

U.S. demands harsh terms of Iraq for easing sanctions



Hundreds demand 'Gates must go!' in Los Angeles

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — A march and rally here May 11 offered a powerful indictment of police brutality.

The action, part of a continuing protest against the police beating of Rodney King, reiterated the widespread demand for the ouster of Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl Gates.

Held on the eve of Mother's Day, a silent procession of 300, led by women in black, mourned the countless victims of cop brutality.

The action was sparked by a number of organizations of women who are Black who turned out the largest section of the march.

Others were there too, including a contin-

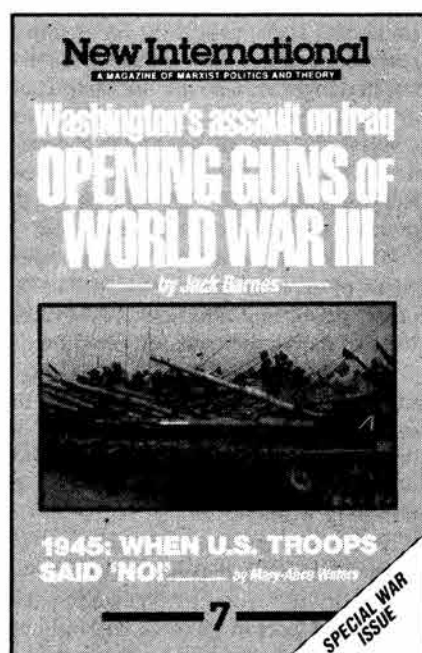
gent of Janitors for Justice, unionists seeking redress for the mainly Latino building service workers who were brutalized by cops during a union action for higher wages.

The demonstrators marched through downtown Los Angeles to police headquarters and rallied in front of a memorial to cops killed on duty. The protesters counterposed a far longer list of known, recent victims of the police.

In a "victims' memorial," several dozen people stood in front of the speakers' platform, each of them displaying a large placard

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Join the campaign against imperialism and war



Death and dislocation continue to stalk the peoples of Iraq and the whole Mideast region in the wake of the U.S.-led war. As the consequences of Washington's aggression unfold and its lies unravel, more workers, farmers, youth, and GIs are seeking an explanation of the roots of imperialism and war, and the system that breeds them.

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Reiterates offer of less harsh measures if Hussein ousted

BY RONI McCANN

Not satisfied with the harsh demand that war-shattered Iraq hand over up to 30 percent of its oil revenues to imperialist powers and their cohorts, Washington is pressing for stiffer reparations at the United Nations.

John Bolton, U.S. assistant secretary of state for international organizations, proposed a 50 percent levy on all of Baghdad's oil earnings. Don't think of it as war reparations though, said one official. "This is like compensation for a car collision and paying for the damage done."

Washington's demand for exorbitant war damages comes after squeezing the Iraqi people dry since August with a criminal trade embargo — a measure that remains in place to this day.

On May 20 U.S. President George Bush announced the sanctions would continue. "My view is we don't want to lift these sanctions as long as [Iraqi President] Saddam Hussein is in power."

White House spokesperson Marlin Fitzwater stated, "Any easing of sanctions will be considered only when there is a new government."

Robert Gates, nominated by Bush to become head of the Central Intelligence Agency, said the "Iraqis will pay the price while he [Hussein] is in power." Iraq "will be nothing but a pariah state" until Hussein is overthrown, Gates added.

The chorus of statements shows Washington's determination to replace Hussein with a more reliable and subservient regime in Baghdad. Setting up such an imperialist protectorate was one of the primary goals of U.S. imperialism in its assault on Iraq. The continued economic strangulation will simply further brutalize working people in Iraq.

The imperial demands from Washington were made the same day the UN Security Council voted to establish a war-damage

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Iraqi Kurds press demands for autonomous region

BY SETH GALINSKY

Leaders of Kurdish organizations negotiating in Baghdad with the government of Saddam Hussein are pressing their demands for autonomy in traditionally Kurdish areas in northern Iraq.

The Kurds are demanding:

- recognition of an autonomous Kurdistan with the oil-rich city of Kirkuk as its capital and a portion of its oil revenues guaranteed to the Kurds.
- the withdrawal of Iraqi soldiers from most of the Kurdish areas.
- the incorporation of Kurdish guerrillas known as *pesh merga* (those who face death), into the local police and militias.
- the appointment of a transitional government in Iraq to prepare for elections to a national assembly that would draw up a new constitution, including recognition of autonomy.

Four Kurdish groups are participating in the negotiations in Baghdad with the Saddam Hussein government: the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the People's Party of Kurdistan, the Kurdistan Socialist Party, and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP). The negotiations are being led by Massoud Barzani, head of the KDP, the largest of the Kurdish groups.

In an attempt to defeat the decades-long fight for Kurdish rights, the Hussein regime has razed 5,000 Kurdish villages since the early 1970s and carried out numerous massacres. He also attempted to Arabize cities like Kirkuk by forcibly deporting Kurds and replacing them with Arab workers.

U.S. opposes Iraqi 'dismemberment'

The latest rebellion against the rule of Hussein's Baathist Party began after the halt of offensive operations by Washington in late February. Hussein organized his elite armored units to crush the uprising. More than

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Antiregime upsurge shakes South Korea

BY GEORGE BUCHANAN

An upsurge of student-led protests, focusing on the fight for democratic rights, the reunification of Korea, and the resignation of the government of President Roh Tae Woo, has rapidly gained momentum since late April. This wave of protests is the most significant since 1987-88, when protests led to the downfall of the government led by Chun Doo Hwan.

Confronted by massive and repeated demonstrations, the government has alternated between attempts at concessions in order to head off a widening of the protests and brutal repression.

Demonstrations began April 20 with the visit of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. He was met by a 10,000-strong demonstration in Seoul. The protesters opposed the Soviet regime's growing economic and po-

litical ties to the government of South Korea, which they see as a betrayal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK — North Korea) and the fight for reunification of the country.

Subsequent student marches were organized in response to police harassment of the protests. It was on one such march, at Myungji University in Seoul April 26, that 20-year-old Kang Kyung Dae was beaten to death with iron pipes by a group of plainclothes security police.

Roh moved quickly in an attempt to head off outrage at the murder. Interior Minister Ahn Eung Mo was dismissed the very next day, and five cops were arrested and charged with the killing.

Call for government to go

Tens of thousands of students and others

nevertheless took to the streets in repeated protests over the next several days, demanding the disbanding of the plainclothes security police unit and calling for the resignation of the government. During this period, four students and one young worker set themselves ablaze in separate incidents, in many cases shouting slogans against the Roh regime.

On May 6 Park Chang Soo, a union leader at Hanjin Heavy Industries who was being held in police custody, died after falling 65 feet from a hospital window. State television reported this death as a protest suicide but Park's fellow unionists disputed this. The next day police used sledgehammers to smash their way into the mortuary where hundreds of workers and students were guarding Park's body. The cops took away the body, which authorities said was wanted for an official autopsy.

Two days later the North Korean soccer team, which was in Seoul attending trials for a joint Korean team, was denied a request to pay respects to the slain student Kang Kyung Dae. The team held a memorial service in their hotel before returning to the North.

The peak of the demonstrations thus far was on May 9, when between 250,000 and 400,000 marched in cities across South Korea.

This demonstration had been originally called as a protest marking the first anniversary of the founding of the governing Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), which was cobbled together from Roh's minority parliamentary party and two opposition parties to guarantee Roh's government a parliamentary majority. A recent opinion poll showed only 18 percent of those surveyed expressing support for the DLP's policies.

Security Law 'amended'

Pressed by the scope of the demonstrations Roh railroaded an amended version of the hated National Security Law through parliament May 10. Reflecting the government's crisis, no debate was allowed on the reform. A 30 minute fistfight broke out on the floor of Parliament between members of the DLP and the opposition New Democratic Party immediately after the legislation was adopted.

The "reformed" National Security Law leaves in place many of the repressive features of the previous law, under which more than 1,200 political prisoners are now held in jail. In the three years of the Roh regime, 4,176 people have been detained under the National Security Law, almost as many as were arrested in eight years under Chun Doo Hwan.

Roh said May 11 that he was considering a mass amnesty of the jailed dissidents on the basis of the revised National Security Law.

But the very next day state prosecutors announced their intention to hunt down many of those they charged with "masterminding" the protest demonstrations. Their reported targets included leaders of some of the 55 groups organizing Kang's funeral.

In a similar reversal, an earlier comment by a senior member of Roh's DLP that he had issued orders to the Interior Minister to disband the plainclothes security police was then denied.

A funeral procession for Kang Kyung Dae, attended by over 60,000 workers and students, was held on May 14 in Seoul. Among those attending were Kim Young Joo, head of the human rights committee of the National Council of Churches, and parliamentary opposition leader Kim Dae Jung, who was caught in the clouds of tear gas unleashed against the marchers. The government refused to allow the procession to pass through the center of Seoul. Student leaders have declared that Kang's body will only be buried if this is allowed.

The next date for major protests was set for May 18 to mark the anniversary of the 1980 uprising in the city of Kwangju.

U.S. press minimizes events

The big-business media in the United States is making strenuous efforts to play down the significance and breadth of support for the current wave of protests in South Korea, which is commonly explained away as simply part of "traditional" protests held every year at springtime.

Many newspapers have emphasized a lack of "middle class" support for the protests, expressing relief that, because of this, the

Roh government is not under serious threat.

In an editorial analyzing the protests, derisively titled "Korean Fever," the *Wall Street Journal* minimized the significance of the police killing of the 20-year-old student, saying that public outrage against it "has already hit home in South Korea about as hard as can justifiably occur under a democratic system." The *Journal* dismissed those still protesting as "hard core radicals" who "don't want to face [the fact] that the country has already made the big jump away from dictatorship." The editorial praised the "remarkable restraint" of Roh's government in dealing with the demonstrators, and advised Roh not to step down.

Echoing Seoul's own propaganda, a front-page article in the *New York Times* May 17 raised the specter of "dark forces" — quite possibly inspired by the DPRK — commanding students and others to carry out protest suicides.

Attempts to portray the massive demonstrations as the work of a "radical fringe" bent on "violence," likewise reflect the views of the regime which is the target of those protests. The true source of the violence was pointed out in another *Times* article, which noted that "the Government appears unwilling to risk open free demonstrations, even amid considerable evidence that otherwise peaceful demonstrations turn violent only after students are blocked by a wall of police officers."

Broad support

Another report, from Reuters reporter Yeom Yoon Jeong in Seoul, indicated a different reality than that suggested by the stories about lack of broader support for these protests involving hundreds of thousands of students.

The report described the May 11 demonstration involving thousands in Seoul streets. At a main intersection "seven arrested students were made to kneel in the roadway," reported Yeom. "A few feet away, a group of passersby, many clad in business suits, argued with police and demanded the students be freed. 'Don't you hit the students with your club,' one middle-aged man told a young riot policeman, shaking his finger at the masked and helmeted face of the officer."

The U.S. government has had little to say about the month-long outpouring of protest. In a phone interview, a spokesperson for the State Department's East Asia and Pacific Affairs section said that the government "regretted the death of the student, regretted the violence, and hoped that there would be restraint on all sides. We hoped the demonstrations would be peaceful, and hoped any disturbances would come to an end."

