFA gets a hearing from workers who are dissatisfied with the IAM and think the union has not adequately defended their working conditions, wages, and benefits. Many of those campaigning for the IAM have the same concerns.

Instead of mobilizing union power and charting a course independent and separate from the interests of the bosses, the IAM is devoting considerable resources to lobbying Congress for the passage of legislation banning employers from using permanent replacement workers in a strike.

A union flier cites testimony given by IAM President George Kourpias to a congressional committee in support of the bill. Kourpias said the bill "does nothing new or innovative. It merely restores the intent of national labor policy as spelled out by both the Railway Labor Act and the National Labor Relations Act."

"Mr. Chairman, we seek no special advantage. We seek only a level playing field. We seek only a return to the historic function of our nation's labor laws," said Kourpias.

The strategy of the IAM officialdom is to appeal to the government to stop the use of scabs. This is how they plan to win or avoid strikes.

Some IAM supporters also disagree with a recent announcement by IAM officials that they will seek a separate contract for mechanics in the upcoming negotiations. Such a move weakens the union.

Rather, what the IAM and other unions need is to combat the employer offensive by mobilizing the ranks of labor to fight in their own interests.

Northwest workers should reject AMFA and vote for the IAM. AMFA offers unionists an even worse perspective. It puts forward the false notion that strikes are not necessary for those with supposedly high skill levels. AMFA's efforts to divide workers will only serve to weaken the unions. Its philosophy and perspective disarm working people and mark a step away from the kind of labor movement working people need.

In confronting the concession demands of the carriers, mobilizing union power is the only real defense workers have that can lead to a revitalized labor movement that fights for the entire working class: Black and white, male and female, employed and unemployed.

Kathie Fitzgerald is a member of IAM Local 141 and is a Northwest ramp worker in Detroit.

Cuban trade union leaders on tour in U.S.

BY ANDREA MORELL

BOSTON—"We Cubans feel we are friends and brothers and sisters of all the North American people. Our differences are not with the people who work and struggle here but with those who exploit our people and you as well. And we face them together."

These are the words of Joaquín Bernal Camero, a member of the National Secretariat of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions (CTC) in charge of international relations. Bernal, 50 years old, is a former tobacco worker. He is touring the United States with Luis Guillermo Abreu Mejías, 44, who is general secretary of the National Union of Workers in Education, Sciences, and Sports. The two began a six-city tour here at the invitation of the U.S.-Cuba Labor Delegation Tour committee in Boston. They will also speak in Detroit; Birmingham, Alabama; Morgantown, West Virginia; New York; and Washington, D.C.

The sponsoring committee, an ad-hoc formation for this tour, has five co-chairs: Ed Clark, manager of the New England Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; Celia Wcislo, president of Service Employees International Union Local 285; Dr. James Green, faculty chairperson of the labor studies program at the University of Massachusetts at Boston; and Dr. Elaine Bernard, executive director of the Harvard University trade union program. The original invitation to the unionists was signed by numerous labor, academic figures, and political activists.

This tour of two high-ranking Cuban labor leaders is an important breach in the blockade

"We feel we are brothers and sisters of the North American people."

of information about revolutionary Cuba maintained by the U.S. government. Its agencies bar entry to this country by most revolutionary Cubans and legally block travel to Cuba by working people from the United States.

On April 26 the Cuban officials toured Greico Bros., a menswear manufacturing plant in Lawrence, Massachusetts. They were invited there by Ed Clark.

The majority of the workers in the plant are from the Dominican Republic. Initially surprised to meet two Cuban trade union officials in their workplace, many began to ask questions about conditions faced by Cuban workers, including the wages of their counterparts in the garment industry.

Bernal and Abreu explained that garment workers in Cuba are among the lowest paid on the island. However, all workers enjoy free medical care, free day care, education through college for their children, one month paid vacation per year from the first year of employment, and the right to their own house or apartment after paying 10 percent of their income toward it for 20 years.

The trade union leaders explained that laid off Cuban workers receive 100 percent of their pay the first month and 60 percent per month thereafter, and are guaranteed retraining and jobs. This is a new

policy, said Bernal and Abreu, needed now because Cubans are experiencing layoffs for the first time since the revolution due to pressures on the Cuban economy generated by the economic crisis affecting Cuba's trading partners in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

After hearing this, one steward jokingly commented, "How do we move to Cuba?"

Bernal replied, "We'd love to have you but that's not the real point. We've found our solution. Your job is to find a solution here."

The solution Cuban working people found, the two leaders explained, was the overthrow of capitalism and the struggle to build socialism.

"The Cuban revolution was by and for the poor," said Bernal to 125 people at Boston's Arlington Street Church April 26. There are no capitalist owners of the means of producing wealth in Cuba, he explained.

Bernal and Abreu were also introduced at the membership meeting of Local 201 of the International Union of Electronic Workers, which organizes 5,000 workers at General Electric in Lynn. Applause greeted Bernal when he said, "I wish to express our solidarity with you in your struggle for justice in the upcoming contract battle with General Electric."

The trade union leaders also spoke at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst April 30, as part of Labor Awareness Week on the campus.

Neil Callendar, Russell Davis, Donald Gurewitz, and Mark Zola contributed to this article.

U.S. widens occupation in northern Iraq

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planned to build six camps, housing 20,000 refugees each, in the enclave. Only one has been built. The approach now is to get the refugees to return to their old homes, as the allied forces take more territory.

A key to this would be expanding the occupied territory south to Dohuk, the provincial capital. U.S. Lt. Gen. John Shalikashvili told reporters that if Dohuk is not included, the allies would have to find shelter for 350,000 people next winter. "Where are we going to house them?" he asked.

On May 5, several hundred U.S. Army troops advanced to the outskirts of Dohuk.

While expanding U.S. control in the north, U.S. troops in southern Iraq are completing their withdrawal.

About 14,000 Iraqi prisoners of war, out of 80,000 captured during the war, have refused to return to Iraq. Now being held by the Saudi Arabia military, most had been taken prisoner originally by U.S. forces operating in southern Iraq.

Many of the prisoners have asked for permission to go to the United States. But Washington has only accepted two — one who had dual Iraqi and U.S. citizenship and another who had previously resided in the United States.

"They stay in their camps until either they go back home or they go to other countries," said the Saudi commander Lt. Gen. Khalid bin Sultan.

'70 percent of babies will die'

Along Iraq's borders with Turkey and Iran, conditions for the refugees continue to deteriorate.

"All of the babies under six months have diarrhea. I'd estimate 70 percent will die," said Dr. Mariana Photaki of the French-based Doctors of the World. Photaki is stationed at a refugee camp in Yekmal, considered one of the better camps being used in preparation for sending the refugees back to Iraq.

Cholera outbreaks have been reported at the Cukurca camp. Cholera, an intestinal infection that causes vomiting and diarrhea, can kill a person in 10 hours, but is easily treated. There have also been cases of measles and fears of meningitis and hepatitis epidemics.

No figure has been released on how many have died since the start of the mass exodus.

Sabotage charges dropped against 2 U.S. sailors

BY SETH GALINSKY

The U.S. Navy has dropped charges against two sailors accused of plotting to sabotage an aircraft carrier during the war against the Iraqi people. A Navy spokesperson said the charges were dropped due to insufficient evidence.

The two men charged, Airman Apprentice Abdul Hakeem Shaheed, 22, and Seaman Apprentice James Moss, 21, are Muslims and Black. The Navy claimed they had urged other crew members to take their officers hostage, and wage a "Moslem holy war sponsored by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein."

Shaheed and Moss denied the accusations. "I have never supported Saddam Hussein, and I also never supported his invasion of Kuwait and his so-called holy war," Shaheed stated. He said the only reason he was being prosecuted is that some people "prefer to think that all Muslims are evil."

The U.S. Marine Corps, meanwhile, is proceeding with court-martials for 25 marines who it charges with desertion or missing troop movements.

Most of the 25 are reservists who did not report for duty or refused to accept assignments to the Arab-Persian Gulf. All are conscientious objectors.

Marine officials claim the men are not being prosecuted for applying for conscientious-objector status but for not reporting for duty.

"These are vindictive prosecutions based on their beliefs," said Hillary Richard, one of three lawyers representing most of the Marines. "The Marines want to be able to say they don't have any conscientious objectors, just a bunch of cowards and deserters."

Some have already been convicted. Pvt. Doug DeBoer, was sentenced to 15 months in military prison May 1.



Kurdish women in refugee camp. Far from "humanitarian" concerns, Washington's goal in setting up camps is to defuse Kurdish national struggle.

One United Nations report said 2,000 people were dying a day.

Although the U.S.-led forces ordered the Iraqi government to withdraw most of its troops from the enclave, some Iraqi police have been allowed to remain.

A hard line has been taken toward the Kurdish guerrillas. British Royal Marines have been turning back armed Kurdish fighters at checkpoints.

"Within this zone there will no indigenous checkpoints," warned U.S. Marine Colonel Jones. "We're not going to have any competition."

"We can't disarm the Iraqi army and allow the Pesh Merga to have arms," Jones said. The Pesh Merga — meaning those who face death — are the Kurdish guerrillas.

While Kurds who have entered the camps in the occupied zone have had arms taken away, no attempt has been made, so far, to disarm large numbers of guerrillas who are operating in the mountains. To the east and south of the allied enclave, along the border with Turkey and Iran, the guerrillas have retaken control.

In spite of the harsh conditions, many Kurdish refugees are reluctant to leave the mountainous region to return to Iraq as long as Hussein is in power. Col. James Jones, the U.S. marine commander in northern Iraq, said that the number of refugees who have entered the enclave so far is just a "trickle." As of May 3 only 20,000-30,000 had returned to Iraq. Some 6,000 are staying at the

Zakho camp. The rest have headed to their homes in the enclave.

Four days after the first U.S. troops entered Zakho, leaders of Kurdish groups meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad announced that they had reached an agreement in principle granting autonomy to the Kurds. Washington has encouraged the Kurds to reach an agreement with Hussein.

"I have never seen such a positive attitude before," stated Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, after the meeting. "We could not overthrow them, and they could not crush us. So we are both looking for another solution."

Although Talabani urged the refugees to return, many of the Kurdish guerrillas said they were not convinced the zones were safe and set up roadblocks to prevent refugees from entering the enclave.

A second negotiating session between Kurdish groups and the Iraqi government to concretize the agreement has been postponed indefinitely. The postponement was caused in part by divisions among Kurdish groups over how to proceed in the autonomy negotiations.

The disagreements, according to press accounts, center on how any agreement with Hussein would be enforced and on the inclusion of Kirkuk, a key oil city, in an autonomous Kurdistan.

Hoshiyar Zebari, a spokesperson for the Kurdish Democratic Party, said that the U.S. and its allies should guarantee any agreement

with Hussein. Talabani has said that U.S. troops should leave after the agreement is implemented.

Talabani stated at a news conference that Kirkuk should no longer be considered an integral part of Kurdistan. But according to the *New York Times*, the KDP calls for a guarantee of a significant share of Kirkuk's oil revenues.

The *Washington Post* quoted an "influential analyst who has advised the Bush administration" as saying that an autonomy agreement would allow the United States to pull out of Iraq "and get the Kurds back home where they belong."

"We did not commit to autonomy" when sending troops, he added. "We should turn it over to the United Nations and go."

Sami Abderrahman, who heads the Kurdish Democratic Popular Party, defended the agreement as a chance to win concessions while the Iraqi regime is isolated. "If an army general takes over from Saddam Hussein, he would have the West's blessing," he noted. "I am sure that concern now shown for the Kurdish question would turn into Western pressure to make concessions to ensure such a regime's stability."

Washington did not go through even the motions of consulting with the United Nations before beginning to set up the enclaves. But now, the allied powers are pushing for the UN to take over responsibility for the camps so that they can withdraw.

President Bush had earlier said that U.S. troops will not stay in Iraq "one minute longer" than necessary. "I want these kids home," Bush said, "and so do the American people."

The UN presence so far consists mostly of a flag hoisted in the middle of a wheat field, with 15 officials.

UN spokesperson François Giuliani accused the United States, Britain, and France of having no clear policy and said that was the cause of delays on UN involvement. "There is no clear common idea from the countries who are requesting the UN action on exactly what they want," he said.

A high-ranking UN official said, "The United States, Britain, and France got themselves into a mess and now they're trying to cover themselves with a UN flag."

U.S. "Administration officials are now so worried that American troops may get bogged down in Iraq that they refer to the problem as 'the Q word,'" the May 5 *New York Times* said. "The Q word stands for quagmire."

Big marches in South Korea protest cops

BY GEORGE BUCHANAN

Tens of thousands of students and other supporters of democratic rights have demonstrated repeatedly in the streets of South Korea since the April 26 police killing of a 20-year-old student protester, Kang Kyung-dae.

The student had attempted to get away from a riot police attack on a small student demonstration, when he was bludgeoned to death by a group of plain-clothes cops, members of a unit known as the "Skeleton Corps."

In the days following this killing, as many as 70,000 people protested nationwide, including 20,000 in Seoul, and 10,000 in Pusan and Kwangju. A significant number of workers have joined the demonstrations.

The militant union organization Chunhyop — the Council of Korean Trade Unions — charged the government with responsibility for Kang's murder.

In the face of the breadth of the protests, South Korean president Roh Tae-Woo attempted to deflect some of the heat by dismissing his interior minister. Five policemen who carried out the assault have been arrested and charged with murder.

The latest upsurge of protests is linked to demonstrations against the April 20 visit of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to South Korea. Ten thousand students demonstrated in Seoul against the visit, during which Roh's government offered the Soviet Union \$3 billion in economic aid — more than Seoul has granted any other government before.

For his part, Gorbachev said that Moscow would not oppose South Korea's bid for a seat in the United Nations. The North Korean government has long opposed efforts to establish separate United Nations seats for North and South Korea, which it sees as additional barriers to the reunifi-

cation of Korea.

Those protesting against Gorbachev's visit saw his backing of a UN seat for Seoul as a betrayal both of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK — North Korea) and of the reunification fight.

In the course of Gorbachev's visit to Korea and Japan, Soviet officials repeated Moscow's calls on the DPRK to agree to the monitoring of its nuclear power plants by the United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency, threatening to cancel shipments of any nuclear-related supplies. Pyongyang has refused to allow such inspections unless the nuclear weapon sites of the U.S. military in South Korea are equally liable for investigation.

During Gorbachev's visit Soviet officials went one step further, offering to supply "defensive" weaponry to Seoul.

The hue and cry about the possibility that

the DPRK might have the capacity to produce a nuclear weapon is a centerpiece of the recently renewed campaign of threats by imperialist powers, led by Washington, against North Korea (see the *Militant*, May 3).

Another side of this same campaign was signaled by the U.S. State Department's release of a report on alleged "human rights abuses" in the DPRK.

The DPRK Foreign Ministry denounced the issuing of this report as "an open political provocation to do harm to us."

The campaign follows the opening up of wider trade ties between North Korea and Japan, which now accounts for about 25 percent of the DPRK's total trade. A focus of the calls coming from U.S. ruling circles has been for Japan to end this trade with Pyongyang, with the aim of forcing the DPRK to submit to any demands placed on it.

U.S. refuses to send aid to Bangladesh

Continued from front page

are allotted ownership rights and encourage impoverished, indebted peasant laborers to take up residence, providing the owner with effective control of the new land."

Despite Bangladesh's desperate need for aid, imperialist governments and officials of international relief agencies say their hands are tied due to other disasters taking place around the world, including the plight of the Kurdish refugees in Iraq. Al Panico, the director of international relief for the American Red Cross, called the reaction "donor fatigue." He claimed people in the United States "just get tired of seeing starving people on television."

As of May 2 the U. S. government had only contributed \$125,000 to the relief effort. Washington refused in particular to provide the helicopters needed to get aid to stranded refugees in flood-stricken areas. Bangladesh has only six functioning helicopters.

Margaret Tutwiler, speaking for the State Department, said that it would be difficult for the U.S. government to meet the request for helicopters due to the Kurdish refugee crisis.

"It's a legitimate problem that we have and other countries also have in light of everything else that we are doing," said Tutwiler. "We're looking for ways to address this request, but, yes we are stretched right now, as a government, on helicopters."

Baker trip reveals growing divergence of U.S., Israel interests

BY JAMES HARRIS

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker returned empty-handed from his third trip to the Mideast in seven weeks, failing to show concrete progress on Washington's goals in the region.

Baker's trip mainly served to highlight the deepening divergence in foreign policy interests between the U.S. imperialists and the Israeli rulers.

One of Washington's goals in waging war against Iraq has been to shift the relationship of class and state forces in the region in favor of U.S. imperialism. This includes stabilizing governments in the area that could more effectively safeguard and defend U.S. interests. To do this the U.S. rulers are seeking ways to end the Palestinian *intifada* and open the door to the recognition of Israel by Arab governments. The *intifada* is the sustained Palestinian rebellion that has been taking place for more than three years.

The U.S. rulers are pressuring Israel to give up some of the land it conquered in previous wars with Syria and Jordan, and to grant other concessions that Washington believes could lead to a "solution" to the Palestinians' decades-long struggle for land and national self-determination. But the determination of the Palestinians — especially those in "Greater Israel" — to continue their struggle blocks this.

'Territory for peace'

In a major speech to a joint session of Congress March 6, Bush outlined the U.S. rulers' perspective. "We must do all that we can to close the gap between Israel and the Arab states — and between Israelis and Palestinians," said Bush. "A comprehensive peace requires the concession of territory for peace."

The Arab capitalist regimes are willing to help Washington put together such a deal, but they must take into account the wide backing the Palestinian struggle has among the masses of Arab working people. The Arab governments increasingly show signs they are willing to recognize Israel if Israel relinquishes some of its seized territory and an agreement is reached on the Palestinians. At the same time they fear the political price they would have to pay in their own countries if they recognize Israel without receiving some concessions, and some accommodation to the Palestinians, in return.

The Israeli regime has been dealt a setback

in the aftermath of the Arab-Persian Gulf War. Washington, having established closer relationships with capitalist Arab regimes, has made shifts in policy direction at the expense of the Israeli rulers. Israel is especially worried about the renewed ties between the U.S. and Syrian government.

The Palestinian people strongly object to the opening of these new settlements. The Arab regimes and the U.S. government also officially oppose this policy.

Referring to the settlements, Baker remarked, "I have to say to you that we were very disappointed to learn this morning that there is yet another settlement that has been established in the occupied territories."

The focus of Baker's recent trip was to get the countries of the Mideast to agree to a conference to discuss the problems of the region. The conflicting interests of the various capitalist regimes in the region have so far kept Baker from achieving even this limited goal.

The Saudi Arabian government made clear even before the scheduled April 21 meeting between Baker and the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal, that it was not interested in attending such a conference.

A March 4 *Wall Street Journal* article reported that in meetings with U.S. officials, Saudi diplomats have "suggested that the best way to settle that dispute [the Palestinian question] might be for Jordan to become the Palestinian state. That is a position also held by hard-line Israelis."

A proposal that Baker raised with the Saudis was that they take the lead in weakening the decades-old boycott by Arab countries of Israel and companies that do business with Israel.

Baker is now pressing to get rid of the secondary part of the boycott that prohibits U.S. and foreign companies that do business with Israel from having commercial relations with Arab states.

Baker met with Syrian President Hafez al-Assad April 24. The chief concern of the Syrian regime is that Israel return the Golan Heights which it captured during the 1967 war. Assad also insisted that the United Nations play an "important" role in the conference, if it is to be held, and that the conference initiate a permanent body for the resolution of conflicts in the region. The Israeli regime disagrees with both these concepts.

"We are not optimistic at all," said Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa. "I want



Israeli soldier guards a Jewish settlement on the West Bank. Determined not to trade 'land for peace,' the Israeli regime opened yet another settlement during Baker's trip.

to tell you that President Assad spent over nine hours with Secretary Baker to explore in depth the American commitment and the American position. We know in advance if we listen to the Israeli position that there will be no peace. They are dragging the region into war."

Rift in Israeli cabinet

The Israeli government wishes to limit the scope of any conference to a one-time, ceremonial session followed by direct talks between the Israeli and individual Arab regimes. Israeli officials insist on having veto power over which Palestinians will be included in negotiations and they refuse to talk to any representatives from the Palestine Liberation Organization or Palestinians from East Jerusalem.

The brief life span of a potential concession made on the conference by Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy revealed some of the tensions mounting in Israel. In discussions with Baker, Levy agreed that Israel would possibly agree to a conference that meets periodically, rather than a one-time event.

Even this modest concession caused an immediate blowup inside the Israeli government. The Israeli cabinet met and overturned the decision.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens spoke out publicly against the proposal. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who had originally endorsed the concession, backed away from it when it became clear the proposal threatened to break Israel's governing coalition and bring down his government.

Attempting to minimize the incident,

Shamir said, "I don't think we are on the verge of a crisis. I have more serious preoccupations now. My thoughts are dedicated mainly to the absorption of the Soviet immigrants. But the issue of negotiations is of course very important as well."

On April 25 Baker traveled to the Soviet Union, where he met with Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh, who stated that the Soviet Union was prepared to back the U.S. proposals and co-sponsor the conference.

In a related move underscoring the U.S. displeasure with Israel, the White House instructed Jack Kemp, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) secretary, not to meet with Ariel Sharon at HUD headquarters while the Israeli official visiting the United States. Sharon is Israel's housing minister and one of the chief architects of the government's policy of building and expanding settlements on the West Bank.

The White House insisted that Kemp's meeting with Sharon be nonofficial and take place at the Israeli embassy. The Israeli government officially protested the public snub.

Disease and devastation stalk Iraq

Continued from front page

The shortage of power and water has been a major cause of the spread of disease. The local hospital director, Dr. Monem Hashimi, said the staff is forced to give patients water from a nearby river when the quota for purified water runs out. "Sometimes we can boil water, but then we do not have any fuel."

Most children recently admitted suffer from gastroenteritis and malnourishment. In Basra cases of cholera are running about three a day. Director Hashimi said they have not been able to confirm cases of cholera in El-Maakal because they do not have the cultures to do the tests.

Shortages in Baghdad

Upon their return from Iraq in March, the UN delegation called for a "major mobilization and movement of resources to deal with aspects of the deep crisis" in the country. The U.S.-led war, the report stated, "wrought near-apocalyptic results upon the economic infrastructure of what had been, until January 1991, a rather highly urbanized and mechanized society."

In Baghdad part-time electricity and water service were recently restored, which will enable hospitals, laboratories, water treatment plants, and sewage stations to begin functioning. The lack of electricity had paralyzed water purification centers, compounding the spread of disease.

"There are tentative cases of cholera," said Dominique Dufour, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross. "But to be sure you need to grow culture for 24 hours, and

hospitals and laboratories don't have enough electricity to do that."

In northern Mosul, where the water supply is highly contaminated, Dr. Ezio Gianni Murzi, head of the UNICEF operations in Iraq, said he saw 11 cases of suspected cholera there on April 11 and now believes it may be as high as 150.

In central Baghdad the main post office and telephone exchanges were destroyed or severely damaged. The domestic airport was left in ruins.

The country's main oil refineries at Baiji in the north and Al Dora outside Baghdad were demolished, as was Iraq's only cement factory.

Squeezed by sanctions

The hardship in the aftermath of the bloody war is made worse by the continued economic embargo imposed by Washington on Iraq. The embargo has prevented the import of needed foodstuffs, medicines, agricultural products, and energy supplies. This has caused the prices of many necessities to increase by up to 1,000 percent. Supplies of batteries, razor blades, light bulbs, and other goods have dried up.

Basic foods are still rationed, but a World Health Organization report said the amount was the bare minimum of calories needed for survival. More food is available on the free market, but for a much higher price. "Many food prices are already beyond the purchasing reach of most Iraqi families," said the UN delegation in its

report. The minimum monthly wage in Iraq is 54 dinars — about \$174.

In an attempt to acquire the revenue needed to buy several tons of basic necessities, the Iraqi government requested permission from the UN Security Council April 16 to sell \$942.5 million in oil. On April 29 the government asked the UN committee to unfreeze \$1 billion of its assets in the United States, Britain, Switzerland, and Japan. This would allow Iraq to buy rice, sugar, vegetable oil, infant formula, eggs, milk, medicine, and other products. Neither request has been granted.

The May 1 *New York Times* reported that White House spokesmen said Washington would continue to oppose allowing Iraq to sell its oil or gain access to assets until it is convinced that the Iraqis would use the money for humanitarian purposes.

Washington not only backs the sanctions remaining in place. It recently floated the idea that Iraq should pay the expenses the U.S. government incurs in setting up camps in the north of the country for Kurdish refugees. U.S. officials estimate this will cost more than \$500 million over the next six months.

Washington is also preparing a proposal to submit to the United Nations demanding Iraq pay between 40 and 50 percent of its oil revenues for war reparations. According to the March UN report, "Initial inspections are said to show that necessary repairs to begin power generation and oil refining at minimal levels may take anywhere from 4 to 13 months."

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Mandela calls for self-defense units

Attacks on anti-apartheid activists have claimed 1,200 lives in nine months

BY GREG McCARTAN

African National Congress (ANC) Deputy President Nelson Mandela announced at an April 13 rally that the ANC had begun organizing community self-defense units across South Africa.

"Blacks in this country are being killed by other blacks with the assistance of the police," he told 4,000 people at a rally in the township of Alexandra, South Africa, according to an Associated Press report. "It is a crisis when the government is working with criminals in order to prevent the arrival of democracy in our country."

At the Alexandra rally and funeral for recent victims of a massacre in the township, Mandela explained the decision to move ahead with the defense units as "decisive action" in light of the apartheid regime's refusal to take steps to halt attacks on anti-apartheid activists that have claimed the lives of some 1,200 people since August. The government encourages the violence in the townships as a means to undermine the anti-apartheid struggle, he said.

"If it is OK for whites to have neighborhood watches and civilian guards, it should be equally acceptable for blacks to have their own defense units," Mandela told the rally, according to the *Christian Science Monitor*.

The move follows a series of attacks during March and early April on rallies and other events sponsored by the ANC or organizations that support the ANC. Both South African police and persons identified as supporters of the Inkatha Freedom Party have carried out the assaults, resulting in scores of dead and wounded. In the latest incidents Inkatha supporters attacked residents in the townships of Alexandra and Soweto, both located near Johannesburg, killing 43 people. Inkatha is headed by Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi.

South African police officials, calling the ANC decision a "recipe for civil war," sought to shift the blame for future violence onto the defense units and the liberation organization. South African President F.W. de Klerk, referring to the ANC in an April 29 address to parliament, said, "In the reaction against violence, one sees growing signs of a justification of violence. This approach and culture of violence leads to polarization which may land us in a civil war."

De Klerk had just returned to the country from a government visit to Britain, Denmark, and Ireland following the April 15 decision of the 12-member European Community (EC) to lift economic sanctions imposed against South Africa in 1986. Economic, political, sporting, cultural, and other sanctions have long been advocated by liberation organizations, trade unions, and religious groups in South Africa as an effective step that could be taken outside the country to help bring about an end to apartheid.

Must 'defend our people'

Mandela stressed the defense units were not in contradiction to the ANC's agreement with the government to suspend its armed struggle in return for a pledge by the regime to release all political prisoners and allow the return of exiles. "We are going to honor that agreement," he said, "but there was no agreement that we will not form defense units to defend our people."

End of April reports by the South Africa-based Human Rights Commission document that the regime has failed to meet its commitment to the exiles and political prisoners. Only 535 anti-apartheid activists have been released from prison. The ANC estimates there are some 3,500 in jail. Of the 40,000 exiles only 1,200 have been given immunity and allowed to return to the country.

Mandela also responded to government and big-business media statements denouncing ANC demands that were announced April 5. The ANC called on the government to dismiss the defense minister and minister of law and order, ban weapons at public rallies, dismantle counterinsurgency units, and curtail the actions of the police and army at anti-apartheid demonstrations. The ANC indicated that further talks between the liberation organization and the regime depended on how the government responded.

"They say we acted very hastily, that this was not the ideal moment to raise the demand," Mandela said. "What do they want us to do in order to get the government to



Militant/Margrethe Siem

"Blacks in this country are being killed by other blacks with the assistance of the police," ANC leader Nelson Mandela told rally in Alexandra, South Africa, explaining need for community self-defense units.

carry out its duty to maintain law and order? The only reply for us is to pull out of the talks."

Mandela added, "I am not going to make the mistake I have made in the past of indulging in useless talks."

The course outlined by Mandela aims to deepen the mobilization and organization of the masses in South Africa to protect and extend political elbowroom won through decades of hard-fought struggle. It seeks to continue the battle for an interim government and the election of a constituent assembly, based on one person, one vote. The liberation organization has also rejected as insufficient the recent moves by the government to reform aspects of apartheid without addressing its underlying and historic consequences.

A year and a half ago the apartheid regime

began a series of steps that registered the setbacks it had suffered both from the determined struggle by the masses of working people inside the country, growing economic and political isolation, and the military defeat of its expansionist invasion of Angola in the late 1980s. The regime unbanned organizations, released Mandela and other anti-apartheid fighters from prison, and repealed the main legal pillars of apartheid, such as laws classifying individuals by race, denying Blacks access to land, and strictly segregating housing, jobs, and public facilities.

Broad united front sought

Now, new gains in the struggle for a democratic, nonracial South Africa will be registered in the course of deepening battles and widening mobilization of rural and

urban working people. Mandela and the ANC leadership continue to press for the broadest possible united front of organizations and individuals who seek to deepen the struggle.

In addition to holding talks with Buthelezi, seeking to draw him and Inkatha away from collaboration with the government and perpetuation of internecine violence toward united action against apartheid, the ANC held high-level talks in Harare, Zimbabwe, with the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania April 15-16. Mandela and PAC president Clarence Makwetu "decided to convene a conference of patriotic forces aimed primarily at uniting the oppressed," ANC Information Secretary Pallo Jordan told a news conference following the meeting. "All representatives of organized groupings who support a constituent assembly should be invited to this conference."

A joint statement at the conclusion of the meeting also hit the EC's decision to lift the sanctions, stating, "Any premature relaxation of sanctions will gravely undermine the legitimate struggle of the people of South Africa."

'They reward the jailer'

Urging that worldwide sanctions and isolation of the regime be maintained, Mandela told a conference of South Africa's National Union of Mine Workers that the EC decision "once again shows clearly how Europe allies itself with white South Africa and has no regard for the lives, the views, and the needs of black South Africa."

"We are the victims, yet they reward the jailer for letting a little more light into our hell-hole," the anti-apartheid leader told the April 27 meeting. "It is regrettable that race still plays such a significant part in decision-making even as we enter the much-heralded 21st century."

After a meeting in London with British Prime Minister John Major earlier in the week, Mandela told the media, "We say sanctions were introduced for a specific purpose — to give the vote to all the people of South Africa and to scrap apartheid. Neither of those objectives has been achieved."

Curtis backers to widen labor support to win parole for jailed unionist

BY CHRIS REMPLE

DES MOINES, Iowa — Members and supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee from Iowa, Nebraska, and Minnesota gathered in Des Moines April 13 to launch an ambitious drive to press Iowa authorities to parole Mark Curtis. John Studer, coordinator of the defense committee, outlined the proposal and reported on gains made by a defense committee delegation to the recent meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland.

Curtis is a 31-year-old former meat-packer who was framed by Des Moines cops in 1988 for defending immigrant workers and his union after an immigration police raid at the Swift-Monfort meat-packing plant here. Curtis is now serving a 25-year jail term in state prison on false charges of rape and burglary.

Studer told the meeting that the Mark Curtis Defense Committee is launching a major drive to gather letters to be submitted to the Iowa State Board of Parole urging immediate action to grant Curtis his freedom.

"Between now and July 1," Studer said, "we want to reach out to activists of all kinds, especially in the labor movement. We want to ask them to send us letters addressed to the Iowa State Board of Parole urging they meet and free Mark Curtis now!"

"Curtis more than meets all the qualifications for parole," Studer explained. "He's served over two and a half years in state prison, more than the average served by someone convicted on the rape charge he was framed on."

"Even though prison authorities have attempted to harass Curtis for his ongoing political activity," Studer said, "they admit his conduct and job performance are exem-

plary. And he has powerful and growing support outside the prison."

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, for example, wrote to Curtis to "invite him here to Atlanta to meet with us and plan participation in mutual endeavors on behalf of human rights," Studer reported.

The defense committee will organize a special delegation to take the letters gathered to the parole board in July.

"The Board can meet and consider a prisoner's request for parole at any time," Studer said. He added that this campaign will open the door to broader endorsement for the defense committee and help raise the money needed to defend Curtis.

Studer reported that the defense committee fielded a delegation to the UN Commission on Human Rights in February, led by Kate Kaku, a spokesperson for the defense and Curtis' wife. Delegation members held meetings with 25 governmental representatives from Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and other areas. In addition, support was won from representatives of many nongovernmental organizations such as Maria Alexiu, president of the Association of Relatives of the Disappeared and Political Prisoners; Nelsa Curbelo, coordinator of the Latin America Peace and Justice Service; Elias Khouri, UN representative of the Union of Arab Jurists, and many others.

"The delegation helped deepen international support for Curtis' release," Studer reported. "The response showed that the Curtis justice fight is one of the best known international human rights campaigns."

"The case is well known because Curtis has an international defense effort fighting for him. And it gives us the opportunity not only to win freedom for Mark but to advance

the fight for political and union rights for all, to set an example that can inspire others to fight to defend their rights."

The delegation was financed by an ambitious fundraising campaign which raised more than \$26,000 from supporters around the world, Studer reported.

"The most striking support was found in the labor movement," he said. "One United Mine Workers local president made an appeal to his local for support and the local voted to donate \$500. Dozens of locals and union officials contributed thousands of dollars to enable the trip to succeed."

This response has continued since the committee sent a special mailing last month to its more than 8,000 endorsers. Local 8065 of the United Steelworkers of America in Fontana, California, voted to donate \$100.

The defense committee also projects stepping up the legal efforts on Curtis' behalf, Studer reported.

"The civil rights lawsuit filed by Curtis against the city of Des Moines and the cops who beat him the night he was arrested is scheduled to come to trial on November 25," he said. "This fight is unfolding in the context of the national spotlight on police brutality following the beating of Rodney King by the Los Angeles cops."