Louisiana bill aims to eliminate abortion rights

BY RONI McCANN

A fine up to \$100,000 and 10 years of hard labor. That is the penalty just adopted by the Louisiana state legislature for doctors who perform abortions on women whose lives are not in danger or who are not victims of rape or incest. The measure is part of two bills denying the right of women to choose abortion. They were passed by the state House of Representatives May 13. The laws will now proceed to the state senate for a vote.

The bill that includes the provision for cases of rape or incest passed 71-32. The other, permitting abortion only to save the lives of the women, passed 68-33.

The governor of Louisiana, Buddy Roemer, said he would veto any bill that did not include exceptions for cases of rape, incest, or to save a woman's life. He said his lawyers will now study the two bills "to see if we are honoring women."

If the two measures become law, women in the state of Louisiana — despite the fact that abortion was decriminalized by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1973 — will only be able to obtain an abortion within the first 13 weeks of pregnancy if they are victims of rape or incest or if their lives are in danger.

Democrat Woody Jenkins wanted an even harsher law and had proposed that abortion only be allowed in cases to save a woman's life. Those who performed abortions could be thrown in jail for 15 years, Jenkins proposed.

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Mark Curtis defense effort wins backing during Mexico tour

BY HECTOR RAMOS

MEXICO CITY — The international campaign to free Mark Curtis, a packing-house worker framed-up by the police in Des Moines, Iowa, for his union and political activity, is winning important new support in Mexico.

The Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights sponsored a recent tour for a delegation of two unionists from the United States who are representing the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Priscilla Schenk, an auto worker from Des Moines and defense committee leader, and Martín Koppel, a Chicago steelworker and translator, met with union officials, rank-and-file workers, and human rights supporters as part of their two-week tour.

The commission is the largest nongovernmental human rights organization in Mexico. Commission leaders had heard of Curtis after he was framed-up on charges of rape for defending 17 coworkers from Mexico and El Salvador who had been arrested in an immigration raid at the Swift/Monfort plant where he worked.

The U.S. unionists began their tour by attending May Day labor rallies in the Mexican capital. Contingents of workers involved in struggles against union-busting and plant shutdowns participated in the rallies. Schenk and Koppel distributed literature about the fight to free Curtis and found workers eager to discuss his case. Many unionists described their own experiences in facing a brutal offensive by the employers and the government of Mexico. Many explained that there are numerous cases of framed-up workers in Mexico, but they were not aware the same thing happens in the United States.

A group of airline workers from the National Coordinating Committee of Fired Aeromexico Workers learned about the Curtis fight at the May Day rally and agreed to discuss it. They met with Schenk and Koppel a few days later and decided to endorse Curtis' defense committee.

Frame-ups in Mexico

Miguel Angel Mejorada, an aircraft mechanic, explained how he was framed up on charges of fraud and jailed for a month during the Aeromexico workers' fight against the government's decision to privatize the state-owned airline.

The Authentic Labor Front (FAT), a union federation that organizes 50,000 workers, invited the defense committee delegation to a May Day social at their union hall. At the event Schenk was called to the stage to address the 200 union members and relatives and received a loud ovation.

One of the workers explained the case of Victor García Domínguez, a leader of FAT in the northern state of Chihuahua, who, like Curtis, was framed-up and arrested on false charges of rape. García Domínguez had led a struggle of farmers that forced the resignation of the police chief and mayor of the town of Jiménez, where a farmer had been beaten to death by the cops. The false charges were eventually dropped and García freed.

The FAT leader agreed to send letters to the Iowa State Board of Parole demanding immediate parole for Curtis. The union federation had previously endorsed his case and circulated petitions for his release.

Electrical workers support fight

The Mexican Union of Electrical Workers (SME), which represents 45,000 workers at one of the two state-owned electrical power companies in the country, also decided to endorse the Curtis defense campaign. The SME is affiliated to the Mexican Workers Confederation (CTM), the largest union federation in Mexico. Jorge Sánchez and Antonia Durán, the union's general secretary and foreign relations secretary respectively, met with the delegation and explained that the SME, like many other unions in Mexico, is interested in developing closer ties with U.S. and Canadian unions because of the intense debate now unfolding in the Mexican labor movement around the proposed trade pact between governments of the three countries.

The Federation of Electrical Workers Unions of Latin American and the Caribbean, which Sánchez currently heads and which includes unions from Colombia to Panama and Cuba, became an endorser of the Curtis defense effort and pledged to join the campaign to demand parole for the jailed union activist.

The SME invited the defense delegation to a health fair it was cosponsoring with the Mexican Social Security Institute in the rural town of Nuevo Necaxa. Seven hundred SME members work at the local hydroelectric plant. At the fair, electrical workers gathered around the U.S. unionists to hear about Curtis. Many had heard about the police beating of Rodney King, a Black worker in Los Angeles, and reported similar instances of police brutality in Mexico.

Struggle at Ford Motor Co.

Auto workers at the Ford Motor Company in Cuautitlán, just north of Mexico City, invited the Curtis representatives to the plant gate where Ford workers organize regular actions demanding the reinstatement of 120 fired workers. One of the victimized workers, Gabriel Abogado, 27, described the 16-month struggle by auto workers to regain their jobs and to win the right to elect their own local union leadership.

The 3,800 workers at the plant held a series of demonstrations and sitdowns when the company fired the union's newly elected executive board, Abogado said. A group of 100 armed thugs entered the plant with the collaboration of Ford management and fired on the protesting unionists, wounding eight and killing one. Following a two-week strike, the company shut down the plant. Ford reopened it later, refusing to rehire 800 workers. The victimized workers formed the Ford Workers' Democratic Movement. Of the 800, 120 are still fighting for their reinstatement.

After 30 members of the group met with Schenk and Koppel, the organization endorsed the defense campaign.

The defense committee representatives were invited to attend the premiere of a documentary about the Ford workers struggle held in Mexico City at the headquarters of the National Union of Education Workers. Auto workers, teachers, oil workers, and others attended the event. After the showing of the video, Schenk was asked to speak about the fight for freedom for Curtis. Gustavo Aguilar Reyes spoke about the kidnapping and brutal beating of his brother, Braulio, three days earlier. The two brothers are oil workers involved in a fight against the closing of a state-owned refinery that would result in the permanent layoff of thousands.

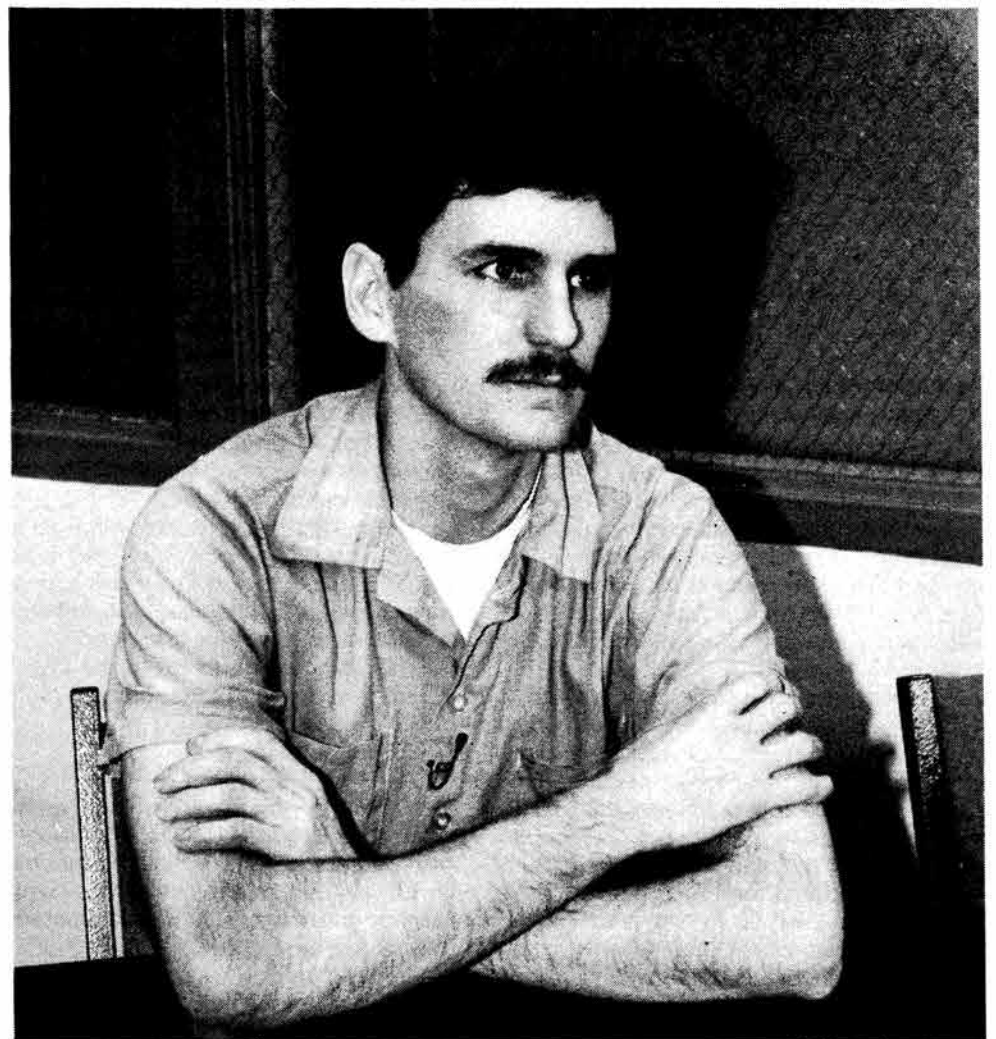
Schenk and Koppel also met with the September 19 Garment Workers Union. Evangelina Corona, the union's general secretary, said she had heard of the case in 1988 and followed it closely. "That rape charge against Mark was a farce," she said.

Corona described the union's struggle to organize garment workers, whose wages are barely above the \$4 a day legal minimum wage. The union was born after the September 19, 1985, earthquake that devastated Mexico City. Hundreds of seamstresses working in dilapidated sweatshops were among those killed in the quake. Plant shutdowns have now left three-quarters of the 4,000 union members unemployed.

The Garment Workers Union signed on as an endorser of the Curtis defense committee.

The defense delegation won the endorsement of the People's Urban Movement, a coalition of neighborhood organizations. Rosario Ibarra de Piedra, a long-time Curtis endorser and leader of the Mexican Committee to Defend Prisoners, Persecuted, Disappeared, and Political Exiles, renewed her support and took materials to encourage other human rights activists to join the campaign to win parole for Curtis.

Schenk and Koppel were interviewed on a popular talk show on Radio Education, which has 300,000 listeners.



Militant/Stu Singer
Mark Curtis in prison. The Federation of Electrical Workers Unions of Latin America became an endorser of the Curtis fight during two-week tour hosted by the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights.

Bush's crime bill attacks the rights of immigrants

BY DAVID COLE

On March 12 when President Bush unveiled his domestic crime bill, he urged Congress to enact the measure as a way of welcoming home the soldiers who fought in the gulf. The crime bill's provisions for deporting foreign "terrorists" do parallel some aspects of Operation Desert Storm, but not ones Bush would like to acknowledge. Just as the Administration kept the press from observing its military effort in the Middle East, it now proposes secrecy in proceedings to expel immigrants from this country. And in both initiatives, while the Administration talks of the need to punish heinous crimes, the main victims of its actions are not criminals but foreign citizens with the wrong political allegiances.