Studer cited reports from the Des Moines Civil Service Commission and the U.S. Justice Department documenting widespread racist and sexist statements and actions by Des Moines police. These reports also scored the Des Moines cops for using their Internal Affairs division to systematically cover up human rights violations by the department.

"This lawsuit is not just a fight for vindication of Mark Curtis," Studer said. "It is a

Continued on Page 13

Supporters kick off sales effort

BY RONI McCANN

On April 27 supporters of the *Militant* kicked off a seven-week international drive to win thousands of new readers to the socialist press.

At May Day celebrations in Stockholm, Sweden, in the eastern coalfields of Kentucky, on a Minnesota campus, and in many other places *Militant* supporters talked to workers, farmers, and young people about the imperialist assault on the toilers of Iraq, the struggles of working people around the world, and the importance of reading a paper with the facts and a working-class perspective.

In the first few days of the sales effort, 185 new readers were won. Supporters of the paper who are members of industrial trade unions have taken goals and helped launch the effort, winning 25 new subscribers so far among fellow unionists.

The goal is to sign up 6,100 subscribers: 3,225 to the *Militant*, 725 to the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 200 to the French-language *L'internationaliste* by June 15.

Supporters aim to raise and go over the target of selling 1,950 copies of the Marxist magazine *New International*. Issue no. 8 of the magazine, entitled *Che Guevara, Cuba, and the Road to Socialism*, is just off the press. Scheduled for publication May 15 is issue no. 7, featuring the lead article "Opening Guns

of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq" by Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes. Reprinted in the issue will be the December *International Socialist Review* supplement to the *Militant*. During the height of the seven-month war on Iraq in December, January, and February, 1,300 workers bought copies of the supplement.

Both of these magazines will be attractive to thinking workers and youth who are discussing and debating some of the big political questions today: Why did the imperialist powers wage war on Iraq? What were Washington's goals and were they achieved? Is socialism possible? What has Cuba accomplished and what challenges are ahead after more than 30 years of the socialist revolution there?

Barbro Davidson from Stockholm reported that a metal workers union member bought three issues of the *New International*, including the latest published.

Just Off the Fax

"Three new *Militant* subscribers were won in the first Saturday of the sales effort," Janet Edwards from Wellington, New Zealand, wrote. "One young woman explained she was keen to subscribe to the *Militant* because she was currently involved with her union in fighting an unjust firing — her own. She was planning to march in a demonstration called by trade unions to oppose a bill aimed at

gutting unions' legal rights.

"Two soldiers stopped at one of the literature tables. One bought the Pathfinder pamphlet *Panama: The Truth About the U.S. Invasion* to find out 'what the United States did over there.' The other bought a subscription to the *Militant* and said he would show the paper around the military camp where he lives."

Dick Geyer from Phoenix, Arizona, reported: "We are off to a good start — two subscriptions each to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, and more lined up this week. The two new *Militant* readers were won in the copper-mining region where eight miners also picked up copies of the paper at their portals."

Robbie Scherr from Seattle wrote: "Supporters of the *Militant* in the Pacific Northwest have organized several regional teams for the first three weeks of the drive." They plan to visit Vancouver Island, the Yakima Valley, and later in May Alaska.

On the Picket Line

Scherr, a union railworker, reported on recent sales to fellow unionists: "Six Burlington Northern workers signed up for subscriptions to the *Militant* during the days around the national rail strike. A young switchman had purchased a subscription to the paper last December and bought a copy of the *International Socialist Review*. Before his subscription arrived, the U.S. Army sent him to Saudi Arabia. In April he returned to work and asked a *Militant* supporter at Burlington Northern to restart his subscription."

From Our Mail Bag

"Please send me a bundle of the special



Militant/Marc Lichtman
Militant supporter in New York at April 30 rally of 20,000 protesting budget cuts. Five new readers were won.

January issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* and an introductory subscription for four months," a reader from California wrote in Spanish. The January issue contains articles that appeared in the *International Socialist Review* supplement.

"I am happy to report that all 25 copies of the April *International Socialist Review* have been sold," a supporter from Connecticut wrote. "Please send an additional bundle of 25. Both special *International Socialist Reviews* have been tremendous tools for our work. I hope we will continue to publish separate supplements as the need arises."

'Ten bucks isn't much for this paper'

BY MARINA SITRIN

LOS ANGELES — A team of *Militant* supporters from around the country has just wrapped up a two-week effort here to win new subscribers to the socialist newsweekly. At rail yards and other workplaces, in working-class communities such as Watts and East Los Angeles, and on high school and college campuses, the discussions centered on the U.S.-led war against the Iraqi people and the deepening crisis of imperialism.

The recent beating of Black worker Rodney King by the Los Angeles cops has highlighted the brutality of the U.S. rulers and deepened political debate among this city's working people.

The team signed up 25 subscribers to the socialist press — 18 to the *Militant* and seven to *Perspectiva Mundial*, the Spanish-language monthly.

"I get it," a worker on layoff from Alcoa Aluminum told one team member. "This doesn't substitute for reading the *Los Angeles Times*. But once a week the *Militant* breaks down for you what's happening from the point of view of working people."

John Evenhuis, a leader of the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA) in Los Angeles, joined the team. He explained the *Militant* was well-received in Watts, a predominantly Black working-class community. "As soon as I mentioned that the *Militant* is in the fight to get Police Chief Daryl Gates out, I got a warm response."

At McDonnell-Douglas in Long Beach, 24 workers bought the paper the first time the team went to the plant gates. On a return visit, two days after the unionists overwhelmingly rejected a contract proposal for the second time, 13 people picked up the paper.

Twelve new subscribers were signed up on area campuses where students are facing tuition increases, scholarship reductions or cancellations, and faculty layoffs. The team participated in a demonstration of some 200 students and faculty at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona. This reporter, a member of the Young Socialist Alliance from Bard College in New York, joined the speakers platform to underscore the national scope of the cuts in education.

The team spent several days at California State University in Los Angeles where a number of students who were active in opposing the U.S.-led war in the Gulf have recently joined the YSA. *Militant* supporters helped build a YSA forum entitled "The Opening Guns of World War III" that drew two dozen people. The day of the meeting, five subscriptions and nearly two dozen single copies of the *Militant* were sold.

Evenhuis reported the team was told to leave California State University in Dominguez Hills after a campus cop saw the literature table's display of information on the frame-up of Mark Curtis. The display included a photo of Curtis, following his beating by cops in Des Moines, Iowa.

A number of subscriptions were sold door-to-door in working class areas. In several cases team members made return visits to people who filled out subscription blanks but asked that the team come back to collect payment. "Ten bucks isn't much for this paper," said the Alcoa worker. "Come back on Monday and I'll have it for you."

Selling the socialist press to unionists

Union	% Sold	Militant* (Goal)	% Sold	New Int'l* (Goal)	% Sold
UNITED STATES					
ACTWU	0%	46	0	30	0
IAM	3%	143	5	87	0
ILGWU	2%	47	1	15	0
IUE	0%	42	0	25	0
OCAW	4%	50	2	55	0
UAW	4%	72	3	45	0
UFCW	2%	93	2	35	0
UMWA	9%	33	3	19	0
USWA	3%	90	3	50	0
UTU	8%	65	5	50	0
TOTAL SHOULD BE	4%	681	24	411	0
BRITAIN					
AEU	0%	15	0	11	0
NUM	0%	8	0	5	0
RMT	0%	22	0	10	0
TGWU	0%	8	0	3	0
TOTAL SHOULD BE	0%	53	0	29	0
CANADA					
ACTWU	0%	7	0	3	0
CAW	11%	9	1	10	0
IAM	0%	14	0	8	0
USWA	0%	16	0	11	0
TOTAL SHOULD BE	2%	46	1	32	0

Unions listed are: United States: ACTWU, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; IAM, International Association of Machinists; ILGWU, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; IUE, International Union of Electronic Workers; OCAW, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union; UAW, United Auto Workers; UFCW, United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA, United Mine Workers of America; USWA, United Steelworkers of America; and UTU, United Transportation Union. Britain: AEU, Amalgamated Engineering Union; NUM, National Union of Mineworkers; RMT, Rail, Maritime & Transport Workers' Union; and TGWU, Transport and General Workers' Union. Canada: ACTWU, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; CAW, Canadian Auto Workers; IAM, International Association of Machinists; and USWA, United Steelworkers of America.

* Also includes subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* and *L'internationaliste*.

Sales Drive Scoreboard

Areas	The Militant			Perspectiva Mundial		New Int'l*		L'Inter*		Total	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES											
Phoenix	30	3	10%	10	2	20	0	1	0	61	5
Baltimore	66	6	9%	10	1	31	0	3	0	110	7
Detroit	80	7	9%	8	1	40	5	2	0	130	13
St. Louis	100	7	7%	5	0	48	0	2	0	155	7
Des Moines, Iowa	98	6	6%	15	1	35	7	2	0	150	14
Salt Lake City	105	6	6%	18	1	50	0	2	0	175	7
Seattle	89	5	6%	33	0	45	6	3	0	170	11
Philadelphia	60	3	5%	21	0	56	0	2	0	139	3
Houston	65	3	5%	20	1	35	0	2	0	122	4
Los Angeles	150	5	3%	80	3	124	0	3	1	357	9
Chicago	130	4	3%	30	1	70	0	5	0	235	5
Miami	67	2	3%	25	0	45	0	15	0	152	2
Boston	100	2	2%	25	0	50	0	10	0	185	2
Price, Utah	50	1	2%	9	0	14	0	2	0	75	1
Pittsburgh	75	1	1%	3	0	40	0	2	0	120	1
Cleveland	85	1	1%	10	0	33	0	2	0	130	1
New York	200	2	1%	75	2	150	0	15	0	440	4
San Francisco	150	1	1%	70	0	110	0	5	0	335	1
Atlanta	70	0	0%	10	0	55	0	2	0	137	0
Austin, Minn.	50	0	0%	10	0	20	0	2	0	82	0
Birmingham, Ala.	85	0	0%	8	0	43	0	2	0	138	0
Charleston, WV	60	0	0%	5	0	30	0	2	0	97	0
Greensboro, NC	50	0	0%	10	0	34	0	2	0	96	0
Morgantown, WV	65	0	0%	5	0	40	0	2	0	112	0
Newark, NJ	110	0	0%	40	2	140	0	10	2	300	4
Omaha, Neb.	65	0	0%	10	0	18	0	2	0	95	0
Twin Cities, Minn.	115	0	0%	15	0	53	0	2	0	185	0
Washington, DC	80	0	0%	13	0	50	0	2	0	145	0
Albany, N.Y.	15	0	0%	2	0	10	0	0	0	27	0
U.S. TOTAL	2,465	65	3%	595	15	1,489	18	106	3	4,655	101
AUSTRALIA	10	1	10%	3	0	22	0	0	0	35	1
BRITAIN											
London	100	0	0%	15	0	90	0	5	0	210	0
Manchester	50	0	0%	5	0	45	0	2	0	102	0
Sheffield	50	0	0%	3	0	75	0	2	0	130	0
BRITAIN TOTAL	200	0	0%	23	0	210	0	9	0	442	0
CANADA											
Vancouver	65	3	5%	15	2	40	3	5	0	125	8
Montréal	75	3	4%	15	2	50	17	35	1	175	23
Toronto	80	1	1%	30	1	50	4	5	0	165	6
CANADA TOTAL	220	7	3%	60	5	140	24	45	1	465	37
FRANCE	5	0	0%	5	0	5	0	15	0	30	0
ICELAND	30	6	20%	1	0	12	0	1	0	44	6
NEW ZEALAND											
Auckland	40	12	30%	3	1	40	10	1	0	84	23
Christchurch	38	6	16%	1	1	30	3	1	0	8	2
Wellington	38	0	0%	1	0	30	0	1	0	70	0
Other	6	2	33%	1	0	1	0	0	0	8	2
N. Z. TOTAL	122	20	16%	6	2	101	13	3	0	170	35
SWEDEN	35	0	0%	20	1	15	4	3	0	73	5
TOTAL	3,087	99	3%	713	23	1,994	59	182	4	5,976	185
SHOULD BE		440	14%		102		284		26		853
DRIVE GOALS	3,225			725		1,950		200		6,100	

* Single copies of *New International*; subscriptions to *L'internationaliste*

'New International' no. 7 features articles on Washington's assault on peoples of Iraq

Charts working-class line of march in fight against imperialism and war

Reprinted here is the "In This Issue" column from *New International* no. 7 on "The Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq." Scheduled for publication May 15, this issue of the magazine of Marxist theory and politics is available from Pathfinder at the address listed in the advertisement below. Reprinted with permission. Copyright © 1991, 408 Printing and Publishing.

The six-week bombardment and one-hundred-hour invasion of Iraq by Washington and its allies devastated the country and its peoples. In a land that had been semi-industrialized, the assault left millions homeless, hungry, and vulnerable to disease. It was one of the most massive, cold-blooded slaughters in modern history.

Economic dislocation now stalks Turkey as well as Kuwait and Jordan, coming down hardest on the toilers. Environmental catastrophe has been spread even further. In addition, the strangulation of Iraq through economic blockade, now entering its tenth month, prevents even medicine, foodstuffs, and agricultural implements from being imported. Acute malnutrition, along with cholera and other epidemic horrors, are beginning to threaten the region.

Washington launched its war drive in early August 1990 with an air, sea, and ground blockade. The initial ships and aircraft as well as the first troops and war matériel were dispatched to the Arabian Peninsula and surrounding waters. In a little more than six months, these became a half-million-strong mechanized and armored invasion force.

The U.S. rulers' goal was to impose a virtual protectorate in Baghdad, a reliable regime subservient to U.S. imperialism; secure greater control over oil reserves in the Gulf; shift the relationship of forces against the region's toilers, especially the Palestinian people whose *intifada* and internationalist dignity remain the biggest thorn in Wash-

U.S. has not achieved political aims in Mideast; 'Vietnam syndrome' has been reinforced.

ington's side; and in the process stabilize and strengthen pro-U.S. regimes in the region. In pursuing these aims, the U.S. capitalist class sought to use its military might to deal economic and political blows to its imperialist rivals in Europe and Japan.

Far from the stunning war victory proclaimed by President George Bush on February 27, however, the massive U.S. armored invasion force did not fight a war at all.

Instead, allied imperialist forces on the land and from the air and sea conducted a militarized slaughter of tens of thousands of individual Iraqis — workers and peasants in tattered uniforms — attempting to flee Kuwait and return to Iraq. The Saddam Hussein regime had abandoned them in foxholes and trenches without air cover, stripped of all but a skeletal command structure, with minimal communications and few provisions. Despite its grab to control oil, land, and waterways in Kuwait, Baghdad never intended to fight a war against U.S. imperialism.

Nor has Washington achieved its political aims in the region. The capitalist regimes and imperialist order in the Gulf and Mideast are more unstable today than before August 1990. The imposition of a "solution" to the Palestinian "question" short of justice for the Palestinians continues to evade the imperialists. Far from becoming closer and warmer, the U.S. and Israeli rulers continue to diverge in their policy interests.

Washington has failed so far in ousting Saddam Hussein and imposing a regime more to its liking. Growing numbers of working people in the United States are questioning the purpose of a war that, as they are now learning, destroyed the Iraqi people's modern means of life support and culminated in two massacres: one in late February against defenseless Iraqi soldiers fleeing Kuwait — carried out by Washington and its allies, with

the complicity of Baghdad; the other, in March, against the Kurdish and Shiite peoples in northern and southern Iraq — carried out by Baghdad with the complicity of Washington.

The U.S. government stands guilty before the world for creating some two million Kurdish and other refugees who have fled Baghdad's murderous assault. But Washington and its allies have refused to open their borders to the Kurds and other refugees seeking asylum.

Having won a military "victory," U.S. imperialism is breaking its teeth in the attempt to achieve its political goals. This outcome has opened wide tactical divisions within U.S. ruling circles over the Bush administration's policy decisions in the Gulf.

The "Vietnam syndrome" has been reinforced, not pushed back as Bush initially boasted at the end of February. It will be slightly harder, not easier, for the U.S. rulers to mobilize public support for their next military adventure. It will be slightly more difficult for union bureaucrats and other misleaders, echoing the wishes of the government and corporations, to get away with demanding that working people and the oppressed accept sacrifices, defer strikes, or postpone protest actions for patriotic reasons. More political space can be taken — right now — by working-class opponents of imperialism and war.

The war and its immediate consequences did not resolve, but rather exacerbated the economic and political contradictions in the United States and worldwide that increasingly drove Washington to use its military might in the first place.

The war accelerated the rivalry between Washington and other imperialist powers and increased the likelihood of sharpening conflicts among them. Neither the German nor Japanese imperialist ruling classes were politically able to send ships to participate in the allied assault. For the first time since the buildup to World War II, however, the war in the Gulf put Bonn and Tokyo on an accelerated course toward using their military forces abroad to advance their respective state interests.

Working people around the world today face an unstable prewar situation, not a stabilized postwar period. Washington's assault on Iraq was the first of the wars that will mark the segment of the historic curve of capitalist development announced by the October 1987 crash of stock markets from New York to Tokyo, from Bonn to Hong Kong.