Under the Bush crime bill, the government could decline to reveal publicly any evidence it deems confidential and which it seeks to use to deport a foreign citizen for "terrorist activity." Moreover, it can conceal the evidence not only from the public but from the foreign citizens themselves, thereby depriving them of any chance to defend themselves.

Some might consider such drastic action warranted to respond to terrorist threats. But the right to due process of law does not turn on the gravity of the government's accusations; we give as much if not more procedural protection to those charged with serial murders or treason as to those charged with income tax evasion.

More disturbing is the government's sweeping interpretation of the word "terrorism." To the Immigration and Naturalization Service, "terrorist activity" includes not only setting a bomb but also fundraising or recruiting members for any organization or government body that has engaged in unlawful violent activity. Thus the definition turns not on what a person has done but with whom he or she has associated. Obviously this treads on First Amendment right of association. In a secret trial, who is to know if the government's "evidence" consists of illegal acts or constitutionally protected associations?

The government's definition of "terrorist activity" is so broad that, if consistently applied, it would cover all foreign citizens who have raised funds for the African National Congress, the government of Israel, the Irish Republican Army or the Kurdish rebels in Iraq. Of course, the "terrorism" label is not applied consistently. Those who use violence to achieve ends consistent with Administration policy are "freedom fighters." The likelihood of selective enforcement underscores the injustice of deportation trials held in secret.

tice of deportation trials held in secret.

The government would no doubt find the secrecy provisions convenient. For the past four years, it has been attempting to deport seven Palestinians and a Kenyan who, it alleges, are associated with a "terrorist" organization, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (P.F.L.P.). The F.B.I. investigated the eight for three years and concluded, according to then-F.B.I. Director William Webster, that none of them had engaged in any criminal activity, much less terrorism. Nevertheless the I.N.S. arrested the eight at gunpoint and seeks deportation for their alleged support of a terrorist group, claiming to have "confidential" information that supports its charges. Under the new crime bill, the I.N.S. could summarily deport these people without ever revealing what, if anything, it has against them.

In another case, the I.N.S. has been trying without success to expand a little-used provision in the existing immigration laws to do what President Bush's crime bill would do explicitly — authorize secret trials. Existing law allows the I.N.S. to use undisclosed information to keep foreign citizens out of the country if disclosure of the information would be "prejudicial to the public interest." Previously this law has been used only against those who have not yet entered the country and thus are held to have no constitutional right. Now the I.N.S. is attempting to use it against Fouad Rafeedie, a Palestinian-born permanent resident who has lived here peacefully for fifteen years. The government claims he belongs to the P.F.L.P. and that in 1986 he attended a P.L.O.-connected youth conference in Syria. Two federal courts have preliminarily enjoined the proceeding on the ground that it would deny Rafeedie his due process right to a public trial.

The terrorism provisions in the crime bill would hide such government actions from the public. As President Bush proved in the Persian Gulf, enforced secrecy can avoid much embarrassment. But as the Framers of our Constitution recognized long ago, and as we were all recently reminded by the videotape of Los Angeles cops beating a suspect, the light of public scrutiny is crucial to keeping government power in check. The new domestic order should not sanction a return to the seventeenth-century Star Chamber.

David Cole, a professor at Georgetown University Law Center, is a volunteer staff attorney at the Center for Constitutional Rights. Reprinted from the 'Nation' magazine/The Nation, Inc. © 1991

El Salvador talks open the doors to possible cease-fire

BY SETH GALINSKY

After a year of intensive negotiations, the U.S.-backed government of El Salvador and the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), have reached a series of agreements that both sides say could open the door to a permanent cease-fire.

In the course of the civil war, which began in 1980, 70,000 people have died, most at the hands of the Salvadoran military or right-wing death squads.

Negotiations between the government and the FMLN have taken place on and off during the last decade. But each time the discussions broke down due to the refusal of the government to make concessions that would put an end to the repression against unions, peasant associations, and students; dismantle death squads, which are closely tied to the military; and make it possible for supporters of the rebel organizations to openly function, organize, and fight for their rights without fear of reprisal.

The latest agreements, a series of reforms to the Salvadoran constitution, were agreed to at a meeting between the FMLN and the government in Mexico City. They were then approved with modifications by the outgoing Legislative Assembly April 30. But before the agreements can take effect they must still be ratified by the incoming assembly, which was elected on March 10.

'Wheels on the negotiations'

The reforms approved by the assembly include setting up a United Nations-designated commission to investigate charges of killings by both the government and the FMLN, changing the composition of the council that oversees elections, placing the police and security apparatus under civilian control, and creating a new intelligence agency independent of the armed forces and directly under the control of the president.

Joaquín Villalobos, one of five members of the FMLN central command, stated, "This accord has put wheels on the negotiations."

The Legislative Assembly altered some of the proposals coming out of the Mexico meeting. But under pressure from the U.S. government, the assembly approved most of the agreement and added to the election council a representative of the Democratic Convergence (CD), a coalition of three parties that has worked closely with the FMLN.

The assembly also proposed amending the constitution to reinstate the death penalty, a move strongly condemned by the FMLN and labor union leaders.

Leading up to the reforms, the FMLN did not call a boycott of the March assembly elections as it has in past contests.

In a move to advance the negotiations by increasing the chances for left-wing parties to be elected, the government had earlier approved an expansion of the number of deputies from 60 to 84.

The Democratic Convergence won eight seats in the new assembly with 12 percent of the vote, putting it in fourth place. The Nationalist Democratic Union (UDN), which is led by the Communist Party, won one seat. This is the first time since the start of the civil war that the parties that make up the CD or the UDN have had seats in the parliament. Arena — whose party anthem is "El Salvador will be the tomb where the reds will end up" — won 39 seats and 44 percent of the vote. Second place went to the Christian Democrats.

'From the Haiti to the Chicago model'

The Democratic Convergence charged that it was denied third place due to vote fraud. "We are moving from the model of Haiti to the model of Mayor Daley's Chicago," said Rubén Zamora, a leader of the CD coalition. But, he said, the fraud "does not erase the optimism."

Armando Calderón Sol, the re-elected mayor of San Salvador and president of Arena, said, "It is precisely because of the participation of the radical left that this election is important."

After the vote, Salvador Samayoa, a leader of the FMLN, stated, "It is very probable that this was the last wartime election."

The new Legislative Assembly, which took office May 1, elected Roberto Angulo from Arena as president of the body and Zamora as second vice president. The first vice president is from Arena.

Zamora later met privately with Roberto D'Aubuisson, a leader of Arena who is notorious as one of the key organizers of right-wing death squads, to discuss the distribution of leadership posts in the assembly.

While negotiations between the FMLN and the government continue, serious obstacles to a cease-fire remain.

Inspired by Nicaraguan revolution

Inspired by the victory of the Nicaraguan revolution in 1979, El Salvador's workers and peasants stepped up their battle for land, union and democratic rights, and for profound social and economic transformations.

The "14 families," as the country's capitalist class is popularly known, control more than 50 percent of the land and have violently resisted any moves toward reforms. More than half of the rural population has no land.

The FMLN was formed in 1980 by a coalition of five guerrilla organizations, as repression by the government increased.

Finding every opportunity for legal protest blocked off, many young workers and students joined the growing rebel movement in the countryside. Repression continued under a succession of U.S.-backed governments.

In the early 1980s the FMLN looked to the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions as examples of what should be fought for in El Salvador. The revolutionary coalition said it was fighting to take power out of the hands of the landlord-capitalist regime to open up further advances for the workers and peasants of the region.

FMLN leaders now say that they no longer seek power but the "demilitarization" of Salvadoran society and guarantees that would allow open participation in the political life of the country. They call for a "social pact" between workers, capitalists, and the government to develop the country. This can only be done, they say, by distributing land to poor peasants and guaranteeing union rights.

U.S. backs limited reforms

The Salvadoran government has received backing for its policies from Washington.

For 1991 alone the U.S. government authorized \$230 million in economic aid for El Salvador. The U.S. government gives more aid to El Salvador than any other country in Latin America.

Washington has pushed for the Salvadoran government to make some concessions to gain a cease-fire. The Bush administration and the U.S. Congress have held up half of \$85 million in direct military aid allocated for 1991 because of continued delays in prosecuting high-ranking military officials responsible for the assassination of five Jesuit priests in November 1989. Even with the aid cut, dozens of U.S. military advisers still help the Salvadoran army in the war.

"The Bush administration wants to see a settlement of this issue, but it is also doing what it can to get the best deal for its client (the Salvadoran military)," said William Goodfellow, director of the Center for International Policy, in an interview with the *Wall Street Journal*.

David Asman, an editor of the *Journal*, said a solution to the civil war should be found because it "certainly doesn't encourage foreign investment."

While pressing the government in San Salvador to make some changes, Washington has continued to pressure the FMLN to put down its arms and surrender. The guerrilla organization has demonstrated its capacity and determination to continue attacks on the army and sectors of the economy until at least its basic reform demands are met. Faced with the inability to crush this opposition, Washington wants an end to the civil war with the Salvadoran regime making as few concessions as possible. The government of the Soviet Union, which in the past aided the



Militant/Seth Galinsky

The "La Mascota" barrio in San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador. Since 1980, 70,000 people have died in El Salvador's civil war.

FMLN, has pushed the FMLN to make additional concessions as well.

Death squads continue

While maximizing the political pressure, the Salvadoran armed forces and death squads haven't stopped their policies of assassinations, torture, and disappearances of activists.

According to the nongovernmental Human Rights Commission, 291 people were killed during April at the hands of the government and right-wing groups. Another 45 were kidnapped and 165 arrested.

The FMLN has pressed for the purging of the armed forces of those responsible for human rights abuses, as well as civilian control of the military before a cease-fire is possible.

If changes are not made, "What assurance would any [rebel] commander have that he will not be assassinated?" asked Zamora.

Although some forces in the capitalist class in El Salvador have indicated they

would like to reach an agreement with the FMLN, others fear that any concessions would threaten capitalist control of land and industry.

Before the vote on the constitutional reforms, some right-wing groups took out advertisements threatening any "traitors" who voted for the reforms.

Resentment is especially strong among the tight-knit officer corps of the 45,000-man army, which is closely tied to the most right-wing sectors of the capitalist oligarchy.

The *Washington Post* reported that Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani and Defense Minister Gen. René Emilio Ponce met for hours with 100 army officers to "calm their fears" about government concessions.

Labor movement under attack

In a telephone interview from San Salvador, Guillermo Rojas, a leader of the National Unity of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS), a coalition of union, community

Continued on Page 12

Mechanic outfit's campaign exposes procompany stance

BY ELLEN BERMAN

ATLANTA — Some 8,000 mechanics and cleaners at Northwest Airlines are currently voting on who should be their official bargaining agent — the International Association of Machinists (IAM), to which they currently belong, or the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA), a company-minded craft outfit.

If the majority of workers abstain from voting, then 6,250 mechanics, 1,400 cleaners, several hundred janitors, and about 100 inspectors at Northwest would automatically become nonunion.

Both AMFA and the IAM officials have delayed workers at the Northwest Maintenance hangar here with leaflets, hats, buttons, and other materials. This has created a great deal of discussion on the job as workers decide which way to vote.

AMFA has been holding meetings for Northwest workers in Detroit, Minneapolis, Memphis, and Atlanta. A meeting in Atlanta April 25 drew 150 employees, mostly mechanics.

At the meeting, AMFA representatives blamed the Machinists union for all the ills suffered by the work force. No mention was made of the fact that it is the employers who have demanded concessions from airline workers over the last decade.

During the meeting, AMFA representatives from Trans World Airlines (TWA) and American Airlines, where raiding operations are also under way, reported the association is getting workers at United Airlines to sign cards authorizing an election. They also said they are talking to Delta mechanics as well.

Workers at United and TWA are organized by the Machinists, American is organized by the Teamsters, and Delta is a nonunion carrier. "If AMFA wins at Northwest, American will be next," said Chuch Underwood, an AMFA representative who works at TWA.

The AMFA representatives compared

their association to the Air Line Pilots Association, who, as Mike Lowe put it, is "not known for strikes, and usually sides with management." Lowe works at Trump Shuttle, where 89 mechanics are organized by AMFA.

AMFA has a narrow craft union approach and its perspective of total reliance on lawyers rather than the membership in any dispute with the company was made crystal clear in the meeting.

O.V. Delle-Femine, AMFA's National Director, explained, "We don't need numbers... we need pension actuaries to negotiate your benefits, not mechanics or baggage handlers... The numbers game is a scam. We use legal expertise. All our commas are in the right place. Lawyers run the arbitration, not the union leadership."

Originally, AMFA sought to represent only mechanics, but the National Mediation Board ruled that mechanics and cleaners would be classified together in the election.

During the meeting, Delle-Femine said, "Today's market can't afford across-the-board wage increases. Mechanics should let the ramp workers take concessions, not us." Many union members who work as cleaners think he would be saying the same thing about them too if he could.

AMFA tries to take advantage of the frustration felt by many union members over the IAM officialdom's failure to stand up to the bosses or organize a fight against the employers' anti-union assault over the past decade.

However, AMFA's perspective helps to further weaken the labor movement by pointing unionists away from a common struggle against the bosses' concession demands. Instead, AMFA puts forward a perspective that deepens class collaboration with the employers and deepens and institutionalizes divisions within the work force.

Plans under way for target sales week

BY RONI McCANN

In what ways do the results of the U.S.-led war on Iraq show U.S. imperialism's vulnerability, rather than its invincibility, against the struggles of working people in the world today? What are the reasons the war and its outcome reinforced the "Vietnam Syndrome" rather than help the U.S. rulers boost the confidence of working people in the policies of the U.S. government, its armed forces, and its officer corps? How did Washington's military "victory" turn into a political fiasco for the U.S. rulers? Why are more wars and a deeper economic crisis of world capitalism facing working people in the coming years?

These are among the many political questions that supporters of the *Militant* are concentrating on discussing with working people and youth in the drive to meet the challenge of selling 3,225 subscriptions to the socialist weekly. Supporters are organizing to get the drive on schedule through a one-week sales blitz beginning May 25.

The subscription drive is the best way supporters have to reach out to all those who are interested in hearing the facts and an explanation of Washington's brutal war against the Iraqi people. Because of the war's

outcome — new mass refugee flows, more unstable regimes in the region, and accelerated inter-imperialist rivalry — many who were won to back the war drive under patriotic pressures, and others are interested in getting publications that tell the truth.

Militant supporters are aiming to win 6,100 new readers to the socialist press by June 15. To make our goals we need to sign up 545 new *Militant* readers every week. Supporters signed up 99 readers during the first week and 265 the second. This past week 253 new subscribers to the paper were won.

To accomplish the goals supporters are reaching out with the paper in a broad and aggressive way to working people and youth in their communities and at political events; on the job and at union meetings, at factory gates and mine portals, at high schools and around college campuses before students leave for the summer; and in rural areas.

The *New International* is also part of their arsenal. It is a Marxist magazine written for workers and farmers the world over engaged in struggles against the employer class and who are looking for a fighting perspective — one that builds on the lessons learned by fellow fighters throughout history.

Two new issues of the magazine containing analysis and debate on important developments in world politics have just been shipped to readers and distributors around the world.

New International no. 7 features the lead article "Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq." Issue no. 8 is entitled "Che Guevara, Cuba, and the Road to Socialism."

Partisans of *New International* are also on a fundraising drive to finance the publishing of the magazine and its upcoming sister editions: *Nueva Internacional* in Spanish and *Nouvelle Internationale* in French.

Socialist unionists step up efforts

Socialist workers active in industrial unions are adding their weight to the fight to put the circulation drive on target.

This week supporters signed up 63 new readers among fellow workers on the job.

Young Socialists urge prosecution of cop in Washington, D.C.

Demanding the prosecution of the cop who shot Daniel Enrique Gómez, an immigrant worker in Washington, D.C., on May 5, the chapter of the Young Socialist Alliance in the city distributed hundreds of copies of a one-page statement.

Gómez, "like many working people, was the victim of the racist police force which protects the interests of the ruling rich," the statement says. Cop brutality "is an example of the kind of brutal acts that working people are subjected to on a daily basis in cities across the country."

Members of the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA) are high school and college students and young workers. They are active in dozens of cities across the United States in the fight against imperialism and war, racist attacks, assaults on women's rights, union-busting, and government chipping away at democratic rights.

In Washington, D.C., YSA members have joined the protests against the police shooting and subsequent curfew, deployment of hundreds of police, and scores of arrests ordered by the city's mayor, Sharon Pratt Dixon.

The shooting of Gómez "would have gone unanswered if not for the actions of hundreds of young people" who took to the streets, the statement says.

Noting that Gómez immigrated from Central America, like many who live in the area put under curfew, the YSA statement says the police attack "comes as no surprise, as [the government's] foreign policy is an extension of domestic policy. The U.S. rulers don't consider us any different from working people in El Salvador or Iraq."

"The capitalist system — based upon the profits of a minority and the exploitation of the vast majority — can only exist through war, racism, oppression, and police brutality."

Socialist workers in Australia, who are members of the Metal Trades Federation of Unions, joined the drive with a goal of selling five *Militant* subscriptions and one to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and six copies of *New International*. Three metal workers have already decided to get the *Militant* each week.

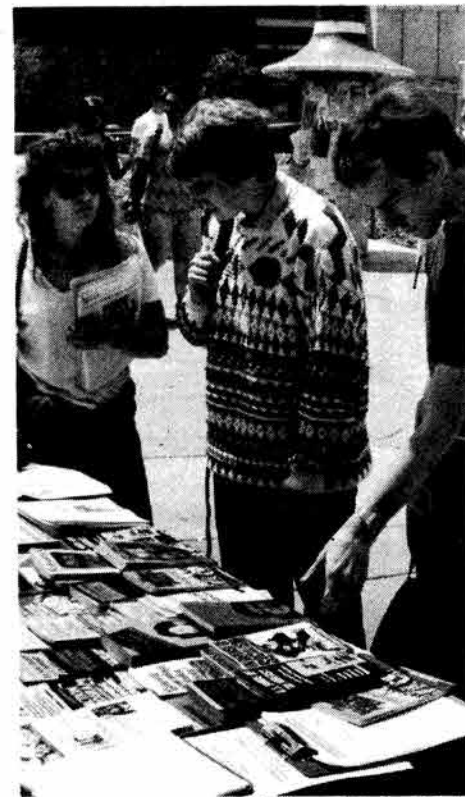
Together with a socialist worker active in the union, *Militant* supporters in New York who sell the press at a United Food and Commercial Workers-organized meatpacking plant have sold subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* at the gate for the second week in a row.

Special target week teams

During the eight-day target week, teams of *Militant* supporters will be hitting the road. Supporters will also be fielding three-day teams over the holiday weekend. This past weekend supporters from Utah traveled to Missoula, Montana. In the first two days, nine students and other new readers were won and three students signed up to join the Young Socialist Alliance.

We urge readers to double their efforts to put the circulation campaign on schedule and make the sales drive a success.

The past week three readers took sales drive goals and joined the campaign from Ft. Madison, Iowa; Mexico City, Mexico; and San Juan, Puerto Rico.



Militant/Marina Sitrin
Circulation drive is reaching out to all those seeking explanation of Washington's war on Iraq and its outcome.

Militant supporters who have a vacation coming at work, or are unemployed or laid off, or are out of school for the summer are urged to volunteer on sales teams to win new subscribers. To join a team just call the *Militant* at (212) 243-6392.

Selling the socialist press to unionists

Union	% Sold (Goal)	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES				
ACTWU	15%	33	5	30
IAM	34%	65	22	87
ILGWU	5%	20	1	10
IUE	11%	93	10	25
OCAW	14%	42	6	55
UAW	20%	87	17	32
UFCW	13%	143	19	35
UMWA	28%	50	14	19
USWA	54%	46	25	50
UTU	107%	30	32	50
TOTAL	25%	609	151	393
SHOULD BE	43%	261	112	112
AUSTRALIA				
MTFU	50%	6	3	6
SHOULD BE	42%	3	3	0
BRITAIN				
AEU	7%	15	1	11
NUM	38%	8	3	5
RMT	36%	22	8	10
TGWU	13%	8	1	3
TOTAL	25%	53	13	29
SHOULD BE	43%	23	23	8
CANADA				
ACTWU	0%	7	0	2
CAW	33%	9	3	10
IAM	7%	14	1	8
USWA	0%	16	0	11
TOTAL	9%	46	4	31
SHOULD BE	43%	20	20	9
NEW ZEALAND				
NZEW	0%	4	0	3
NZMWU	40%	10	4	5
FTWU	10%	10	1	3
UFCW	57%	7	4	3
TOTAL	29%	31	9	14
SHOULD BE	42%	13	13	6
SWEDEN				
FOOD WORKERS	0%	6	0	0
METAL	0%	5	0	3
TRANSPORT	0%	1	0	1
TOTAL	0%	12	0	4
SHOULD BE	42%	5	5	1

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. **Australia:** Metal Trades Federation of Unions. **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. **New Zealand:** NZEW, New Zealand Engineers Union; NZMWU, New Zealand Meat Workers Union; FTWU, Food and Textile Workers Union; and UFCW, United Food and Chemical Workers Union. **Sweden:** Food Workers, Svenska Lirsmidsarbetareförbundet; Metal, Svenska Metallarbetareförbundet; and Transport, Svenska Transportarbetareförbundet.