Capitalism today is marching not only toward more wars but at the same time stumbling toward a depression and world social crisis. We will see deepening capitalist economic dislocation within which a partial shock or breakdown — a collapse of the banking system, a steep recession in a major industrial country, an inflationary explosion, a massive crop failure — could trigger a collapse of world industrial production.

With no end in sight, fear is growing that the recession in North America, Britain, France, New Zealand, and Australia could become both as deep as the 1981-82 downturn (or deeper) and worldwide in scope, as happened in 1974-75. It is precipitating the kind of pressures on capitalist profits that further intensify interimperialist competition.

As a result, the employers will try to take more out of the hides of the hundreds of millions of debt slaves in the semicolonial world. They will drive harder at home to lower living standards and step up the pace and intensity of production inside mines, mills, and factories. They will extend their efforts to chip away at rights and democratic liberties and seek to weaken and restrict the space open to the working class and its organizations for independent political action.

Washington's war against Iraq was thus an announcement, a loud and clear one, of the conflicts that lie ahead as the imperialist rulers follow the historic logic of their declining world system of exploitation and oppression — a line of march that, willy-nilly, moves toward World War III.

For working people the world over, for

vanguard working-class fighters, and for that section of the working-class vanguard who are communists, these political assessments are decisive in charting a course to advance the historic line of march of our class.

The future of humanity depends on the independent political organization of the world's toilers to resist the devastation the rulers seek to impose on us. It depends on our capacity to fight, to win revolutionary battles, and to take war-making powers out of the hands of the exploiters and oppressors by establishing governments of the workers and farmers.

Whether or not the unthinkable horrors of a third imperialist world slaughter are unleashed will be decided by mighty class battles and their outcome in the coming years. It is in our hands, the hands of the workers

War exacerbated economic and political contradictions that drove U.S. to use armed might in first place.

of the world, to prevent the calamities that imperialism is marching, and stumbling, toward. We will have our chance.

These, in brief, are the central political conclusions of the two opening articles in this issue of *New International*.

* * *

Washington's Mideast war tested all those who call themselves socialists and claim to speak in the interests of the working class and its allies. It tested all those who claim to act, unconditionally and unflinchingly, against the horrors of imperialist war.

In 1990, as the logical culmination of Washington's war drive became inescapable, the Socialist Workers Party — its elected leadership bodies, party branches, fractions of members in industrial unions, and its supporters — began campaigning against imperialism and war.

Members and supporters of the SWP — together with those of its sister Communist Leagues in Australia, Britain, Canada,

France, Iceland, New Zealand, and Sweden — campaigned to get out the truth to co-workers, strikers and other unionists, high school and college students, GIs and reservists, farmers, and others about why we should oppose the assault on Iraq by Washington and its allies.

They collaborated with members of the Young Socialist Alliance to rebut the U.S. rulers' lies and pretexts and to explain the imperialist roots and goals of the war drive. They joined with others to build antiwar street actions, as well as teach-ins and other forums, to discuss the war and the stakes for working people.

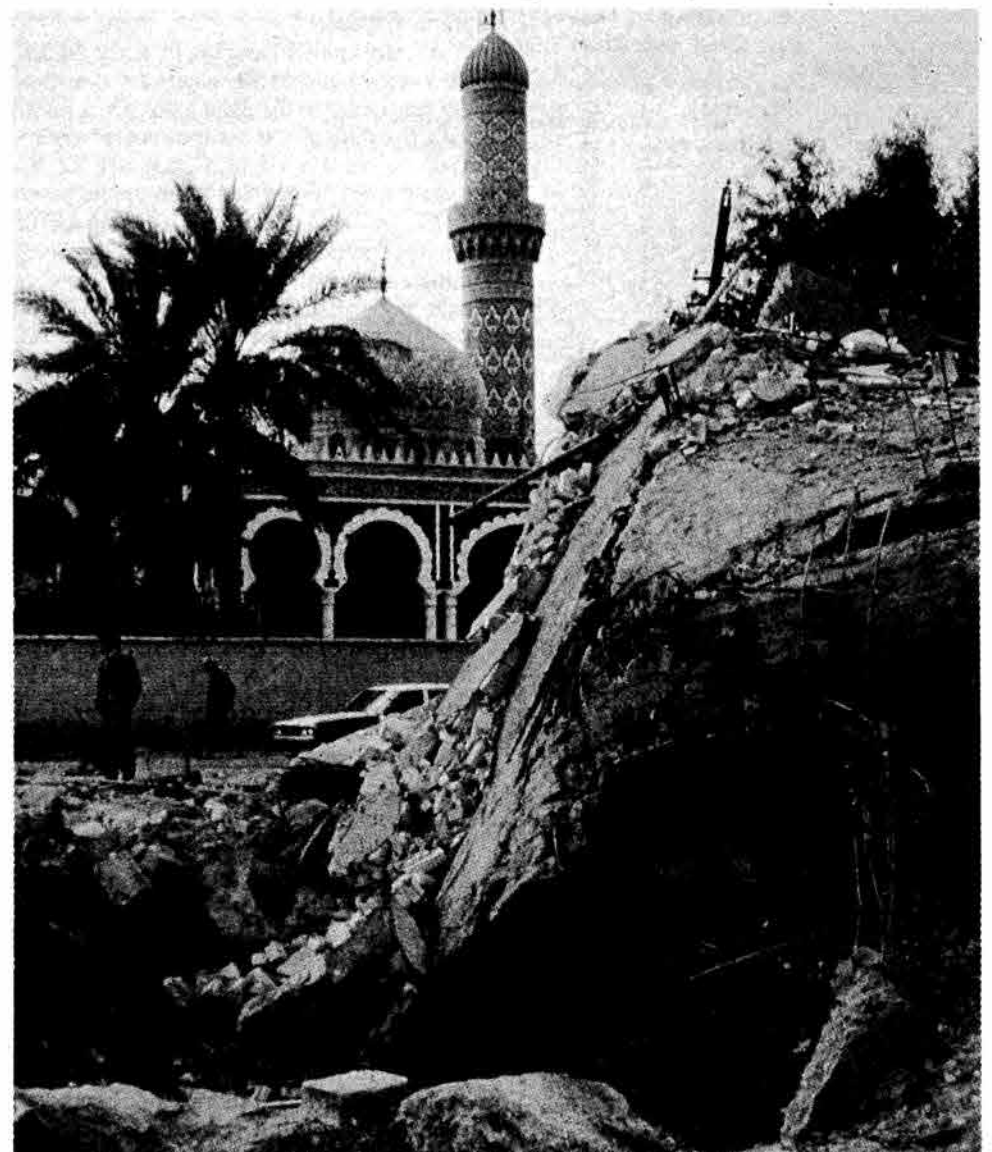
They sold thousands of copies of *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*. This book, published by Pathfinder Press in English and Spanish, documents each step of the calculated escalation of Washington's war preparations and refutes imperialism's lies.

The first two articles in this issue — "The Opening Guns of World War III" and "The Working-Class Campaign against Imperialism and War" — are based on talks presented by SWP national secretary Jack Barnes as part of this campaign.

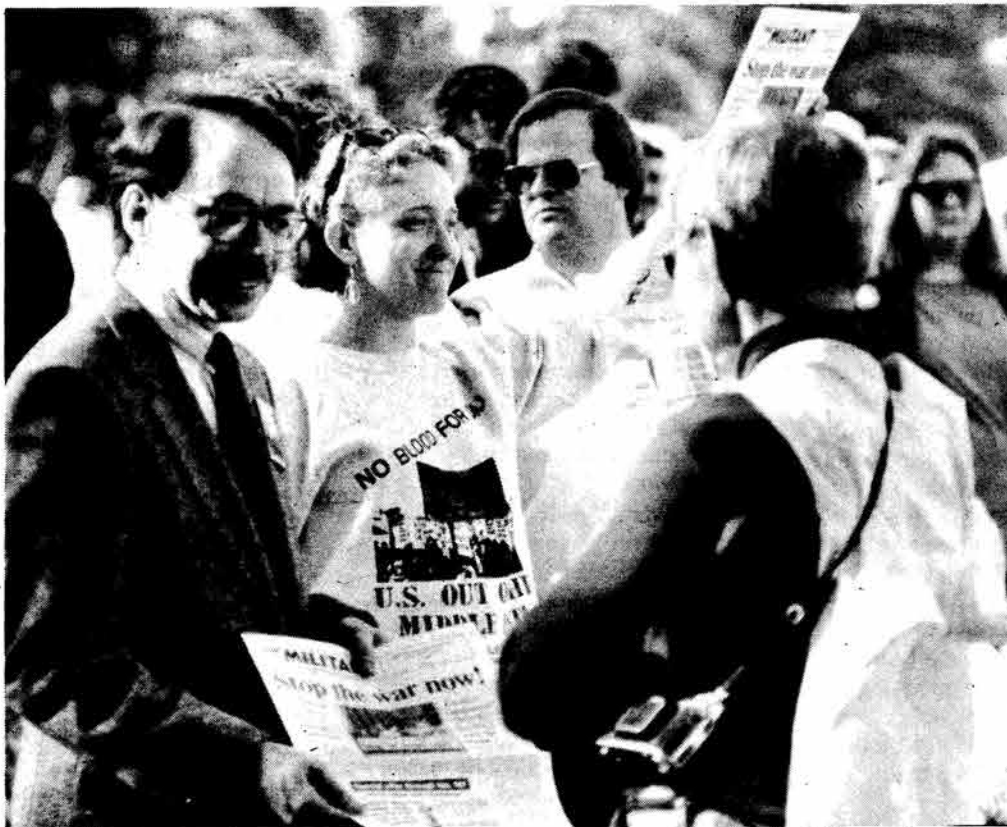
The public forums at which Barnes spoke were held in connection with national meetings of party members and supporters who are members of one of ten industrial unions: the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; International Association of Machinists; International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; International Union of Electronic Workers; Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; United Auto Workers; United Food and Commercial Workers; United Mine Workers; United Steelworkers; and the United Transportation Union.

The first article is based on a speech given at a fund-raising meeting for *New International*, hosted by the Militant Labor Forum in Cleveland, Ohio, in March 1991, following the cessation of offensive operations by the Bush administration. In editing it for publication, political developments in the month following have been incorporated by the author.

The second article is drawn from talks given in late November and early December at meetings hosted by the Militant Labor Forum in Washington, D.C., and in New York

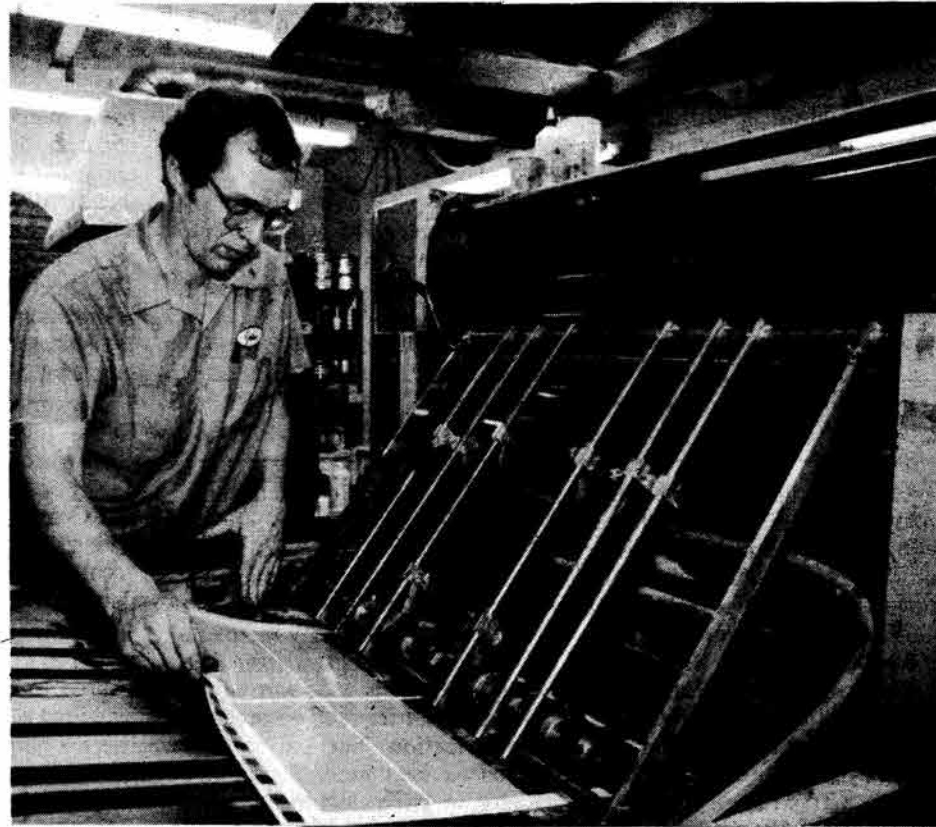


Washington's assault on Iraq "left millions homeless, hungry, and vulnerable to disease. It was one of the most massive, cold-blooded slaughters in modern history."



Militant/Diana Cantu

San Francisco Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate James White (left) discusses Mideast war at January 19 antiwar protest. Supporters and members of the SWP campaign to get out truth about imperialism and its wars.



Militant/Tony Savino

The voluntary labor of scores of revolutionary-minded workers made it possible to produce the materials and publications necessary to carry out the working-class campaign against imperialism and war.

City. It was initially published in December 1990 by the *Militant* newsweekly in its *International Socialist Review* supplement.

Thousands of copies of that supplement have been sold since, together with subscriptions and single issues of the *Militant*. The article by Barnes is reprinted here without revision or political updating. Notes have been added by *New International*.

Both articles incorporate material from the discussion periods at each forum, free-speech exchanges where workers, students, socialist candidates for public office, and other participants advanced their points of view and asked questions about the U.S. rulers' justifications for the war drive and the broader conjuncture in world politics. Both articles were also discussed, and their general line adopted, at meetings of the party's National Committee, trade union leadership, and international co-thinkers.

* * *

The second section of this issue, "Communists Don't Have a Revolutionary Policy in Peacetime and a Peace Policy in Wartime," documents the political evaluation and tactical response by the vanguard of the working class to Washington's three militarization

Capitalism marches toward more wars, depression, and world social crisis.

drives over the past fifty years — the drive from 1937 through the end of World War II; the drive from 1947 to the defeat of U.S. imperialism in the Vietnam War; and the opening of the drive that began in the early 1980s during the administration of James Carter.

The section contains "Washington's Third Militarization Drive," by SWP leader and *New International* editor Mary-Alice Waters, excerpts of a resolution on the fight against the Vietnam War adopted by the 1969 convention of the SWP, and an article by Waters, "1945: When U.S. Troops Said 'No!'" that tells the hidden history of the mass protests by GIs overseas at the end of World War II demanding to be brought home.

The third section is entitled, "Communism, the Working Class, and Anti-Imperialist Struggle: Lessons from the Iran-Iraq War."

The August 2, 1990, invasion of Kuwait by Saddam Hussein's military forces flowed from the same trajectory that previously had impelled the Baghdad Baathist regime to launch a bloody eight-year-long war against Iran.

The toilers of Iraq had no communist vanguard that voiced their class interests and pointed the way forward in solidarity with their brothers and sisters in Iran. The nucleus of an internationalist, communist leadership did exist in Iran, however, at the time Baghdad launched its counterrevolutionary war in the early 1980s. Resolutions of this communist organization in 1980 and 1982, reprinted here with an introduction by Samad

Sharif, who helped lead this work in Iran, are of lasting political value to revolutionists, anti-imperialist fighters, and communists everywhere.

* * *

Published simultaneously with this special issue on campaigning against imperialism and war, *New International* no. 8 is devoted to articles on "Che Guevara, Cuba, and the Road to Socialism."

New International no. 9, scheduled for publication in the fall of 1991, will focus on the foundations of the world political and economic situation and the tasks of building proletarian parties. It will contain the fundamental documents on world politics and political economy that have been discussed and adopted by conventions and leadership bodies of the Socialist Workers Party and other communist organizations around the world since 1988.

The first three issues of the Spanish-language magazine *Nueva Internacional*, scheduled for publication this year, will have the same contents as these three 1991 issues of *New International*. Issues no. 4 and 5 of *Nouvelle Internationale*, containing much of the same material in French translation, will also be published in 1991.

Issues no. 1-6 of *New International*, which appeared between 1983 and 1987, were published under the editorial direction of leaders of the two communist organizations in North America — the Socialist Workers Party in the United States and the Communist League (formerly Revolutionary Workers League) in Canada. Leaders of these two organizations have also taken editorial responsibility for *New International's* French-language sister publication, *Nouvelle Internationale*, three issues of which have appeared since its launching in August 1985.

The contributing editors for this seventh issue of the magazine register the broadening editorial participation and support for *New International*. Since 1987 revolutionary workers' organizations in several countries have made substantial advances in organized political collaboration on common work to prepare an international communist movement. These organizations include Communist Leagues in Australia, Britain, Canada, Iceland, New Zealand, and Sweden; the Communist Organizing Committee of France; and the Socialist Workers Party of the United States.