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

Sales Drive Scoreboard

Areas	The <i>Militant</i>			Perspectiva		New Int'l*		L'inter*		Total	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES											
Austin, Minn.	50	22	44%	10	3	20	0	2	1	82	26
Price, Utah	50	17	34%	9	4	14	1	2	0	75	22
Phoenix	30	9	30%	10	4	20	13	1	0	61	26
Baltimore	66	18	27%	10	4	31	9	3	0	110	31
Birmingham, Ala.	85	22	26%	8	0	43	19	2	0	138	41
Seattle	89	23	26%	33	4	45	30	3	0	170	57
Charleston, WV	60	15	25%	5	0	30	11	2	0	97	26
Detroit	80	19	24%	8	3	40	12	2	0	130	34
Omaha, Neb.	65	15	23%	10	2	18	3	2	0	95	20
Salt Lake City	105	23	22%	18	6	50	0	2	0	175	29
Philadelphia	60	13	22%	21	0	56	22	2	0	139	35
Pittsburgh	75	16	21%	3	0	40	14	2	1	120	31
Boston	100	19	19%	25	6	50	0	10	2	185	27
San Francisco	135	25	19%	70	12	110	52	5	0	320	89
Chicago	130	24	18%	30	3	70	0	5	0	235	27
New York	200	36	18%	75	25	150	43	15	1	440	105
St. Louis	100	17	17%	5	0	48	9	2	1	155	27
Los Angeles	150	25	17%	80	16	124	51	3	0	357	92
Atlanta	70	11	16%	10	0	55	31	2	0	137	42
Twin Cities, Minn.	115	18	16%	15	4	53	29	2	0	185	51
Morgantown, WV	65	10	15%	5	0	40	0	2	0	112	10
Washington, DC	80	12	15%	13	2	50	33	2	0	145	47
Des Moines, Iowa	98	14	14%	15	4	35	12	2	0	150	30
Houston	65	9	14%	20	3	35	11	2	0	122	23
Cleveland	85	10	12%	10	2	33	0	2	0	130	12
Newark, NJ	110	11	10%	40	7	140	51	10	5	300	74
Greensboro, NC	50	4	8%	10	3	34	8	2	0	96	15
Miami	67	5	7%	25	0	45	29	15	0	152	34
Albany, N.Y.	15	0	0%	2	0	10	0	0	0	27	0
U.S. TOTAL	2,450	462	19%	595	117	1,489	493	106	11	4,640	1,083
AUSTRALIA											
BRITAIN	100	13	13%	15	1	90	36	5	0	210	50
London	50	7	14%	5	0	45	14	2	0	102	21
Sheffield	50	11	22%	3	0	75	44	2	0	130	55
Other Britain	0	2	-	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
BRITAIN TOTAL	200	33	16%	23	2	210	94	9	0	442	129
CANADA											
Vancouver	65	13	20%	15	8	40	28	5	1	125	50
Montréal**	75	11	15%	15	6	75	38	35	4	200	59
Toronto	80	8	10%	30	3	50	10	5	0	165	21
CANADA TOTAL	220	32	15%	60	17	165	76	45	5	490	130
FRANCE											
ICELAND	5	0	0%	5	0	5	0	15	0	30	0
MEXICO	30	10	33%	1	0	12	6	1	0	44	16
NEW ZEALAND	0	0	0	15	6	0	0	0	0	15	6
Wellington	38	35	92%	1	1	30	8	1	0	70	44
Christchurch	38	17	45%	1	1	30	10	1	0	70	28
Auckland	40	14	35%	3	1	40	14	1	0	84	29
Other N.Z.	6	6	100%	1	0	1	0	0	0	8	6
N. Z. TOTAL	122	72	59%	6	3	101	32	3	0	232	107
PUERTO RICO											
SWEDEN**	2	0	0%	10	0	1	0	1	0	14	0
TOTAL	3,074	617	20%	738	153	2,025	713	183	16	6,020	1,499
SHOULD BE	3,225	1,315	43%	725	316	1,950	865	200	78	6,100	2,574

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

** Raised *New International* Goal

How Cuban people are fighting for food self-sufficiency

BY JOHN HAWKINS

PINAR DEL RIO PROVINCE, Cuba — Aside from its name, the José Martí Agricultural Cooperative in this westernmost province of Cuba is no different from hundreds of others like it across the island.

Composed of 50 families who brought to the cooperative their tools and land, the José Martí produces primarily sugarcane.

Even a brief description of what has been accomplished through collective labor — to raise production and the living standards of cooperative members — is enough to give the lie to the capitalist propagandists who attempt to paint a picture of a crisis-ridden Cuban socialism.

According to that vision Cuba is doomed to follow the path of the Eastern European workers states and the Soviet Union, where decades of political and economic misrule and mismanagement have brought those countries to the brink of virtual economic collapse.

Unlike the regimes of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, however — which seek a way out of the economic crisis they face through deeper integration of their economies into the world capitalist market — Cuba is charting a course of deepening the socialist revolution begun 32 years ago.

This course, challenging enough in the face of Washington's 30-year economic blockade designed to strangle the revolution, is made even more difficult by the reduction in trade between Cuba and the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe — one of the consequences of the crisis of these regimes.

This reduction has resulted in having to curtail use of petroleum products and other resources, causing dislocations in production and necessitating increased rationing and energy conservation.

All imported goods from these countries have been disrupted to some degree, including food.

Making up for the shortages already caused by the reduction in trade, preparing for the possibility of a total cessation of this trade, and creating the conditions for survival of even a complete naval blockade of the island are among the goals of production at the José Martí cooperative.

And it is with this in mind that the cooperative, like hundreds of others across Cuba, has the goal of being self-sufficient in food to the greatest degree possible.

To that end the cooperative maintains its own dairy and herd of cows. In addition, pigs, sheep, rabbits, ducks, chicken, and fish are raised for the consumption of the cooperative members.

David Morales, an agricultural engineer attached to the cooperative, said, "Our goal is to produce food for ourselves in order to be able to continue producing for others."

Feed for livestock being raised at the José Martí is all grown there. This has meant adapting feed crops such as sorghum, soybeans, and sunflowers — grown in colder climates — to conditions in Cuba.

This has also meant, Morales explained, trying to reproduce a natural system of production and reproduction.

Along those lines, the pigs raised here are fed cane and cane byproducts — a source rich in carbohydrates — to which corn, sorghum, and other feed grains are added.

The waste from the pigs goes to a lagoon. There, the toxins in the waste are neutralized, releasing the nutrients not digested by the pigs to feed carp. Algae grown in the lagoon also serves to feed the ducks.

The cooperative also raises rabbits for consumption. Their waste serves to cultivate earthworms. An excellent source of protein, the earthworms are then used to feed the chickens raised at the cooperative.

The cooperative is totally self-sufficient in dairy products and meat, and is beginning to develop vegetable production.

Begun at factories

On a smaller scale, similar projects are underway at factories across Cuba as well.

At the November 30 Agricultural Industrial Complex, which refines 7,000 tons of sugar per day, workers are as equally proud of their ability to produce most of the food

for meals consumed at the plant as of their ability to meet their production goals for the past five years.

Pork, poultry, and fish are produced along the lines used at the José Martí Cooperative. In addition hydroponic vegetable cultivation has recently been introduced.

These two examples from Pinar del Rio underscore the serious approach being taken to the question of food production here, especially in the framework of the reduction in trade with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

In his April 19 speech celebrating the 30th anniversary of Cuba's victory over the mercenary invasion at Playa Girón (Bay of Pigs), published as a special supplement to the April 23 edition of the Cuban daily *Granma*, Cuban president Fidel Castro pointed to the great efforts being made to guarantee Cuba's food supply and the challenge this poses to Cuban agriculture.

Food imports from the Soviet Union constitute an important part of total food imports, the Cuban leader said. So far this year deliveries have kept pace with the rate of delivery achieved during the last third of last year.

Nonetheless, increasing agricultural production both for domestic consumption and export has been projected by the Cuban government as a way to help overcome the difficulties imposed by a reduction in trade.

As part of the "special period" program — designed to meet the new situation confronting the economy — the food plan, encompassing several elements, has been inaugurated.

Cuban workers and youth have responded to the challenge of fulfilling the goals of the food plan by participating in volunteer efforts to increase food production.

Brigades that work for a two-week period in planting, harvesting, and other agricultural tasks have been mobilized across the country. New camps to house participants in the brigades have been built, with others under construction.

In addition, two-year volunteer contingents have also been organized. Representatives of the 31 agricultural contingents that draw their membership from Havana were at the head of the May Day March of the Fighting People in that city.

One of the achievements Castro singled out in his speech was the expanded irrigation of cane fields expected to reach between 80,000 and 90,000 hectares. Carried out by 201 volunteer agricultural brigades, work has often been forced to cease for several weeks on this project due to lack of fuel. Through the efforts of the workers involved, however, much of the time lost has been made up.

Among other accomplishments pointed to were the construction of hundreds of dairies; the sowing over the past year of more pasture than in the entire history of the revolution; and the outstanding cane harvest, the basis for the production to date of 6.6 million tons of sugar.

Another aspect of the food plan under discussion in Cuba is the establishment of permanent agricultural communities. An article in the May 3 issue of *Granma* reports that planning has begun for 18 of 42 communities for Havana province.

The establishment of such communities is not a totally new idea. Such settlements were undertaken in the early days of the Cuban revolution.

The projected construction of the new agricultural communities, according to the May 8 *Granma*, aims to place the progress being made in agriculture on an even more secure footing. By encouraging an increasing number of workers who gain training and experience in agriculture to remain working permanently in that field, the productivity of agricultural labor can be increased.

The planning for these new communities, according to *Granma*, is being done so as to ensure that they are comfortable and attractive, combining such advantages of urban life as the availability of schools, easy access to medical care, and cultural and sports facilities with the advantages of rural life.

In addition to the construction of new communities and improvements in existing agricultural communities, wages of agricultural workers — among the lowest in the country — are slated to be raised.



Militant/Wendy Lyons

One of many camps in Cuba built to house volunteer brigades that mobilize workers to countryside for two weeks to plant and harvest.

7 cities raise goals for fund; supporters rally in Sweden

As the scoreboard below indicates, supporters of *New International* magazine have raised their goals in 7 cities, increasing the total amount pledged to the New International Fund by \$4,500. The fund ends June 1.

NEW INTERNATIONAL FUND

Collected:
\$47,790

Goal:
\$75,000



Scoreboard

Area	Goal	Paid	% of Total
Houston	1,500	1,771	118%
Miami	1,200	1,133	94%
Charleston, W. Va.*	1,900	1,700	89%
Atlanta	2,300	2,044	89%
San Francisco*	5,000	4,183	84%
Cleveland	1,600	1,301	81%
San Diego	1,000	795	80%
Salt Lake City*	2,500	1,825	73%
Austin, Minn.*	1,000	725	73%
Los Angeles	6,000	4,257	71%
St. Louis	2,000	1,410	71%
Detroit	2,100	1,435	68%
Pittsburgh*	2,350	1,565	67%
Boston	1,500	946	63%
Albany, N.Y.	350	220	63%
Des Moines	1,000	609	61%
Omaha, Neb.	750	435	58%
Birmingham, Ala.	1,750	955	55%
Chicago*	3,100	1,495	48%
New York	7,000	3,362	48%
Newark*	4,300	1,962	46%
Phoenix	750	315	42%
Greensboro, N.C.	750	265	35%
Baltimore	900	270	30%
Seattle	2,250	645	29%
Morgantown	1,250	355	28%
Twin Cities, Minn.	1,750	485	28%
Philadelphia	2,000	520	26%
Price, Utah	600	150	25%
Washington, D.C.	1,250	15	1%
TOTAL U.S.	61,700	37,148	60%
New Zealand Total	3,011	2,249	75%
Auckland	770	524	68%
Christchurch	1,286	1,003	78%
Wellington	955	722	76%
Canada Total	4,250	2,866	67%
Montréal	1,529	937	61%
Toronto	1,370	813	59%
Vancouver	791	596	75%
Other	560	520	93%
Britain Total	6,500	4,164	64%
London	1,850	1,030	56%
Manchester	1,600	1,146	72%
Sheffield	1,600	1,463	91%
Other	1,450	525	36%
France	1,000	600	60%
Sweden	1,000	332	33%
Iceland	300	100	33%
Australia	500	86	17%
Other		245	
TOTAL OVERALL	78,261	47,790	61%
SHOULD BE		60,261	77%

*Have raised original goal

BY LARS JOHANSSON
AND INGE HINNEMO

STOCKHOLM — An April 27 rally here celebrated two new issues of the Marxist magazine *New International*. The 40 participants pledged \$700 toward the New International Fund and to finance the publication in Swedish of "The Working-Class Campaign against Imperialism and War," by Jack Barnes, which appears in *New International* no. 7. A team of more than a dozen volunteers has translated the article for publication as a pamphlet.