Beginning with this issue, officers and central leaders of these organizations make up the contributing editors of *New Interna-*

1. *New International* no. 9 will feature documents adopted by the 1988 and 1990 conventions of the Socialist Workers Party. The two major resolutions can be obtained in draft form by writing: Socialist Workers Party National Office, 406 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Please enclose \$2.50 for the 1988 resolution, which concentrates on the world economic crisis; and \$10.00 for the 1990 resolution, which analyzes the interplay of world politics as it unfolded at the end of the decade, taking particular note of the disintegration of Stalinist parties and regimes throughout Eastern Europe and the deepening crisis of the privileged caste in the Soviet Union. Add \$2.50 for shipping and handling.

tional. They are: Jack Barnes, Sigurlaug Gunnlaugsdóttir, Carl-Erik Isacson, Russell Johnson, Nat London, Steve Penner, Ron Poulsen, Samad Sharif, Jonathan Silberman, and James Mac Warren. These individuals are also contributing editors to *Nouvelle Internationale* and *Nueva Internacional*.

At the time *New International* was launched in 1983, the members of its editorial board belonged to communist parties that were affiliated to the Fourth International and had considered themselves Trotskyists. The Socialist Workers Party had fraternal ties to

Humanity's future depends on toilers' independent political organization to win revolutionary battles.

the Fourth International, and the Communist League was the statutory section in Canada.

Both parties had been associated with the Fourth International since it was founded under the guidance of Leon Trotsky in 1938 to regroup revolutionists who were continuing the communist policies of the Bolshevik Party and Communist International under the leadership of V.I. Lenin.

The communist forces that made up the Fourth International had refused to capitulate to the counterrevolutionary politics and police-state terrorism that, by the opening years of the 1930s, had become consolidated in the Stalinized government and party in the Soviet

Union and in the Communist International. Trotsky was assassinated by an agent of Stalin's murder machine in 1940 at the opening of the second world imperialist slaughter.

Following World War II, the Socialist Workers Party and its proletarian traditions soon became a minority current within the Fourth International. For more than three decades, public differences were numerous and profound, documented in the pages of the *Militant*, *International Socialist Review*, and the international newsweekly *Intercontinental Press*, which ceased publication in 1986.

From 1979 on, however, accelerating divergences marked the course and character, on the one hand, of the SWP, the Communist League in Canada, and others, and, on the other hand, the leadership bodies of the Fourth International.

These differences centered above all on a political assessment of the revolutionary victories in Grenada and Nicaragua, and the character of the workers' and farmers' governments established through those victories; the historical importance and weight of the communist leadership in Cuba and its political trajectory; and the necessity for communist forces the world over to decisively turn toward building parties that are proletarian in composition and leadership as well as program and perspectives.

At the end of the 1980s the Socialist Workers Party and the Communist Leagues in Australia, Britain, Canada, Iceland, New Zealand, and Sweden each decided to terminate their affiliation, whether fraternal or statutory, to the Fourth International.

Through their political work, internation-

Continued on Page 10

'New International' no. 7

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

By Jack Barnes

Also: The Working-Class Campaign against Imperialism and War • Washington's Third Militarization Drive • 1945: When U.S. Troops said 'No!' • Communism, the Working Class, and Anti-Imperialist Struggle: Lessons from the Iran-Iraq War



Also available!

Che Guevara, Cuba, and the road to socialism

Articles in *New International* no. 8 by Che Guevara, Carlos Rafael Rodríguez, Carlos Tablada, Jack Barnes, Steve Clark, Mary-Alice Waters

Available from Pathfinder Press
410 West St., New York, NY 10014
\$10 each, include \$3 shipping and handling.



Work permit checks halted at Maryland plant

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,

show "green card" work permits at the factory gate every day was stopped.

Mash's employs about 150 workers, many of whom come from Mexico, Guatemala, Cambodia, the Philippines, and western Africa.

On March 11, the workers, who

plant manager and interrogated about his discussion with the union about the green card policy, and then fired.

Miller handed out a fact sheet about his firing at the plant gate. The sheet explained that the discrimination based on race and citizenship status used to carry out the green card policy was illegal.

A reporter from National Public Radio interviewed Miller and other workers outside the plant for a story on the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 and the widespread discrimination that accompanies the employer sanction provision to this law.

The union has filed a grievance in Miller's case, but the company refused to consider it, saying he was fired seven days before there was a contract. Miller told the *Militant* that he is still fighting to get his job back.

Fifteen hundred workers held a spirited solidarity march and rally in Farmingdale, New York, April 14. The action was organized by members of Teamsters Local 138, which has been on strike against White Rose Food, Inc., since February 12.

Five hundred Local 138 truck drivers and warehouse workers at White Rose went on strike when Arthur Goldberg, the new owner, presented the workers with a "take-

it-or-leave-it" union-busting offer.

The Goldberg contract offer demanded a three-year freeze on wages and benefits; reduction of sick leave, holidays, and vacations; a shift of 20 percent of the current cost of health insurance and all future premium hikes to the workers; reduction of pension payments; and a management-rights clause effectively eliminating seniority and allowing the company to hire nonunion subcontractors to do union work.

The solidarity march and rally drew members of numerous Teamsters locals, as well as a large group of former *Daily News* strikers, two former Eastern Airline strikers, and the families of the strikers.

John Georgopoulos, president of Local 138, said in his remarks to the rally, "You see today who's helping us — the backbone of Local 138 — working people."

"The cream of the crop of trade unionism is here, workers from the *Daily News* and Eastern. The Eastern strikers beat Lorenzo and the *Daily News* strikers beat the Tribune," he said, and Local 138 is going to beat Goldberg. "You'd think Goldberg would have learned a lesson from these other fights."

Those interested in participating in strike support activities or setting up a speaking engagement for a strike representative can contact Teamsters Local 138 at (718) 392-2300.

More than 2,000 teachers and their supporters rallied and marched through downtown Cincinnati April 22 to protest school board stalling on negotiations for a new contract. The current contract expired in December 1990. The rally was organized by the Cincinnati Federation of Teachers (CFT).

Two major issues have emerged in the dispute: a future wage increase and whether the school board will sign a three-year contract. Cincinnati teachers earn less today than they did in 1970, after their pay is adjusted for inflation.

The school board insists on a contract that would allow it to reopen negotiations at any time. The teachers are fighting for a three-year contract.

Supporters from the hospital workers union, Service Employees International Union, bus drivers from the Amalgamated Transit Union, and other area unionists turned out to support the teachers.

Demonstrating its disregard for the concerns of CFT members, the School Board chose the occasion to announce the layoff of 30 teachers.

Ike Nahem from Washington D.C.; Meryl Lynn Farber from New York; and Val Libby from Cincinnati contributed to this article.

ON THE PICKET LINE

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

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

Workers at the Mash's/Esskay ham-processing plant in Landover, Maryland, recently won a victory against company harassment of immigrant workers. A company policy of requiring some workers, based on their race or language, to

belong to United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 27, overwhelmingly voted to accept their first contract with the company.

Leading up to the vote, plant security guards began demanding to see green cards. U.S.-born workers were not required to produce identification, but Latino and Asian workers were. Those who forgot to bring documents were sent home. Several missed a day's pay. One missed a full week.

Many workers in the plant were outraged. One Asian worker commented, "It burned me up. I had to grit my teeth every day when I came through the gate."

Bob Miller, a smokehouse worker, participated in discussions with coworkers about the harassment and phoned the union office to ask for help in getting the gate checks stopped.

The following Monday, Miller was called into the office of the

'New International' charts working-class course

Continued from Page 9

alist collaboration, and place within communist continuity and tradition, these parties had in reality for some time already become communist organizations that no longer considered themselves Trotskyist and were separate from the world Trotskyist movement and its various competing parties and international groupings. Leaders of these organizations recognized that any course other than formalizing this political fact could only falsely imply some parochial organizational maneuver and become an obstacle to normal relations of solidarity and collaboration among parties in the working-class movement.

The contents of the first nine issues of *New International*, beginning with its inaugural issue in the fall of 1983 featuring an article by Jack Barnes entitled "Their Trotsky and Ours: Communist Continuity Today," are the best single guide to the programmatic foundations and political trajectory of the communist organizations whose leaders now assume editorial responsibility for the *New International*, *Nouvelle Internationale*, and *Nueva Internacional*.

In addition to the common board of contributing editors of these sister publications, the editors directly responsible for each of the magazines in the three languages collaborate closely in their editorial preparation.

Mary-Alice Waters is the editor of *New International* and Steve Clark is its managing editor. Michel Prairie is the editor of *Nouvelle Internationale*. Luis Madrid is the editor of *Nueva Internacional*.

The extensive translation work involved

in the trilingual publication effort is done by an international team of volunteer translators, typists, proofreaders and copy editors, most of whom are employed as full-time garment workers, machinists, rail workers, packing-house workers, miners, and in similar occupations.

Members and supporters of communist organizations around the world participate in internationally coordinated sales campaigns to sell *New International*, *Nouvelle Internationale*, and *Nueva Internacional* as widely as possible, together with subscriptions to the *Militant* newsweekly, the monthly Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the quarterly French-language *L'internationaliste*.

They are also conducting a \$75,000 international fund drive to make possible the publication of *New International*, *Nouvelle Internationale*, and *Nueva Internacional* in 1991. This work is organized by the director of business and promotions of the three publications, Cindy Jaquith.

We urge our readers to contribute to this collective effort, both by volunteering your time and abilities as part of the translation team, and by giving your financial support. Your political comments on the issues raised in the pages of the magazine are more than welcome; they are solicited and encouraged.

Correspondence and contributions should be addressed to *New International*, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Numbers 7 and 8 of *New International*, issues against imperialism and war and on the political contributions of Ernesto Che Guevara, are dedicated to the men and wo-

2. In addition to the articles from *New International* no. 7-9 that will appear in French- and Spanish-language translation in forthcoming issues of *Nouvelle Internationale* and *Nueva Internacional*, a substantial number of the articles from *New International* no. 1-6 have appeared in *Nouvelle Internationale* no. 1-3. For information on ordering these issues of *Nouvelle Internationale*, write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Several of these articles have also been published in Spanish translation in the monthly *Perspectiva Mundial* and will be reprinted in more permanent form in forthcoming special issues of *Nueva Internacional*. For information on the material currently available in Spanish, write *Perspectiva Mundial*, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.



Militant/Lisa Hickler

Rail workers and other unionists rally in Wyoming against contract demands by railroad companies. Resistance to employer-government offensive will grow among working people. Rail strike was declared illegal in a near unanimous vote in Congress just hours after walkout began. Top officials of rail unions, not wanting to anger "friends" in Congress or organize a fight against the employers, ordered workers back on the job.

men who, in unflinching opposition to the war drive of Washington and its allies, produced a vast arsenal of political weapons — publications that tell the truth about imperialism and war and why the interests of working people the world over are irreconcilable with those of the exploiting classes.

Workers from a dozen countries translated, copyedited, designed, typeset, indexed, proofread, filed, stripped up, printed, reprinted, cut, collated, bound, shipped, promoted, and distributed these political weapons needed by working-class fighters.

At the same time, they joined in raising the money to buy the machinery, organized to maintain the computers and other machinery, and set about reconstructing the school, offices, headquarters, bookstores, and production plant — without which a working-class campaign against imperialism and war would not be sustainable.

These issues are also dedicated to the

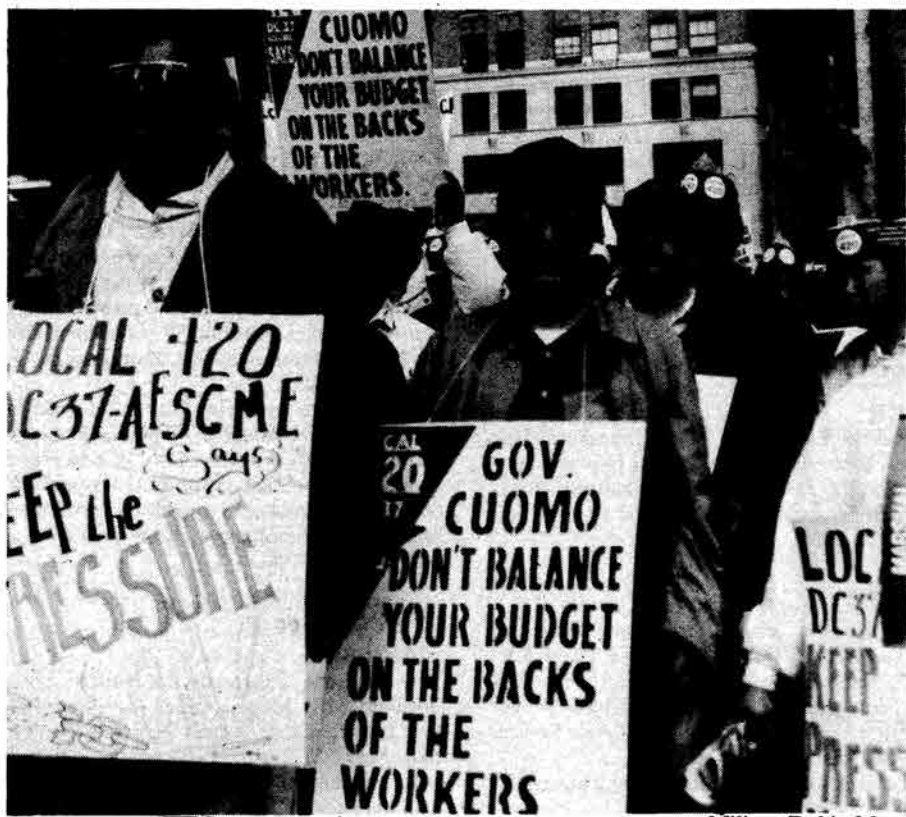
worker-Bolsheviks in ten industrial unions in North America — and those like them in similar workplaces and unions from Stockholm to Paris to Christchurch, from Reykjavik to Manchester to Sydney — who took this arsenal and transformed the capacity of thinking workers to oppose imperialist war and deepen their fights, on and off the job, against exploitation and oppression at home and abroad.

They became better worker-correspondents, financed their own meetings, and began transforming the financial base of the day-to-day work of their parties. In the process, these communist workers changed themselves, their fractions, and their parties into more political, more tempered, more combat-ready, more self-confident, more disciplined, and thus a more trustworthy component of the world revolutionary movement.

By Malcolm X

Malcolm X Talks to Young People	\$9.95
By Any Means Necessary	\$13.95
Malcolm X on Afro-American History	\$7.95
Malcolm X Speaks (cloth)	\$16.95
Malcolm X: The Last Speeches	\$15.95

Available from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12 or by mail from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Include \$3.00 for postage and handling.



Militant/Robin Mace

NEW YORK — Some 20,000 people marched here April 30 to protest state and city government plans for massive cutbacks in social services and layoffs of public employees.

Many of those present were from labor unions, including the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Local 1199 Hospital and Health Care Employees; United Federation of Teachers; and Communi-

cations Workers of America. Members of the Teamsters union who are on strike against White Rose Food participated.

Contingents of students engaged in campus protests against planned tuition hikes and cutbacks also attended.

The event was organized by the Coalition to Save New York, which includes trade union figures and elected government officials.

Unionists, students protest budget cuts and layoffs

BY ANGEL LARISCY

NEW YORK — During most of April, students at City University of New York (CUNY) and at the State University of New York (SUNY) occupied campus buildings and held rallies to protest proposed tuition increases and cuts in government assistance programs. The 25-day protest ended May 2 when the students vacated the last of the buildings.

The CUNY system has 200,000 students enrolled at 21 campuses. New York Gov. Mario Cuomo has proposed a \$500 tuition increase for CUNY and SUNY students, bringing tuition to \$1,950 a year for New York residents.

CUNY tuition was free from 1848, when the system was founded, until 1976 when the city declared a fiscal crisis.

Half of all CUNY students have an income of less than \$16,000 a year, 30 percent work full-time jobs, and 63 percent are Black, Latino, or from other oppressed nationalities.

Students and other youth involved in these recent protests spoke at a Militant Labor Forum here detailing their fight for education.

"This is not a New York state problem. It's a problem going on all over the country," explained Jeff Gallonio, a student at SUNY in Albany. "It's a class question. CUNY, SUNY, and other state schools are becoming more elite."

Another SUNY Albany student, Peter Segal, described how even those who have enough money to pay the tuition increases are affected by the number of professors laid off and classes and services that are being cut.

Amazon, a student who participated in the building takeover at the Borough of Manhattan Community College, explained that before activists decided to organize a takeover, they polled students and found that 50 percent would be unable to return to college if the tuition hike and assistance program cuts were instituted.

Clarence Ferrari, a member of Students Against War and a student at Stuyvesant High School, explained that the proposed state budget would take \$440 million away from the Board of Education in New York City alone. At the same time, \$245,000 a year is spent on Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs.

Sibyl Perkins, chairperson of the New York Young Socialist Alliance and a member of the YSA's National Executive Committee, spoke about the connection between the cutbacks and the U.S.-led war against the Iraqi people. "The attacks on education rights are part of the worldwide attacks against working people," she said. "The U.S. govern-

ment's foreign policy is an extension of its domestic policy."

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN AND CARLA WHITE

SACRAMENTO, California — Nearly 6,000 students, teachers, and parents from throughout California rallied at the State Capitol April 3 to protest proposed education cuts.

The proposed budget of Gov. Peter Wilson will ax \$2 billion from the state's education funds. These cuts are part of the overall cutbacks in the state's funding of social programs, intended to offset a \$10 billion deficit.

The cuts will result in layoffs for teachers. In San Francisco alone, 1,500 teachers have received layoff notices. In the Richmond Unified School District, half will be laid off.

A teacher from Sonoma County who attended the rally explained, "My class size is already at 31 students, among the largest in the country. How can we teach with even bigger classes?"

Three busloads of Chinese garment workers from San Francisco participated in the rally.

The California State University system is scheduled for a 20 percent hike in tuition fees. The University of California system's tuition will increase by 40 percent.

David Suzuki, president of the Asian and Pacific Islander Student Union, told the rally, "We came to America for a better future. Now Governor Wilson tells us that schools must be closed. The promise to immigrants of a better life must be fulfilled."

Other speakers included César Chávez from the United Farm Workers of America; Jack Henning, secretary-treasurer of the California AFL-CIO; and Jesse Jackson. Leaders of the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MECHA) and other student activists also addressed the rally.

In a statement distributed to rally participants, Jim White, Socialist Workers Party candidate for San Francisco mayor, explained, "The proposed cutbacks in education funding is a frontal attack on the working people of California."

"The brutal war against the people of Iraq shows what the federal government is prepared to do, and prepared to spend, to protect the profits of the wealthy families who rule this country. These same wealthy families, the capitalist class, are waging war on another front: against working people in the United States. The crisis of their system requires them to attack our unions and standard of living," White said.

New issues of Marxist magazine will spur funds

Scoreboard

Area	Goal	Paid	% of Total
Houston	1,500	1,771	118%
San Francisco	3,500	3,388	97%
Miami	1,200	921	77%
Cleveland	1,600	1,201	75%
San Diego	1,000	720	72%
Pittsburgh	1,900	1,335	70%
Atlanta	2,300	1,615	70%
Albany, N.Y.	350	220	63%
Salt Lake City	1,700	1,065	63%
Charleston, W. Va.	1,900	1,170	61%
Austin, Minn.	750	440	59%
Omaha, Neb.	750	435	58%
Chicago	2,600	1,495	58%
Los Angeles	6,000	3,265	54%
St. Louis	2,000	990	50%
Boston	1,500	691	46%
Phoenix	750	315	42%
Des Moines	1,000	411	41%
Newark	3,800	1,519	40%
Seattle	2,250	645	29%
Detroit	2,100	600	29%
New York	7,000	1,936	28%
Birmingham, Ala.	1,750	480	27%
Philadelphia	2,000	520	26%
Price, Utah	600	100	17%
Greensboro, N.C.	750	110	15%
Twin Cities, Minn.	1,750	125	7%
Washington, D.C.	1,250	15	1%
Morgantown	1,250	10	1%
Baltimore	900		0%
TOTAL U.S.	57,700	27,508	48%
New Zealand Total	3,000	1,700	57%
Auckland	770		
Christchurch	1,286		
Wellington	955		
Canada Total	4,250	1,951	46%
Montréal	1,529	638	42%
Toronto	1,370	301	22%
Vancouver	791	502	63%
Other	560	510	91%
France	1,000	200	20%
Australia	500	86	17%
Britain Total	6,500	885	14%
London	1,850	460	25%
Manchester	1,600	170	11%
Sheffield	1,600		0%
Other	1,450	255	17%
Iceland	300		0%
Sweden	1,000		0%
Other		195	
TOTAL OVERALL	74,250	32,330	44%
SHOULD BE	75,000	42,000	56%

NEW INTERNATIONAL FUND

Collected: \$32,330 Goal: \$75,000

BY CINDY JAQUITH

Supporters of the Marxist magazine *New International* are seeing the first fruits of their fund-raising efforts with the publication of issue no. 8 on "Che Guevara, Cuba, and the Road to Socialism." The issue is already being sold to workers, farmers, and youth as part of the international socialist press circulation drive.

By the time readers receive their next issue of the *Militant*, *New International* no. 7, featuring the article "Washington's Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III," will be off the press and making its way into the hands of working people around the world. This issue, along with issue no. 8, will be an indispensable tool for political activists confronting the challenge of forging working-class leadership.

The New International Fund, with a goal of raising \$75,000 by June 1, is making it possible to produce these two issues, as well as future issues of the magazine in English, in Spanish in *Nueva Internacional*, and in French in *Nouvelle Internationale*.

The scoreboard here shows that 44 percent of the goal has been achieved thus far, with a big boost coming from meetings to celebrate the new issues of the magazine that have taken place in many U.S. cities, as well as in Australia, Iceland, New Zealand, and Britain. More meetings are scheduled in the coming weeks as the June 1 deadline approaches.

A concerted effort by *New International* supporters is needed over the next three weeks to organize the collection of the many outstanding pledges to the fund and to approach potential new contributors. These donors will especially be found among the workers and youth who are being introduced to socialist literature through the circulation drive.

Activists in a number of cities are close to achieving their goal and can give the fund the extra push it needs now by organizing to surpass their original goal.

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

Gold miners in Fiji wage strike

Continued from Page 16

The miners have payments deducted from their wages for helmets, overalls, boots, dynamite, and rent and electricity for company-provided accommodation, leaving them with about F\$50 (US\$39) in their pay packets for 10 days work.

The Fijian Department of Health has described the company housing as unfit for human habitation.

The company has refused to recognize the Fiji Mine Workers Union, citing a requirement that the union sign up 50 percent of the workforce.

A 60-strong police riot squad has been posted to the mine where they have prevented striking workers from blocking delivery of stockpiled ore to the milling plant. Two union leaders were also detained briefly in March.

The company obtained a court injunction against the picketing March 8. The government has declared it illegal for customs and oil and transport workers affiliated to the FTUC to refuse to handle Emperor shipments.

Taniela Veitata, the minister for employment and industrial relations, threatened March 19 that "the workers at Vatukoula who have been made the innocent victims of a political conspiracy and who in the final

analysis will be alone to face the consequences of their own actions should now be warned and advised about the dangerous trend with which their strike is now developing."

The FTUC responded that "the workers will have to brace themselves for a long time yet in order to make their strike successful."

"The FTUC appeals earnestly to all its supporters and sympathisers to contribute generously towards the solidarity fund" that has been providing basic food items for the strikers and their families and which "has contributed immensely towards maintaining the high morale of the workers."

The National Farmers Union branch in the district has given food for the strikers and pledged its support.

Collections have been taken up at Fiji Public Service Association meetings around the country.

Support has also come from the International Miners Organisation, Miner International Federation, New Zealand Council of Trade Unions, New Zealand Labourers Union, and the United Mineworkers Federation of Australia.

Speaking at a public meeting in Sydney March 23, IMO leader Arthur Scargill pledged that "whatever help they need will be forthcoming."

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Open the Borders to the Kurdish People. Speaker: Jim Sarsgard, Socialist Workers Party candidate for city council, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 27. Sat., May 11. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; forum, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

IOWA

Des Moines

Gates Must Go! Fight Police Brutality from Los Angeles to Des Moines. Speakers: Nan Bailey, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Des Moines, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431; Conrad Smith, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431. Sun., May 12, 6 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

Why the Fight against the Free Trade Bill Does Not Advance the Labor Movement. Speaker: Héctor Marroquín, Socialist Workers Party candidate for city council, laid-off member International Association of Machinists. Sat., May 18, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Farm Crisis in New England and the Northeast. Speakers: Sandra Facey, Massachusetts Association of Dairy Farmers; Christopher Hedges, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor. Sat., May 11, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Washington's Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III. Speaker: James Warren, National Committee Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers, Socialist Workers Party 1991 mayoral candidate. Sat., May 18, 7:30 p.m. 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Washington's Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III. Speaker: John Hawkins, National Committee Socialist Workers Party, member United Mine Workers of America. Sat., May 18, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Palestine: Eyewitness Report. Speaker: Derek Bracey, national organizational secretary Young Socialist Alliance, recently returned from Israel. Sat., May 11, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$4. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Washington's Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III. Speaker: Francisco Picado, National Committee Socialist Workers Party, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cleveland

The Crisis in Education. Speakers: Margaret Husk, Socialist Workers Party candidate for board of education; others. Sat., May 11, 7:30 p.m. 1863 W 25th St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Washington's Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III. Speaker: Andrea Morell, national leader, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 11, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

Washington's Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III. Speaker to be announced. Sat., May 11, 7 p.m. Translation to Spanish. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (402) 553-0245.

TEXAS

Houston

The Eastern Airlines Strike. Speakers: Al

Glover, former Eastern Airlines strike coordinator; Patti Iiyama, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists Lodge 1322. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

Malcolm X Speaks. Recorded speech by Malcolm X. Discussion to follow. Sat., May 18, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Defend the Pathfinder Mural. Speaker: Mark Severs, former Pathfinder Mural fund director. Sat., May 11, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E Madison. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Washington's Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III. Speaker: Frank Forrester, National Committee Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 11, 7:30 p.m. 523 8th St. SE. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (202) 547-7557.

Malcolm X and the Fight against Imperialist Wars. Speaker to be announced. Sat., May 18,

7:30 p.m. 523 8th St. SE. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (202) 547-7557.

CANADA

Montréal

The Eastern Airlines Strike: Lessons for Labor Today. Speaker: Al Cappe, Communist League, member International Association of Machinists. Sat., May 11, 7:30 p.m. 6566 boul. Saint-Laurent. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum ouvrier militant/Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution. Speaker: Katy Lerougetel, Communist League, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Sat., May 18, 7:30 p.m. 6566 boul. Saint-Laurent. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum ouvrier militant/Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

Sweden

Stockholm

The Present Situation in South Africa. Speaker: Billy Modise, chief representative to Sweden from the African National Congress. Sat., May 18, 2 p.m. Bokhandeln Pathfinder, Vikingagatan 10 T-bana St Eriksplan. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Stop Brutality on Our Children, Our Men, Our Community. Gates Must Go! 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. Sponsor: Coalition for Justice and an End to Police Brutality. Tel: (213) 296-2630.

Demonstration. Join the picket lines every Saturday to demand Gates Must Go! 9:30 a.m. to noon. Parker Center.

San Francisco

Class Series on Socialism. Every Tuesday, 7 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Open House at New Location of Pathfinder Bookstore. Every Sat. in May. 2-3 p.m. 172 Trinity St. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Young People and the Fight Against War and Imperialism. Speaker: Angel Lariscy, national secretary Young Socialist Alliance. Sun., May 12, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

Hog Roast Fundraiser for Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Sun., May 26, 2 p.m. in Sargent. For rides and info. call (612) 644-6325.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Cuba-South Africa: After the Battle. Video. Sun., May 12, 4 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$1. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

How to Fight for a World without War and Racism. Class series. Every Thurs., 6:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

WEST VIRGINIA

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Revolutionary Cuba Today. Cuban Trade Union Leaders Speak. Speakers: Joaquín Bernal Camero, member National Secretariat of Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions; Luis Guillermo Abreu Mejías, general secretary National Union of Workers in Education, Sciences, and Sports. Sun., May 5. Reception, 5:30 p.m., Elizabeth Moore Hall Lounge; program, 7 p.m., Woodburn Hall Room 101, West Virginia University. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Institute for Industrial Relations and Council of International Programs at West Virginia University. Tel: (304) 293-3323 or 292-0593.

CANADA

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

Sydney, Nova Scotia

Malcolm X Speaks. Speaker: David Brown, Young Socialists. Thurs., May 23, 7 p.m. James McConnell Memorial Library. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Young Socialists. Tel: (902) 562-9829.

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Communist League National Conference. May 31-June 3. Auckland. For more info. contact Communist League branch nearest you at the New Zealand offices listed in directory below.

'Gates out' protest set

Continued from Page 16

initiative on the ballot to oust Bradley as mayor.

Several groups are circulating petitions for a recall initiative against Gates.

Meanwhile, it was disclosed that the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan had circulated two-page membership applications at ten police stations.

A police spokesman said this was being checked out by the department's "antiterrorist" division, adding that the matter was "very distasteful."

A Klansman told the *Los Angeles Times* that the mailing had brought "a handful" of applications from cops, with some 50 more requesting further information.

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Finally got it straight — Conceding they would find it "hard to believe," Vice Prez Quayle told reporters he misspoke when he termed the Gulf war "a victory for aggression."



Harry Ring

The house that Spam built — It wasn't for nothing that the Hormel meat-packing company pushed its workers into a bitterly fought strike in 1985-86. George Hormel II, an heir, just bought the biggest mansion

in Arizona for \$3.75 million. Features include a skating rink, king-size swimming pool, tennis and racquet courts, and a video-game room.

Holy chief — Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl Gates was honored at a meeting in the Black community called by a group describing itself as "Black-Americans for Family Values." A minister declared of Gates that "God appointed him chief." Among the audience of 20, one person later said he wanted to shout, "This is disgusting." Another added, "I'm getting a fever just listening to this stuff."

Put it on the check list — From 1946 to 1966, the government dumped 20 million gallons of liquid

radioactive waste into the ground at the Hanford nuclear reservation in Washington State. An official assured, "There is not a safety hazard to the public from this material as long as we pay attention to it." He said some of the radioactivity may last 100,000 years.

Irrational and unprofitable — After a study, a scientific panel recommended to the government that second-hand smoke be classified as a known cause of cancer. Responded the Tobacco Institute, "The panel's conclusions can only be described as irrational."

Instructive too — Up to 10,000 breast cancer patients and as many as 52,000 colon cancer patients are

not receiving optimal treatment because of "reimbursement" problems, according to Lee Mortenson of the Association of Community Cancer Centers. "That's pretty shocking when you think about it," he said.

Crime doesn't pay? — Since he beat the Contragate rap, Oliver North has been doing his number at right-wing gatherings at \$25,000 a shot. He also created the tax-exempt "Freedom Alliance," which pays him \$50,000 a year. And, in partnership with former CIA agent Joseph Fernández, he's peddling bullet-proof vests. (He doesn't leave home without one, says North.)

Makes sense, no? — Since last

summer 2,000,000 workers lost their jobs, but, hey, no problem, explains a *New York Times* editorial. "The unemployment rate keeps rising even after the recession is over." Why? "As the economy begins to recover, companies typically raise production without adding to their payrolls. New hires take place only after employers are convinced the recovery is going to last."

A puzzler — Maybe we're dense, but a couple of questions: a) What does it take to convince the employers that the recovery will last? b) If companies can raise production without adding to their payroll, why should they add to their payroll?

New York meeting condemns attack on mural

BY DOUG COOPER

NEW YORK — "The Pathfinder Mural occupies a special place" here, Mary Schmidt-Campbell, New York City commissioner of cultural affairs, told 100 people at a meeting April 20 at Washington Square Methodist Church. "When that mural gets attacked, it's not only the mural but it's the idea" of the free exchange of views that is attacked. "No one is going to silence the ideas in that mural," Schmidt-Campbell declared.

The meeting, sponsored by the Friends of the Pathfinder Mural, heard speakers condemn the March 17 vandal attack in which paint was splattered on several portraits of working-class and revolutionary leaders pictured on the mural.

Schmidt-Campbell went on to read a message she brought to the meeting from New York Mayor David Dinkins. "I condemn this act and any other act that impinges on freedom of expression. . . . Every effort will be made to apprehend those responsible," he wrote.

Unionists speak out

Calling the mural one of the very few monuments in New York to the heroes of working people, Luke Gordon, business agent of Local 107 of the United Paperworkers International Union, spoke out against recent procensorship attacks against art around the country by "over-zealous district attorneys in Miami or Cincinnati or by vigilantes operating in the dark of night. We've got to band together and say this will stop."

Jeffrey Jacques, jazz critic and assistant editor of *1199 News*, newspaper of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees, explained that "physical attacks on art are part of a political attack on the arts as a whole, in the form of attacks on public funding." He condemned cutbacks in social services for working people, pointing out that these same cuts include sharp funding cuts for the arts.

Public funding for art is crucial, Jacques said, "not in spite of whether it's critical, but because it's critical of the status quo." He called on everyone "to defend this specific work, but also the livelihood of artists and artistic institutions."

Curtis backers to widen support

Continued from Page 6

fight for more space for all workers to be able to drive down the street or engage in political activity, free from cop interference and brutality."

Héctor Marroquín, secretary of the defense committee, also addressed the meeting, having just returned from the fifth convention of the United Farm Workers of Washington State. The UFWWS passed six policy resolutions, including one affirming their support of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and pledging to make the Curtis case a priority for action in the coming year.

Letters urging the Iowa State Board of Parole to free Mark Curtis and financial contributions should be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

Meryl Lynn Farber, executive director of the Friends of the Pathfinder Mural, noted that the mural "had become the property of working people around the world." She described plans for its restoration and, pointing to the worldwide interest, called on supporters to organize meetings around the world in defense of freedom of artistic expression, to help raise the thousands of dollars necessary to restore the mural, and to continue to send protest messages to the mayor's office.

"We need a couple of thousand dollars to purchase the materials and rent the scaffolding to begin the restoration," Farber said. "We are making officers of the Friends of the Pathfinder Mural available to speak wherever meetings are organized."