The rally with speakers from several countries coincided with the founding convention of the Communist League of Sweden.

John Gaige, from the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States, addressed the rally. He explained that *New International* no. 7, which features the article "Washington's Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III," "is a weapon to show workers that they have a common interest with working people around the world, not with the bosses."

The new issues of *New International* "are not books for academics and professors, but for workers and farmers," said Marcella Fitzgerald, a leader of the Communist League of Britain. "They are written to be weapons in the struggle. No capitalist is going to finance them or circulate them. It is workers like ourselves who will collect the money to publish them and distribute them."

Russell Johnson, a leader of the Communist League of New Zealand and a contributing editor to *New International*, noted some similarities between New Zealand and Sweden as two smaller imperialist countries that joined the U.S.-led war against Iraq.

"The government in New Zealand used the war to deepen attacks on the working class," Johnson explained, "by launching an assault on Social Security benefits and on workers' right to form trade unions."

The government-employer offensive has opened up the biggest labor struggles in New Zealand in a decade, Johnson said.

A report on a recent national speaking tour of Iceland by Vietnam veteran and SWP leader Andrew Pulley was presented by Sigurlaug Gunnlaugsdóttir, a leader of the Communist League of Iceland and who is also a contributing editor to *New International*.

Michel Dugré, a leader of the Communist League of Canada, spoke on the importance of *New International* no. 8, titled "Che Guevara, Cuba, and the Road to Socialism."

Maria Hamberg, a leader of the Communist League of Sweden, appealed for donations for the New International Fund.

Describing how Washington's war devastated Iraq, she pointed out that "imperialism is preparing more wars and Swedish imperialism is no different."

"We have an important message to bring to workers," said Hamberg. "That's why we are circulating *New International* and translating one of its articles in Swedish. Help us spread this message as broadly as possible through your contributions."

Kurds press for autonomous region

Continued from front page

2 million Kurds and other Iraqis in the north fled to the mountainous regions near the borders of Turkey and Iran. Washington made it clear it favored a victory by Hussein over the Kurds and simultaneous uprisings in the south. U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Colin Powell said the U.S. government wanted Iraq to remain "a single country" and gave Hussein the green light to use attack helicopters against the Kurds.

Washington feared a successful fight by Kurds in Iraq would inspire the Kurdish struggle throughout the region.

Kurds are an oppressed minority, not just in Iraq, but also in Turkey, Syria, Iran, and the Soviet Union.

Denied the right to go to any country of their choosing, the refugees from Iraq were forced into wretched camps or a perilous existence on the mountain slopes.

With Washington and its allies unwilling to open their borders, hundreds of thousands of Kurds and other Iraqis have now abandoned refugee camps in the mountainous border regions and entered the U.S.-controlled enclave in northern Iraq. But their determination to face extreme hardship while pressing their demands for autonomy and the withdrawal of Iraqi troops has won the Kurdish people worldwide sympathy for their struggle. This has put both Washington and Baghdad in a tight spot.

Washington claimed it was going to build camps for hundreds of thousands with the goal of driving the Kurds back into Iraq in an attempt to maintain the stability of the region. The U.S.-run enclave, with the support of British, French, and Dutch troops, now encompasses 3,600 square miles of Iraqi territory. Some 20,000 U.S. and allied troops are occupying the zone.

'Too many people'

Increasing numbers of refugees are entering the enclave heading for the camps. U.S. and British officials now claim that too many refugees are staying in the way stations or the new camps in the enclave instead of returning to their old homes. Some of the camps have already run out of tents.

While being drawn deeper into Iraq, the U.S. government does not want to stay in the enclave permanently and has pushed for the United Nations to take over responsibility for the zones.

On May 13 the UN accepted administrative control of the main Kurdish refugee camp in Zakho, near the Turkish border. But the change is largely cosmetic. The real power is still in the hands of the U.S. forces.

About 48,000 Kurds were in the Zakho camp May 13. Allied forces said that Kurds who had fled to the Iranian border were also

returning and entering the camps.

"We thought we'd only have to save the ones who escaped to Turkey," complained 1st Lt. Jan Tenhove of the Dutch marines. "Now we're going to have to save the whole world."

Tenhove said his unit had been told to expect 80,000 Kurds returning from Iran in addition to 10,000 a day expected from the Turkish refugee camps.

"That's just too many people," he said.

The U.S.-led operation is cynically named "Operation Provide Comfort."

Despite warnings from the allied forces to the pesh merga to stay out of the occupied zone, the guerrillas continue to operate openly in a wide swath of the border area. Only a few rebel checkpoints have been closed by U.S. officers.

Many of the refugees now in the enclave are from Dohuk, a provincial capital 30 miles southeast of Zakho. Almost all of the town's 300,000 residents fled as Hussein's forces moved against the Kurdish rebellion in March.

Dohuk remains under control of the Iraqi army. In an attempt to get the Kurds to return, a U.S. and Baghdad-approved UN convoy delivered 117 tons of food and supplies to

kashvili, head of the U.S. operation. "We are not going from one town to another, because the next time you and I will meet here and talk about Baghdad. Where's the end?"

But Shalikhshvili is worried about the refugee camps becoming permanent.

"I don't even want to think about it. We don't want a Gaza Strip here," he said, referring to the Israeli-occupied zone where tens of thousands of Palestinians live under Tel Aviv's military rule.

Faced with this impasse, and what has been cited in the big-business media as U.S. ruling-class fears of a "quagmire" in Iraq, Shalikhshvili has been meeting with a member of the Iraqi army's general staff. The talks covered ways the Iraqis "can reduce that kind of visual military presence that causes concern to the Kurds," Shalikhshvili said.

While as many as half of the refugees who fled have already entered the enclave, either to stay at the camps and way stations or to their old homes, others are still waiting in the border region.

Sabri Mahmoud, a former Kurdish captain in the Iraqi army fearful of reprisals from the Hussein regime, told the Wash-



Impact Visuals/Teit Hombak

Kurdish refugees near the border with Iran

the town. But the Kurds rejected the bribe and continued to demand the Iraqi soldiers be withdrawn.

U.S. commander: 'Where's the end?'

U.S. military commanders have continued to debate the question of moving to occupy Dohuk.

"I don't want to go there unless it's absolutely necessary," said Lieut. Gen. John Shali-

ington Post, "I can't return to Iraq."

The full extent of the number of deaths among the refugees who fled to the border areas has not been reported in the capitalist newspapers in the United States.

As with the slaughter of tens of thousands of Iraqi soldiers and civilians from numerous countries fleeing Kuwait in the face of the end-of-February U.S. invasion, the true number of deaths and the magnitude of the suffering will probably never be known. Both Washington and Baghdad have a common interest in covering up the facts of the horror for which they share responsibility.

According to a UN report, at one point there were 2,000 deaths a day just along the Iran-Iraq border. Later reports spoke of 2,000 deaths a day, but did not specify if this was just in the organized refugee camps or in general. Most of the victims have been children.

At the peak of the exodus about 450,000 Kurds, Assyrian Christians, Turkomans, and other refugees were in camps inside Turkey or in Iraq near the border. Another 400,000 were scattered across the mountain zone without the benefit of even the minimal conditions that existed in the camps. A million and a half fled to the border region near Iran.

U.S. State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher spoke about 450,000 refugees in "identifiable clusters" more than half of whom, he said, had now left their camps for the enclave.

The remaining 400,000 could not be accounted for now, Boucher claimed May 14, because the U.S. forces had no regular contact with them. How many of those died and how many entered the enclave has not been reported. The U.S. government is not at all interested in having the truth come out.

Some 3,000 Kurds in Kuwait are also facing severe problems. Many live in Palestinian neighborhoods. Kuwaiti soldiers have accused the Kurds of collaborating with the Iraqi occupation forces, according to the British *Guardian*.

One Kurd who was brutally beaten with pistol and rifle butts by Kuwaiti soldiers reported, "They made me kiss their feet and said, 'What are you doing here, why don't you get out of our country.'"

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

European Community insists on stability in Yugoslavia

The foreign ministers of the 12 member countries of the European Community (EC), unsettled by the possibility of the demise of another Stalinist regime, issued a warning to the Yugoslavian government May 13 and agreed to send a high-level delegation to Belgrade to make their point. "The Community message will be simple; we want to see stability," an EC diplomat said.

The warning came as conflicts between the regimes in the six republics and two autonomous provinces that make up Yugoslavia have escalated. Armed clashes between Serbs and Croats earlier this month left at least 18 dead.

Two days after the EC's warning, Serbian officials blocked the installation of a Croat as president of Yugoslavia, which has a rotating eight-person federal presidency. Croatia is Yugoslavia's second largest republic.

The action by Serbia, the largest of the country's six republics, left the country without a head of state. "Serbia has staged a camouflaged coup d'état," the president of the republic of Slovenia told the press. The Serbs have long been the politically dominant nationality in the federation. Headed by a Stalinist regime, it has pressed to dominate the policies of the central government of Yugoslavia over the last several years, but has met resistance from the other republics, which are demanding autonomy.

Yugoslav crisis stirs rivalry among imperialist powers

The British government has rejected as inappropriate for discussion in the EC a proposal by West German Social Democratic leader Willy Brandt to organize a military peacekeeping force to deal with crises like Yugoslavia's, which threaten the stability of the region. Germany, because of its economic weight, is the dominant imperialist power in the EC and would have the most to gain if such a proposal were implemented.

London wants to have the idea discussed in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, where it could counter Germany's position with that of the United States, Germany's main imperialist rival. The United States, Soviet Union, Canada, Turkey, and Cyprus are members of the conference, along with 29 European countries.

Antiabortion measures spark wide discussion in Poland

Opponents of abortion rights in Poland hope to use a June visit to the country by Pope John Paul II to step up their campaign against a woman's right to control her own body.

The Pope alluded to the message he would take to Poland in a recent visit to Portugal. He warned that the people of Eastern Europe, whose protests have forced the collapse of Stalinist totalitarian regimes, risked replacing these "with another form of atheism which, by worshipping liberty, tends to destroy the roots of Christian and human morals." The pope also denounced what he called "prevailing anti-natal morality."