Messages of support

The meeting's chairperson, Sam Manuel, a member of United Transportation Union Local 769 and artistic director of the mural, read messages of support for its right to exist free of vandalism and other forms of censorship.

They included messages from Siobhan Dowd, of the PEN American Center, a prominent writers' organization; Edith Tiger, the executive director of the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee; Dennis Brutus, a well-known anti-apartheid activist and professor at the University of Pittsburgh; artists Alirio Vargas and Carole Byard, who contributed portraits to the mural; and Dennis Barrie, director of Cincinnati's Contemporary Arts Center, who recently won a key battle in the fight against censorship of his center's exhibit of the work of well-known photographer Robert Mapplethorpe.

Barrie wrote, "I deplore the acts of van-

dalism against this work of art. It is important that we do all in our power to preserve freedom of expression in the country regardless of the content or point of view expressed."

Manuel introduced artists in the audience including South African artist Dumile Feni, Keith Jones, and Nina Matthews, who had agreed to again volunteer their time to help repaint the damaged sections.

Cuban artist Aldo Soler was also introduced. He painted the portraits of Karl Marx and Cuban President Fidel Castro. On a visit to New York, Soler helped in the restoration before returning to Havana.

Phyllis Yampolsky, an artist who contributed a scene from the 1949 Chinese revolution to the mural, described it as a "statement that is going to invite response. How can we prevent further attacks?" she asked. One idea would be to turn the area in front of the mural into a "garden of information — with literature tables and T-shirts" every weekend, she said.

Other speakers included Kate Barnhart of the high school group Students Against War; Luis Miranda, president of the New York-based Casa de las Américas, a Cuban-American organization that opposes imperialist attacks against Cuba and revolutionary strug-



Militant/Eric Simpson
Cuban artist Aldo Soler restoring damaged portrait of Máximo Gómez, a fighter for Cuban independence, on Pathfinder Mural.

gles around the world; Christine Rice, action vice president of the New York chapter of the National Organization for Women, and Norton Sandler of Pathfinder publishers, many of whose authors are among the revolutionary and working-class leaders depicted on the mural.

Police brutality protested in New Jersey

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

PLAINFIELD, New Jersey — Venus and Al Hannah are leading a sustained battle against police brutality in this town of 40,000. Last year Plainfield police killed their eldest son, 19-year-old Santana. In March, police beat their 14-year-old son, Uriah.

"We're at war now," Venus Hannah told some 200 people at a recent rally outside Mayor Harold Mitchell's barbershop. "As mothers, we have to fight to protect our young. I had six children. Now I only have five and I'm not going to let them take any more."

On April 3, the Afro-American Association, founded by the Hannahs to fight police brutality, sponsored a speak-out.

"We're in some tough and troublesome times," Salaam Ismail, president of the United Youth Council, Inc. of nearby Elizabeth, told the 50 people gathered. "Police brutality is the number one issue in Plainfield."

After Ismail spoke, the microphone was opened to anyone who wanted to speak. One after another, Black youth came forward to relate harrowing stories of violence done by local cops. Nine Black youths have died here in circumstances either directly or indirectly involving police in the last year.

"I am absolutely furious to see all these people who have been victims of police brutality here tonight," said Audrey Roney. Her



Militant/Eric Simpson
Venus Hannah, leader of fight against police brutality in Plainfield, New Jersey, speaking at April 20 Newark Militant Labor Forum.

daughter had been assaulted by police after being pulled over for an alleged traffic violation. "And it's not just here, it's all over the nation. Right after my daughter was beaten, there was Rodney King in Los Angeles. And now I'm tired and I'm going to fight."

Al Hannah explained how his son, Santana, called home at 2:00 a.m. on April 10, 1990, to say he was in jail. Santana told his mother that he and his friends had been beaten by police and that he would be lucky to make it through the night alive.

The next day, the Hannahs were informed that Santana had hung himself in jail. They raced down to the police station. Police at first denied having their son in custody. It was only when the Hannahs saw a body bag being carried out that police admitted Santana was dead.

Al Hannah, knowing that a cover-up was in progress, demanded to see the body. "The boy looked like he'd just come out of the ring with Muhammad Ali," he said. "There were no rope marks around his neck."

A grand jury ruled Santana Hannah's death a suicide and the state attorney general's office has refused to reopen the case.

Because of their protests, the Hannah family has been a target of police harassment for a year. The most recent incident was when an officer attacked Uriah Hannah on the sidewalk in front of their house. The family had filed a complaint against the cop earlier.

Both parents were arrested after they tried to get the cop to release Uriah from a chokehold. The United Youth Council, Inc. responded immediately to the arrests by putting up a picket line in front of the police station.

Bangladesh: no 'natural' disaster

The devastation that is unfolding in Bangladesh — where at least 125,000 have died and tens of thousands more will — is being portrayed as a "natural" disaster that nothing much can be done about. This is false. The toilers of this flood-stricken country are suffering a *social* disaster produced by capitalist relations on the land and the exploitation of semicolonial countries by the imperialist banks and lending agencies.

Millions of toilers in immediate danger of deadly diseases and the 10 million made homeless are simply being denied the massive aid needed from imperialist countries. Vast numbers of the dead could have been saved if a fraction of the billions spent by Washington and its allies on the slaughter of the Iraqi people had been used to aid the flood victims. Yet Washington has so far contributed only \$125,000.

The major media also claims the disaster is inevitable because Bangladesh has a "high population density." But the plight of the thousands swept to their doom on silt islands off the coast had nothing to do with population. Those peasants live on the islands because they are denied the right to own land and forced to work for well-to-do landowners to survive. These peasants are debt slaves to the capitalist landowners just as the whole country is a debt slave to the imperialist banks.

Bangladesh had a foreign debt of \$8 billion in 1988. It

paid \$270 million in interest in 1986.

The continual plunder of Bangladesh through the foreign debt cripples its ability to respond to the latest tragedy and continues to recreate the social conditions that cause it.

Despite the wealth the imperialists have stolen from the labor of the people of Bangladesh over the years, they are deaf to the cries for aid coming from the country now.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler says Washington is too "stretched." Officials of a world relief organization cite "donor fatigue."

The imperialists have proven that they are capable of massive and rapid airlifts when they deem their interests are at stake. In the war against Iraq hundreds of thousands of human beings, plus massive numbers of airplanes and other vehicles, were rushed to the Mideast in record time. No expense was too great in getting the maximum amount of equipment on the scene as quickly as possible.

Yet Washington will not even supply Bangladesh with desperately needed helicopters to aid in the current relief effort.

Working people the world over should reach out and support our brothers and sisters in Bangladesh. We should demand that Bangladesh's foreign debt be canceled and that Washington, London, Paris, and other governments send immediate and massive aid.

Open borders to war refugees

Millions of refugees were created by the U.S.-led war against the people of Iraq.

An estimated 1.5 million Yemeni workers who had been working in Saudi Arabia were summarily deported back to Yemen at the start of the conflict because of the refusal of the Yemeni government to back the U.S.-directed war.

Hundreds of thousands of workers from Egypt, Bangladesh, Pakistan, China, India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and other semicolonial countries who lived in Kuwait and Iraq before the start of the war fled the onslaught, leaving behind a lifetime of savings.

Today, after encouraging Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to crush the Kurdish and Shiite uprisings, Washington tries to present itself as the savior of the Kurdish people. But it dispenses aid with an eyedropper. Just compare the 71 airdrops of aid to the Kurds made on April 19, three weeks after the start of the mass exodus, with the 3,000 sorties a day the coalition forces sent out to bomb the Iraqi people during the war.

While thousands die every week in the harsh border regions of Iraq, Washington openly states that its goal is to "persuade," "coax," and "lure" the Kurds — "like squirrels" as one U.S. military official said — to force them back into Iraq.

The treatment of Iraqi prisoners of war also highlights

Washington's scorn for the toilers it has uprooted in the Mideast.

Many of the 14,000 Iraqi prisoners of war refusing to return to Iraq have requested asylum in the United States, but only two of the POWs have been granted their requests. One of the two is already a U.S. citizen. Washington is supposedly giving "special consideration" to the case of 70 more.

The Iraqi war prisoners face two choices if the U.S. and other governments refuse to take them in: remain in the squalid prison camps in Saudi Arabia with no rights and no future or risk returning to war-torn Iraq and possible victimization by the Hussein regime.

Working people in the United States, Britain, France, and around the world can come to the aid of the Kurdish and Iraqi workers.

We should demand an immediate end to the inhuman and unjust sanctions that continue to wreak havoc on Iraq.

We should demand that the U.S. borders and the borders of countries around the world be opened to the refugees from Washington's war. They should be provided with full status, jobs, housing, and whatever else they need to begin to rebuild their lives.

The labor motto "An injury to one is an injury to all" is not for ceremony. It is an international call for solidarity.

Keep sanctions on South Africa

The economic sanctions Washington was forced to impose in 1986 against its ally, the South African apartheid government, must remain in place. The April 15 decision by the 12 foreign ministers of the European Community to lift sanctions against South Africa is a blow to the fight to end the racist system of apartheid.

The decision lessens the pressure on the U.S. government — apartheid's biggest backer. Washington has maneuvered to bypass the measures ever since it was forced to impose them in the first place. It will now try to lay the basis for lifting them altogether.

Working people and all supporters of the freedom struggle in South Africa should take a firm stand for maintaining and strengthening sanctions and explain to others why pressure on the Pretoria regime must continue.

Continuing the fight to widen the sanctions will help increase the leverage of the masses of Blacks and others inside the country who are fighting for a nonracial and democratic South Africa.

Economic, political, cultural, sporting, and other sanctions have long been advocated by national liberation organizations, trade unions, and religious groups as an effective

step that can be taken outside South Africa to help bring about an end to apartheid.

As African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela explains: "We say sanctions were introduced for a specific purpose — to give the vote to all the people of South Africa and to scrap apartheid. Neither of these objectives has been achieved."

The economic sanctions against South Africa are effective. That's why the apartheid regime spends so much time pleading they be lifted. Last month the governor of the South African Reserve Bank told an economic conference in Italy that South Africa could become ungovernable by 1995 unless its economy improves.

Following the EC decision to lift the sanctions, South African President F.W. de Klerk won the backing of British Prime Minister John Major to end remaining bans against trade and sports competition between the two countries. The United States leads the way in breaking the boycott, with 1,068 athletes competing in South Africa since the ban was implemented in 1980. Britain follows in second place with 693 scab athletes playing in the country.

Worker-farmer alliance and fascist groups

BY DOUG JENNESS

This year doesn't look very bright for working farmers, especially grain and milk producers. The gap is widening between the income they can expect from marketing their products and the cost of seeds, fertilizer, fuel, machinery, and other inputs needed for production.

The 1990 Farm Bill has tightened this squeeze by sharply reducing even the meager benefits working farmers get from the government's price support programs. Congress also imposed new marketing fees — essentially a tax — on producers of a number of farm products.

Farm foreclosures are going to increase, and the number of farmers forced out of farming will mount.

The crisis that continually places working farm-families on the precipice of disaster is caused by the wages and

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

mortgages system. Through this system a handful of ruling families, who dominate industry, commerce, banking, and land, exploit both wage workers and working farmers. These exploited classes produce products that are sold on the market, but they do not end up with the equivalent value of the labor time they have put into producing these commodities. This surplus labor, for which they are unpaid, is appropriated — stolen from them — by the owners of the factories, mines, mills, airlines, railroads, food trusts, banks and land.

The exploited producers have a common exploiter and a common enemy. Thus they have a common need to weld an alliance that can mobilize an effective struggle to defend and advance their interests. Forging this unity, however, requires overcoming some serious hurdles.

The mechanism by which working farmers are exploited is not direct domination by a boss who pays them a wage, who has the power to hire, fire, and discipline them, and who appropriates the product of their labor.

Instead, the main agents of the farmers' exploitation are representatives of banking and commercial capital. This can lead to the illusion that the fundamental division within society is not between exploited and exploiting classes, but between the "producers," including "productive" sectors of the capitalists, and the "bloodsuckers" — speculators, price gougers, and interest-hungry bankers. Exploited farmers may begin to think that tinkering with interest rates, banking laws, monetary policies, and other schemes to make capitalism work for them will solve their problems.

Radical right-wing and fascist groups attempt to get a hearing from militant farmers for various utopian notions, nostrums, and gimmicks. They compete with class-conscious workers for farmers' support.

Liberal journalist James Corcoran recently wrote a book called *Bitter Harvest — Gordon Kahl and the Posse Comitatus: Murder in the Heartland* (Viking, 1990). The book describes the attempt of several fascist groups to influence farmers during the farm protests of the late 1970s and 1980s. Among those Corcoran lists are the Posse Comitatus, Liberty Lobby, Aryan Nations, followers of Lyndon LaRouche, and the Covenant, Sword and Arm of the Lord.

Corcoran's description shows that fascist groups are *radical*, that is, they are not part of mainstream capitalist politics. Some run or back candidates in elections and they also organize demonstrations, hooligan attacks, and armed actions.

These groups present "populist" social demagoguery and hold the view that the problems facing farmers are due to a conspiracy of the Federal Reserve Bank and Jewish bankers.

Corcoran's book focuses on Gordon Kahl, a North Dakota Posse Comitatus activist who refused to pay his federal income taxes. He was killed in the second of two shootouts with cops in 1983.

The Posse was founded in 1969 in Oregon by a one-time member of the Silver Shirts, a Nazi-inspired fascist outfit of the 1930s in the United States. Kahl, a farmer who had for many years been engaged in ultra-right politics, joined the Posse in 1973. His refusal to pay income tax, his resistance to being taken into custody, and his violent death in an Arkansas house where he was hiding catapulted Kahl and the Posse into the national spotlight.

Many farmers saw him as a militant fighter and a martyr in the struggle against onerous taxes and the government that imposes them. But the truth is that Kahl and Posse Comitatus, like other fascist groups that spew racist and anti-Semitic venom and quack schemes, do not address the main problem facing working people — the capitalist wages and mortgages system. They divide rather than advance the unity of workers and farmers in the struggle against that system.

As the economic and social crisis deepens, the working class can achieve this alliance by showing, both in word and deed, that it recognizes exploited farmers as fellow working people, uncompromisingly defends their interests, and offers a better future than that held out by the capitalists who exploit them.

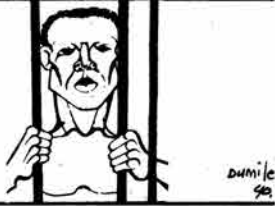
There are many Rodney Kings behind bars today

BY MARK CURTIS

FORT MADISON, Iowa — When the videotape of Rodney King being beaten by Los Angeles police was shown on television at the John Bennett state prison here, few were surprised, but there was a lot of anger among inmates. It reminded many of past beatings they have taken or have seen others get at the hands of the cops.

Everyone here sides with King and hopes he will win some justice for what was done to him. Several men

BEHIND PRISON WALLS



suggested that the cops should get more than just what is allowed under the law.

Some of the stories I heard in the week following the King beating included that of a man who fled the cops and hid by climbing up an evergreen tree. Two cops stopped to talk under the tree. "If you see him, shoot him," one said. The man was afraid and stayed in the tree all night, climbing down the next morning.

Another friend of mine lifted his upper lip to show a missing tooth. It was knocked out by Polk County sheriff's deputies who pushed him into a brick wall at the county jail while his hands were handcuffed behind his back.

The fight against police brutality spurred by the King beating has inspired a worker who belongs to the mason's union to file a lawsuit against the Des Moines, Iowa, police department for nearly killing him during a car chase. The cops suddenly pulled into the road he was driving down. He crashed into the police car and nearly died at the hospital. Large scars still cross his chest. The cops later charged him with attempted murder, claiming he endangered their lives.

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and its supporters are trying to turn the victim, Rodney King, into

the criminal. The claim that King "lunged" at the group of police officers is an attempt by the cops to justify nearly killing him. By bringing up his past prison record, they also want to make people feel that King deserved the beating.

Most inmates, however, easily see through this. One inmate ridiculed Police Chief Daryl Gates' argument that King's time in prison should somehow make him glad for the beating he got. "Perhaps this will be the vehicle to move him down the road to a good life instead of the life he's been involved in for such a long time," Gates said. "Yeah, he'll be living a better life once they [LAPD] have to give up that \$56 million," the inmate said about King's lawsuit against the police.

Watching the cop's assault on King reminded me of the beating I got in a Des Moines police station in March 1988.

Like the phony "speeding" the police said they wanted King for, the Des Moines cops arrested me on false charges of rape. At the police station they tried to bully me into admitting the crime. When that did not work, they tried to provoke me by calling me a "Mexican lover, just like you love those coloreds." Their racist language showed that they knew of my political activities at the meat-packing plant where I worked.

Earlier that day, I was involved with other coworkers in a protest against the jailing of 17 Latino coworkers after a raid by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The government's victimization of immigrant workers benefits the employers who take advantage of the undocumented status of these workers to underpay and exploit them. The anti-immigrant raids are also an attempt to deepen divisions among workers and to weaken our unions.

I and others stood up for our fellow workers because supporting their rights is the only way to defend everyone's rights. That's why I was involved in the protests on their behalf. When the cops called me a "Mexican lover" I knew that it was my political beliefs and activities they were targeting.