Polish lawmakers voted May 17 against a ban on abortion in all cases and setting jail terms for violators. The issue has provoked a sharp debate that is polarizing the country.

The debate escalated recently when the Polish government publicly announced a January decision to eliminate subsidies for birth control pills, effectively tripling their cost. Opinion polls show that up to 60 percent of the country opposes the ban on abortion.

The Catholic hierarchy also harshly criticized the Polish Prime Minister recently for dismissing a deputy health minister who referred to homosexuals as "deviants" and said AIDS could be avoided if people lived "a decent life."

Moroccans rebel in Brussels

Rebellions by young Moroccan immigrants exploded in Brussels, Belgium, May 11 and continued for several nights. Moroccans and Turks are the largest immigrant groups in the city. They face unemployment, cramped housing conditions, and inadequate education. Those working are confined to unskilled jobs. Brussels has a population of nearly a million people; 25 percent are immigrants. Charles Picqué, the city council president, nervously assessed the situation facing the government. "We are living on a powder keg," he said of the just demands of the workers.

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Young Socialist Discussion Series on Cuba. "Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism." Sun., June 2, 5 p.m. "Revolutionary Cuba's Role in World Politics Today." Sun. June 9, 5 p.m. Pathfinder Bookstore, 140 S. 40th St. Tel: (402) 553-0245.

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Kwangju Continues Today: Korea's Struggle for Democracy. Speakers: Rep. Young Koreans United; Clayton Ramey, African People's Christian Organization, House of the Lord Church; Pramila Srivastva, New School Students, Staff Against Racism; Gerry Hudson, executive vice president, Local 1199 Hospital and Health Care Employees. Performance: Binari, Korean cultural

troupe. Thurs., May 23, 7 p.m. Musicians Union Hall, 330 W 42nd St., 2nd flr. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: International Committee for Peace and Reunification of Korea, New York Chapter. For more info, call: (212) 629-2037.

Young Socialist Discussion Series of Che Guevara, Cuba, and the Road to Socialism. "The Politics of Economics." Two parts. Sun., May 26 and June 2, 4 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$1. Tel: (212) 727-8421 or 675-6740.

PENNSYLVANIA

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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.

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.

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Introduction to Socialism Discussions. Every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. 157a Symonds St. Sponsor: Young Socialists. Tel: (9) 793-075.

Communist League National Conference. May 31-June 3. Auckland. For more info, contact Communist League branch nearest you listed in directory on page 12.

Young Socialists National Conference. June 3. Auckland. For more info, write P.O. Box 8734, Auckland. Tel: (09) 794-856.

U.S. gov't, ruling circles discuss military censorship of press during Mideast war

BY GEORGE BUCHANAN

In the wake of Washington's war against the people of Iraq a debate is taking place in U.S. ruling circles over the merits of the military-controlled censorship that operated throughout the war drive, the bombing, and the invasion.

On the one hand, those in the government who set up the censorship system are confident, even ecstatic, about its success in portraying an image of the war that maintained a high level of U.S. public support. They insist that such a censorship system will be the starting point for press coverage of any future imperialist war.

On the other, some more far-sighted individuals in the government, including representatives of the major capitalist news media, are concerned with the image and credibility of the government and the news media itself. They fear that the widespread knowledge today that most facts about the war were denied the public will jeopardize support for future wars and censorship moves.

In a polite May 1 letter to the government, executives from 15 major U.S. news organizations complained that the Pentagon had exercised "virtual total control" over the press during the war. "The flow of information to the public was blocked, impeded or diminished," by Defense Department policies, they wrote.

But why did these news executives want a freer flow of information?

"These conditions meant we could not tell the public the full story of those who fought the nation's battle," the executives whined.

This stance of the major capitalist news media goes hand in hand with the slavish self-censorship that they themselves operated under during the war and the gushing appeals to patriotism which permeated every publication and program — including even weather reports.

Government obsessed with 'image'

U.S. government officials openly admitted

that their Mideast war press policies were shaped by what they perceive as the "lessons" of the Vietnam War. By this they simply meant that what working people and youth saw on their TV screens led to deeper and deeper opposition to that war.

Determined to avoid this happening again, the Pentagon, with bipartisan backing from Capitol Hill, took steps to ensure a sanitized image of the war was presented. This helped to block off the kind of discussion in unions and other organizations that could lead to wider antiwar protests.

A picture of a virtually "painless" war was assembled: a conflict that was over very quickly; in which there were few casualties, (at least on the side of the imperialist allies); where Washington's bombs never missed their target; and where the "enemy" was faceless at best and more often portrayed as less than human.

The rulers' desire to achieve this result explains their open outrage at CNN television's Peter Arnett, who, beyond the reach of the Pentagon's controllers, showed something of the destruction and agony suffered by the Iraqi people, as the embargo tightened and the bombs rained down.

In Saudi Arabia, reporters were unable to get near the action except as part of a military-escorted "pool." The military police arrested those trying to operate independently.

In a two-part *New York Times* article on the debate between the news media and the Pentagon over the press policy, Jason DeParle wrote that reporters requesting interviews had their previous articles examined by military personnel "to screen out interview requests from those likely to focus on mistakes by the military."

"The escorts helped choose whom reporters could talk to. Some hovered over interviews and others stepped in front of cameras to interrupt ones they did not like," wrote DeParle.

Once written, news items were passed by

military censors before being forwarded to the parent news organization.

Battle scenes suppressed

Los Angeles Times reporter John Balzar wrote about a videotape shot from an Apache attack helicopter that was shown to a group of journalists who had arrived at the helicopter unit without their escort.

Balzar said the tape showed Iraqi soldiers "as big as football players on the T.V. screen. . . . A guy was hit and you could see him drop and he struggled up. They fired again and the body next to him exploded."

After his article appeared, Balzar said, he was never again allowed near an Apache unit. And top commanders allowed no other reporters to see the tape.

Renowned television images of the war were shown on videotapes taken from so-called "smart" bombs as they approached the target to hit with pin-point accuracy. But the U.S. government simply did not release any of the videos that showed those that missed their targets. Challenged on this policy, Defense Secretary Richard Cheney gave the lame excuse that such tapes would have been "pretty dull, boring stuff."

The Pentagon's press policy was not simply to restrict access to news, but as one of their War College textbooks put it: "Seek out the media and try to bring them in to write stories and produce television shows or clips in support of the organization's goals."

Aided by a patriotic press, this policy got results.

To help it along, selected news media people had their fares to Saudi Arabia paid by the military, and special access to the troops was granted them.

DeParle noted that those included in this so-called Hometown News Program were "960 journalists from generally small papers and television stations near the units' home bases, along with a handful from larger organizations including the *New York Times*, [who] flew to Saudi Arabia free on military

aircraft."

"There was just a safer feeling," explained the air force officer who ran this program. "If they know that they're getting a free ride and they can't afford the \$2,000 ticket, there's probably going to be a tendency to say, 'We'll do good stuff here.'"

'Choreographing public opinion'

With the many restrictions on first-hand news reports, DeParle reported, "the press responded by giving increased prominence to the official statements and Government-issued videotapes being promulgated in briefing rooms in Riyadh and Washington." Hours of preparation, including elaborate rehearsals, went into these military briefings. These sessions, which were closely monitored by the White House itself, amounted to a staged presentation of the war, or what DeParle calls "the choreographing of public opinion."

While many in ruling circles are enthusiastic about the results of the restrictive press policy that was applied during the Mideast war, and seek to extend its application, others are not happy with it.

DeParle points out that in the Mideast itself "after just four days of ground fighting . . . the pool system was on the verge of collapse." Reporters were finding ways to get round the military censorship.

"This [censorship] thing would have blown up in their face if the war had dragged out or you had a lot of casualties," warned Les Aspin, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

The fact is that the censorship policy only "worked" because there was no real fight at all. Rather, what occurred was a mass slaughter of Iraqis and the destruction of their country, and a short U.S.-led invasion that was called off by George Bush the moment he thought the goals of U.S. imperialism had been achieved.

While the news media tops are protesting about the censorship policy now that the war against Iraq is over, it was only their acceptance of and complicity with it that allowed it to last as long as it did. And the facts now coming to light about the "turkey shoot" during the invasion and the devastation of the embargo and bombing of Iraq have raised in the minds of many working people that the generals and the administration weren't so truthful after all. They massively lied once again in their war of foreign aggression.

Behind the rulers' debate over whether to repeat such censorship leading up to and during future wars lies the reality that, in conducting a brutal and unjust war, they are confronted with an irresolvable contradiction: cover-up the news and risk further loss of credibility or let some of the truth out and open the doors to mobilization of greater opposition outside the halls of Congress.

Cleveland meeting hears eyewitness account on war devastation in Iraq

BY JON HILLSON

CLEVELAND — For the people of Iraq who survived massive bombing and artillery fire — which took the lives of unknown hundreds of thousands — "the deaths have just begun," according to a recently returned U.S. sociologist who spent nearly three weeks in the war-ravaged nation.

"Sanctions brought famine. The bombing of Iraq's infrastructure, its roads, bridges, electrical systems, factories, has brought biological contamination," Louise Cankar, director of the Chicago-based Human Rights Research Foundation, told 60 people gathered here May 11 to welcome the Caravan for Justice.

The caravan is sponsored by the National Assembly of Religious Women and backed by nearly 100 organizations, most of them church-related. It seeks to raise \$10,000 in humanitarian assistance for Iraqi women and children.

Cankar, who has spoken at seven of the caravan's stopovers since she returned from Iraq in late April, visited Baghdad, southern Iraq, and Kurdistan.

Iraqi hospitals, she said, lack virtually all essentials "from clean water to anesthesia."

Food and medical shortages hit children the hardest, she continued.

"Milk and infant formula don't exist," accelerating deaths of hospitalized children under five to nearly 100 a day as a result of dehydration, malnutrition, and diarrhea, Cankar said. The dehydration of mothers of newborn infants makes breast feeding impossible, she explained.

But the destruction of highways and the absence of vehicles and fuel means only about 10 percent of the children who need medical attention ever get to hospitals, Cankar said. "I saw case after case of malnourished infants weighing less at six months than at birth."

With temperatures now rising above 100 degrees, epidemics of typhoid and cholera are



Seven houses were destroyed by U.S. bombing in neighborhood of Kadahmiya in Baghdad. Children cannot get badly needed medical attention.

threatened, Cankar explained, but neither "the medicine to treat it, nor operating refrigeration facilities to store medication exist." Cholera is spread by human excrement, usually in drinking water. Iraq's sewer networks were destroyed by U.S.-led bombing.