During my interrogation at the station, one cop pulled me down to the floor and another jumped on my chest. The one on top of me hit my head with his billy club and knocked

me unconscious. When I woke up, I was in a hospital where doctors stitched my face. X-rays showed my cheekbone had been broken. After I was taken back to the police station, I was forced to stay in a bare cell overnight without clothes, a blanket, or a toilet.

A whitewash of what the cops did to me began almost immediately. First, the cops charged me with assaulting them. They claimed that I had grabbed for an empty gun holster and had to be restrained. (They later dropped the charges against me of assaulting police officers.) When I formally complained of the brutal force used against me, a police "internal affairs" investigation cleared the cops of any wrongdoing. The cop "family," as always, stuck together.

I have filed a lawsuit against the Des Moines Police Department, the City of Des Moines, and the officers involved. November 25 has been set as the date for the trial. Depositions were recently held here at the prison. The attorney for the police and the city questioned me to try to prepare their defense.

My attorneys and I are prepared for a fight. The facts are on our side, especially the medical records documenting the injuries I suffered. Even so, I think it will take a lot to win justice in court, a difficult place for working people to fight for our rights.

I'm looking forward to the November trial, to remind the people of Des Moines and elsewhere of the police brutality that exists in every city of the country and that it must be fought. At my 1988 criminal trial on the phony rape charges, the fact that the cops beat me was not allowed as evidence. At the November trial there will be no way for the authorities to avoid this.

To win any measure of justice it will take a strong show by working people, who Rodney King calls "our family."

The public outrage and protests over what happened to King shows what can be accomplished.

The fight against police brutality is one with high stakes for everyone.

Mark Curtis, a unionist and political activist, is currently serving a 25-year jail term on a frame-up rape and burglary conviction.

LETTERS

Role of cops

The *Militant* has provided excellent coverage of the fight to oust Police Chief Daryl Gates in Los Angeles. I would like to see a more in-depth article on the role of the police in capitalist America. The articles so far have addressed this only in the most general way.

Such an article could, for example, explain where this institution comes from historically, connected to the rise of industrial capitalism and the working-class movement.

It could also deal with the common perception that despite individual cases of police brutality, police themselves are basically working people trying to do something good for society. The fact that we are constantly barraged with TV shows and movies portraying cops as the good guys makes this type of analysis even more necessary.

Along these lines, I think the *Militant* should also run some articles which provide a Marxist analysis of the drug trade, since so much of people's willingness to give the police more power is a desperate reaction to the real violence connected with illegal drugs.

Carl Weinberg
New Haven, Connecticut

The Bush Mob

I want to thank you for putting me on your prisoner's subscription list. I now know that I am receiving the truth about the crisis in the so-called Middle East and around the world as well.

All these countries attack and kill innocent Iraqis because the USA tells them to. Bush tells the world that they are fighting to free Kuwait.

But how many people know that the government that Americans are murdering for is a monarchy? The government of Kuwait is headed by a life-time king who was not elected. He was put into power by the Allied powers after they took Kuwait from Iraq after World War II. I have never heard of any Kuwaiti diplomats, ambassadors, attachés, generals or anyone of real power who is not of the royal family. Yet this kind of information is hidden from us.

The Bush mob doesn't care about

the freedom of working people. They only want to be free to exploit us more and more. If they cared about freedom they would free South Africa, break down the Korean wall, free Northern Ireland, free the Palestinians, stop oppressing the Indians of Canada, lift the ban on Cuba, etc.

Instead they help to oppress all of us. These people don't know the meaning of the word justice or humanity.

A prisoner
Auburn, New York

Silence kills Kurds

Chanting, "We will fight, we will win, viva viva Kurdistan," "USA out of the Middle East," and "Silence is killing the Kurds," 150 people marched through downtown Montréal April 13. Among the placards carried in both French and English were ones saying, "End the embargo on food and medicine to Iraq" and "Yesterday the bombs of the Coalition, today the bombs of Saddam."

A leaflet distributed at the demonstration by the Committee in Solidarity with the Kurdish People stated, "The Kurdish people are the victims of reactionary forces in the Middle East, the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein and the 'new world order' of President Bush."

The same day the biannual convention of the Montréal Labour Council (CTM) passed a resolution calling on the Canadian government to increase its humanitarian aid to the Kurds and urged the government to call for a United Nations intervention in Iraq to help the Kurds. Two days earlier a group called SOS Kurdistan Committee, composed of figures in the Kurdish community and labour officials, held a press conference urging similar action.

Jim Upton
Montréal, Québec

Postal privatization

Top level U.S. Postal Service management's ultimate goal is to privatize the United States mail industry. It is ideologically committed to this objective.

Automation is the key to minimizing the number of postal employees and transforming the Postal Service from a labor intensive enterprise to a capital intensive one. Management's goal is to have machines replace 100,000 postal employees by 1995.

Contracting out of postal jobs to profit-making companies is another method management is using to diminish the size of the labor force.

In the current contract negotiations management is seeking to minimize or abolish flat pay increases, cost-of-living allowances and retirement benefits, and to maximize the percentage of temporary and part-time workers.

Postal workers have only their union, the American Postal Workers Union, to protect them from shouldering the cost of a denationalized Postal Service. But the business union ideology of the APWU fosters a passivity, lack of union and class consciousness, and lack of militancy among the rank and file that weakens their bargaining position in the current contract negotiations.

The solution is for APWU members to reform their own union and use it to advance the interests of their union, the labor movement, and the working class.

Michael Quirk
Dennisport, Massachusetts

Food politics

It might be traced back to 1875 when General Philip Sheridan persuaded President Ulysses Grant that the best way to defeat the Indians was by the destruction of buffalo herds, which was the only source of food for many tribes.

Now we are in the '90s and it is not the Indians who are in trouble but the people in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is believed by the FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization) that this year the food aid needs for this region will exceed those during the severe years of 1984-86 which caused the death of thousands of people. If lives are to be saved, the area will need at least 5.1 million tons of emergency



food aid for 27 million people.

But the world's largest food grain producer, the U.S.A., has not donated even a single ton to relief efforts.

Regimes that do not dance to the U.S. government's tune are directly or indirectly starved out of power, as President Gaafar Mohamed Numeiri's successor discovered after he took over in Sudan.

Enough grain was produced in 1983-84 to provide every human being in the whole world with 3,000 calories and 65 grams of protein per day. Yet thousands died in some parts of the world due to lack of food. The same fate will occur again despite the fact that 1990 was a record year for food production.

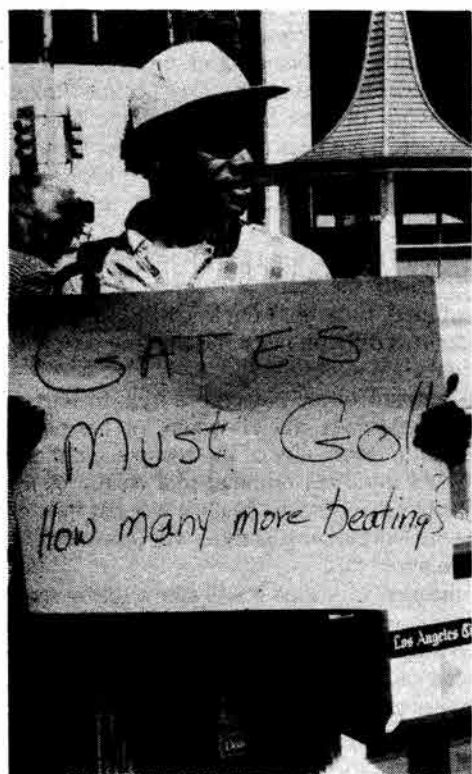
Whenever famine strikes, poor countries have no way of helping themselves and are thus open for manipulation by the rich nations. For without food it is very difficult for anybody to survive. Just as the brave Indians discovered in 1875.

Emman Emali
Oslo, Norway

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.

Protests hit Los Angeles cop violence

May 11 march will demand ouster of Police Chief Gates



Militant/Lisa Ahlberg
Participant in March 30 action in Los Angeles. May 11 march against cop violence is backed by labor.

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — A coalition of antiracist forces is building a May 11 demonstration to press for the ouster of Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl Gates.

The demonstrators will demand an end to police brutality, the ouster of Gates, and the prosecution of all police involved in the March 3 beating of Rodney King.

A construction worker who is Black, King is a member of the Laborers' International Union.

An amateur's videotaping of the police beating of King put a global spotlight on Los Angeles police brutality and sparked a furor in the city. The demand for the ouster of the racist anti-working-class police chief quickly became a focal point of the political battle.

Key organizations and prominent individuals are organizing for the May 11 protest. They include the National Council of Negro Women, Black Women United, Black Women's Forum, Congress member Maxine Waters, the AFL-CIO Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Demonstrators, who are asked to wear black, will assemble at Broadway and Olym-

pic at noon and then march through downtown Los Angeles to the Parker Center, the city's police headquarters, where there will be a dedication of a "victims' memorial."

Meanwhile, the Los Angeles county grand jury charged with probing the King beating indicated that it probably would not lodge felony charges against the 17 filmed cops who were among the police who stood by while four others clubbed, kicked, and beat the prostrate King.

With their crime dramatically imprinted on video film, the four cops will be tried on assault charges. Their trial is currently slated to begin May 13.

Prosecutors assert they have been unable to find any state law under which they could prosecute the 17 cops who abetted the crime by not acting to stop it.

Earlier, Geoffrey Gibbs, a representative of the Langston Bar Association, a 900-member organization of lawyers who are Black, demanded that the governor appoint a special prosecutor to replace the district attorney in the case.

Gibbs cited two sections of the state penal code under which the 17 could be charged with tolerating a riot.

Gibbs initially demanded a special prose-

cutor at the first public session of the Independent Commission on the Los Angeles Police Department. The commission was created in the wake of the King beating.

At the outset, commission head Warren Christopher declared that the body would not focus on the King beating but, rather, would make recommendations on how the police could avoid excessive use of force.

At the initial public hearing, the racist brutality of the police department was scored by representatives of Black, Chicano, Asian, immigrant rights, and gay rights organizations.

A spokesman for a newly created pro-Gates group asserted that the cops are doing a fine job.

Meanwhile, a jury awarded \$8.75 million to Adelaido Altimirano, who was left a paraplegic after being shot by an off-duty Los Angeles cop.

The police issue has created a substantial rift among those who control the city's political structure. On one side is Mayor Thomas Bradley and the police commission, a civilian body which is supposed to oversee the police department. They have pressed to remove Gates from his post.

Stubbornly resisting such demands, Gates has the support of the city council, the Police Protective League, and assorted right-wing forces that have been mobilizing behind him.

One such group announced it would seek the 210,000 signatures needed to put a recall

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5,000 rally for Ravenswood Steelworkers

BY DAVID ANSHEN

AND MARY NELL BOCKMAN

COTTAGEVILLE, West Virginia — Chanting, "Liberate Ravenswood," and "Union, union," 5,000 members and supporters of United Steelworkers of America Local 5668 rallied here April 28, four miles from Ravenswood Aluminum Corporation (RAC). The 1,700 Steelworkers at RAC have been locked out for six months.

Groups of union hospital workers, postal workers, garment workers, rail workers, and Steelworkers, from many locals and several states were visible in the crowd.

Arriving cars and buses were greeted by Local 5668 members with buttons commemorating "The Battle of Fort RAC." This refers to the barbed wire fences, video cameras, armed security guards, and federal marshalls brought to Ravenswood by the company and the courts.

Many participants wore T-shirts with "Operation Solidarity Storm" on the front and "Liberate Ravenswood" on the back. Since the lockout began, RAC has hired more than 1,000 scabs and declared them permanent replacements for the union workforce.

The rally was called by the West Virginia AFL-CIO, USWA District 23, and Local 5668 for Workers Memorial Day, which honors those workers killed on the job during the previous year. Peg Semenerio, national safety director for the AFL-CIO, told the crowd that the four workers killed at RAC in 1990 were the highest number of unrelated deaths on the job in any plant in the United States.

West Virginia Gov. Gaston Caperton also spoke. Caperton said he supported safety in the workplace but remained "neutral" in the Ravenswood dispute. His remarks were greeted with skepticism by the crowd.

Chris Townsend, a United Electrical Workers member in the crowd, commented, "At the rate he's going, we're going to have a safe workplace for scabs."

United Mine Workers of America President Richard Trumka pledged his union's support to the Steelworkers.

Trumka also spoke about the recent revelations of widespread tampering of mine-dust samples by coal operators. He said that more than 800 "coal companies turned in fraudulent dust samples. This shows you can't trust the fox, especially a hungry fox, to guard the chicken coop."

Groups of camouflage-clad miners came from West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky.

Two dozen Steelworkers came from the picket lines at Monsanto Chemical in Nitro, West Virginia. Three days before, USWA Local 12610 members rejected the company's most recent offer in their seven-month-long strike.

Pointing to the large turnout from other unions, Carol, the wife of a Ravenswood striker, said, "People came because they know it can happen to them. RAC's no different from all these other companies."

April 24-25 negotiations between RAC and the union made no progress toward a contract. Major unresolved issues are the company's demand for a profit-sharing plan instead of the hourly wage increase and the

scabs that RAC says will remain in the plant.

On April 26, the day after negotiations broke off, RAC filed a lawsuit for libel and defamation against Local 5668 and Vice-President and safety chairman William Doyle. The suit is a response to a letter from Doyle to local newspapers in January exposing the company's alteration of safety records and failure to record injuries. The union is demanding a government investigation of current safety conditions.

To send solidarity messages or obtain information, write USWA Local 5668, Box 56, Ravenswood, West Virginia 26161 or call (304) 273-9319. The union also has a Lock-out Hotline at (800) 842-8667.

Fiji gold miners wage strike against 'colonial' conditions

BY BOB ANDREWS

SYDNEY, Australia — The Fiji Trade Union Congress (FTUC) has appealed for support for more than 800 miners who have been on strike against the Emperor Gold Mining Co. since February. The miners walked out for better working and living conditions and for recognition of their union, the Fiji Mine Workers Union.

Fiji, a former British colony, is a group of

islands in the South Pacific.

"The workers have had enough," the FTUC declared in a statement March 1. "They will no longer be deterred by threats of dismissals. They will no longer put up with a type of apartheid being practiced there by a company which is white in ownership and colonial in character."

Kavekini Navuso, the FMWU general secretary, told the March 4 *Fiji Times* that "the days of slavery are over. The company will have no alternative this time round but to come and negotiate with the union."

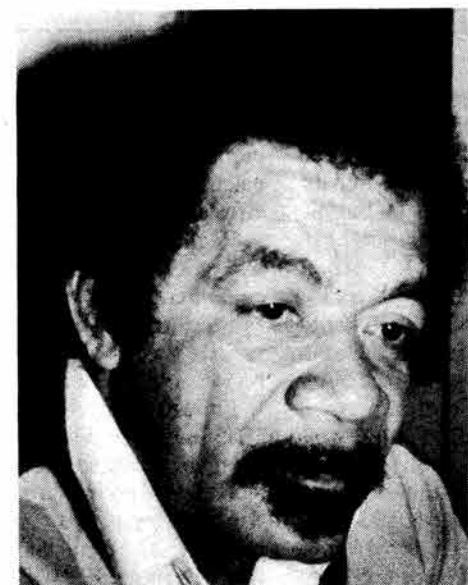
The Emperor Gold Mining Co. owns several mine shafts and a surface milling operation, with a total workforce of 1,200, at Vatukoula in the north of Fiji's main island, Viti Levu. It is managed by the giant Australian Western Mining Corp., which has a 10 percent stake in the company. The gold is exported to Australia.

Indigenous Fijians and Indian Fijians who work at the mines have joined together in the strike for the first time.

The miners are calling for improved health and safety facilities underground, provision of gas masks for all miners, and improved toilet facilities. They work in extreme heat underground, and sometimes in waterlogged tunnels because of poor drainage.

Those who are injured at work are required to report and sit around the work sites instead of resting at home.

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Militant/Russell Johnson
Miners union leader Kavekini Navuso

Steelworkers demand ouster of Gates

The Civil Rights Conference of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), held in Las Vegas March 24-28, unanimously adopted a resolution condemning the beating of Rodney King and calling for the jailing of the cops responsible and the ouster of Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl Gates. The text follows:

WHEREAS, the vicious beating of Rodney King by Los Angeles police officers has shocked the conscience of the entire nation; and

WHEREAS, this is not just an isolated incident, but part of a pattern of racial and ethnic hostility by the Los Angeles Police Department;

It is clear from their conduct and their recorded statements in this case that many Los Angeles police officers regard blacks as a criminal race and a subhuman species; and

WHEREAS, this mentality existed in the Los Angeles Police Department because Chief Daryl Gates has done nothing to stamp it out but has instead contributed to its development by issuing one inflammatory statement after another aimed at blacks, hispanics, jews, and other minorities; and

WHEREAS, civil rights organizations and responsible police officials in California and throughout the Nation have placed the blame squarely on Chief Gates' shoulders and are calling for his resignation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Civil Rights Conference of the United Steelworkers of America condemns the unspeakably cruel conduct of the Los Angeles Police Department. We demand that the guilty officers be convicted and imprisoned for their crimes. We also demand that Chief Gates resign or be removed. Only then will it be possible to erase this racial blight from the record.