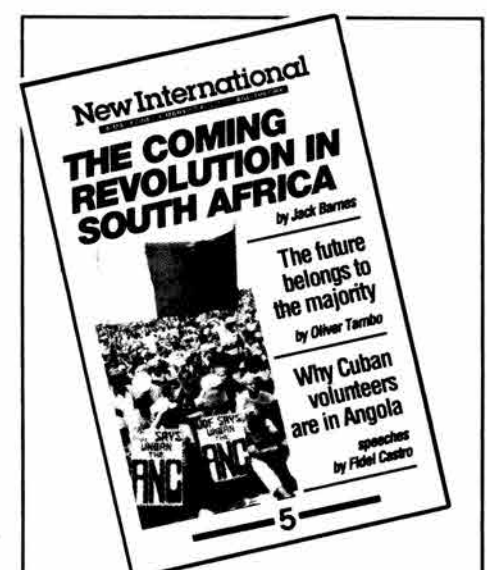
"The medical system has virtually ceased to exist," she said. "Most Iraqis appear to be in shock, just trying to figure out the day's tasks."

These conditions are "no better or no worse than the situation facing the Kurdish

people," she said, referring to the plight of the victims of the Hussein regime's effort to crush the Kurdish rebellion, and the cruel "relief" measures imposed by Washington.

"The people of Iraq are being punished," Cankar said. "No government is helping them. The real crime now is the small measure of relief."

The sum total of food aid, she explained, has thus far amounted to "one single meal for each Iraqi."



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Baker making little progress in imposing Mideast 'solution'

BY JAMES HARRIS

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker returned from his fourth trip to the Mideast May 16 unable to announce progress in arranging a "peace" conference between regimes in the region.

Washington's goal is to organize a meeting between at least some of the Arab regimes — Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia — and Israel.

The Bush administration hopes that such a conference could be parlayed into the recognition of Israel by Arab countries and open the way to imposing a "solution" to the Palestinian struggle. It is also pressing Tel Aviv to grant some concessions in order to win support for the negotiation process from Arab regimes in the Mideast — trading "land for peace."

"We are still talking about a conference that would see direct face-to-face discussions and negotiations between Israel and each of its neighboring Arab states, as well as direct face-to-face discussion and negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. And in that sense, it would be a very, very broad conference of a nature and type that has never before taken place," said Baker at the beginning of his trip.

Throughout its war drive against the Iraqi people, Washington hoped it could utilize any victory scored to stabilize the region — a center of instability for imperialism for over 40 years — and establish more long-term protection for its interests.

Despite the fact that the capitalist governments in the Arab world have demonstrated their willingness to collaborate with Washington and their readiness to recognize Israel, none have come out in full-fledged support of Baker's proposals.

Syria demands UN role

The Syrian regime provided the first stumbling block for Washington this time around. Syrian President Hafez al-Assad reiterated his demand that the United Nations play a

leading role at the conference and that the meeting should be ongoing and capable of hearing, discussing, and resolving differences that will arise after the conference.

The Syrian regime has stated that it will not compromise on its demand that all the Arab lands occupied by Israel since the 1967 war be returned, including the Golan Heights — seized from Syria and formally annexed by Israel in 1981.

Tel Aviv vigorously opposes these proposals, insisting the conference should be a merely one-time ceremonial affair as a prelude to direct talks between Israel and individual Arab regimes. Egypt is now the only country in the region that recognizes Israel. It has established economic links with Israel as well. A major policy goal of the Israeli government is to break down this political and economic isolation.

The Assad regime, however, can neither simply sign away a big piece of its territory to Israel nor become part of an agreement that does not at least appear to have the support of the Palestinian people, whose cause has wide backing among masses of people in the Mideast.

On May 14, Baker met with King Hussein of Jordan. While Hussein was at pains to appear cooperative, Baker was unable to get the Jordanian monarch to promise he would even attend the conference.

The *New York Times* cited unidentified senior Jordanian officials as saying the Jordan regime would not attend the conference unless Syria did also.

Joint Palestinian-Jordan delegation?

The prospect of Jordan not attending is a blow to U.S. plans for an authoritative conference. Baker has proposed that Jordan and the Palestinians be represented by a joint delegation. Most of Jordan's population is Palestinian.

Washington sees the joint delegation idea as a way of getting around Israel's objections

to having either Arab residents of East Jerusalem or representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) participate in the meetings.

"There are many, many Palestinians living in Jordan, and a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation could allow us to bypass most of the outstanding problems including the problem of Jerusalem," said Baker. Tel Aviv feels that allowing residents of East Jerusalem to be represented at the conference would cast doubt on Israel's sovereignty over the seized territory.

Baker has gotten the agreement of Israel to allow a former resident of East Jerusalem who now lives in Jordan to be part of a hoped-for joint delegation. According to Baker's logic, the Palestinians could then consider the person to be a representative of Jerusalem while Tel Aviv could view him or her as a resident of Jordan.

Baker met with Palestinian leaders on May 15. How a Palestinian delegation was to be chosen was at the center of the discussions. After the meeting Faisal Husseini, a leader of the PLO on the West Bank and chairman of the Palestinian group that met with Baker, said that the "formation of the Palestinian delegation is the concern solely of the Palestinian people" and that neither Israel or the United States had a right to interfere in the process.

Limits of Saudi participation

The Bush administration scored a slight success in its drive for a conference at the very start of Baker's trip. Saudi Arabia announced a reversal of its position of not attending the meeting.

But even that agreement shows the standoffish attitude they have to the conference. The Saudis propose they be represented by the secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council, a six-nation group that includes Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman. Cooperation Council leader



U.S. Secretary of State James Baker

Abdullah Bishara of Kuwait would attend as the observer for all of these countries.

Baker made his last stop in Israel, where his failure to make any breakthrough became hard to paper over. Despite the Israeli rulers' desire not to openly break with the U.S. administration, Baker was unable to budge Israel on the role of the UN at a conference or whether it should be more than a ceremonial event.

More settlers

As on Baker's previous trips, the Israeli government made a point of moving trailers for Jewish settlers to new areas in the occupied West Bank, demonstrating their decision to continue stealing more land from Arabs rather than trading land for peace.

According to the *Washington Post*, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told the press prior to the secretary of state's arrival that he would offer no further concessions to Baker.

The Bush administration has found the regime in the Soviet Union willing to act as its lever to open some cracks a little wider. Baker met with Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh in Cairo and reaffirmed the Soviet regime's agreement to back U.S. policy goals in the region. The Soviet Union is the proposed co-convenor of the peace conference.

Bessmertnykh has also been traveling in the region trying to build support for the conference. After meeting with Baker, Bessmertnykh made an unscheduled return trip to Damascus May 14 to try to persuade President Hafez al-Assad to modify his position. In Israel for the highest-level meeting ever between the two governments, he suggested that Moscow would limit the emigration of Soviet Jews if Israel did not stop building settlements on the West Bank.

Despite these developments, Washington has not succeeded in quelling the struggle of the Palestinian people for self-determination. The *intifada* — the 42-month rebellion of the Palestinian people — shows no sign of abating in the aftermath of the war, thus remaining an obstacle to imperialism's plans for imposing a "stable" order following its devastation of Iraq.

U.S. sets harsh terms for easing sanctions

Continued from front page

fund into which Iraq is to pay reparations. The vote was 14-0 with Cuba abstaining on the U.S.-initiated measure. The resolution threatens to indefinitely retain sanctions on Baghdad if it does not abide by decisions on compensation payments.

Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Amir Anbari called the Security Council's action illegal, charging that the body "is being ruled virtually by one country, namely the United States." He said Iraq had to go along with the compensation because it had no choice.

Washington and the Security Council members and other member states at the UN are still plotting over exactly how much to charge the Iraqis for damages. The *Washington Post* reports that in dollar terms the assessment is expected to be the highest ever made as a result of a war.

However, if Hussein's regime is overthrown and replaced by a more acceptable government, the reparations could be lessened and some of its foreign debts forgiven, according to the May 15 *New York Times*.

Iraq, a semi-colonial country of some 20 million people, has a foreign debt of \$25 billion to imperialist countries and the Soviet Union. Additionally, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia want repayment of \$50 billion they lent the Hussein regime during its eight-year war against Iran. Other governments, corporations, and individuals are demanding payments for damages during the imperialist war — which some estimate will run as high as \$100 billion.

Iraqi envoy Anbari said his government expected that total oil revenues over the next five years would not exceed \$65 billion. At that rate it would take Iraq some 14 years just to pay the reparations and debts — leave aside rebuilding the country — in a country where the per capita income was less than \$2,400 before the war. The Iraqi toilers, who suffer under the boot of the Hussein regime, are the biggest losers and it will be the revenue generated by their labor over the next decades that

will be funneled to the imperialist coffers.

During the imperialist assault on the country, U.S.-led forces dropped 88,500 tons of bombs on the Iraqi people between January 17 and February 27. A UN report released in March stated the country was relegated to a preindustrial age. On May 21 the *Washington Post* reported that none of Iraq's sewage plants are functioning, largely because there is insufficient power to run the machinery.

Enzio Gianni Murzi, UNICEF representative in Iraq, said 94 cases of cholera had been reported since early May. Relief workers fear an epidemic could occur in the summer when Iraq's temperatures are among the highest in the world.

Iraq request to sell oil

To begin to purchase food, medicine, and other needed materials, the Iraqi government requested it be permitted to sell some of its oil. Baghdad has also asked for a five-year moratorium on paying war reparations. Washington, having enforced a worldwide ban on the sale of Iraqi oil for over half a year, has opposed both requests, which have gone unanswered.

"Everyone in the [UN Security] Council is inclined to be more flexible than us and Britain," said a White House official. Washington has veto power in the council on relaxing sanctions.

Before the imperialists and their allies allow Iraq to sell its oil on the world market, Baghdad must comply with a Security Council plan for a special commission to take possession of Iraq's chemical and other weapons of mass destruction and start destroying them within 45 days from May 18.

After initial protest Iraq agreed May 17 to the inspection of its military and scientific installations by an international commission. The body, headed by Rolf Ekeus of Sweden, will have near-total freedom to rule whether given sites or weapons are to be destroyed or rendered harmless. They will have immediate access to any location or factory, be able to take any samples they

choose out of the country for analysis, conduct aerial surveys, and question workers on demand.

One member of the UN commission stated that the plan for destroying Iraq's weaponry is "absolutely unrealistic."

Marjatta Rautio, Finland's representative to the commission, said on Finnish radio that she knows of no destruction method "short of open pit burning or ocean dumping that could come close to these deadlines." It could take three years to build the kind of destruction sites needed.

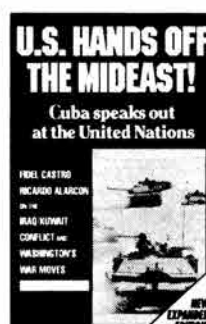
A book with the facts on Washington's Mideast war

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

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

Help distribute this book by getting extra copies to sell to coworkers, classmates, and others. Special discounts are available for bulk orders. The book is also available in Spanish.

Mail order to: Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Outside the United States contact Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12.



"In this little book you get some of the lowdown on Cuba's long standing opposition to U.S. imperialism and particularly its most recent swagger into the Middle East."

— Class magazine, May 1991

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

— Peter Heathfield, general secretary, National Union of Mineworkers, Britain.

\$9.95 each. Prepaid bundles of 5 or more, \$6.50 each; 10 or more \$5 each. Shipping charges: \$2 for 1-4 books; \$3 for 5-9 books; \$5 for 10 or more.

'I wish I'd found this paper a long time ago'

Militant supporters in eight countries are on a concerted seven-week effort to boost the readership of the socialist press. By June 15 they aim to win 6,100 new subscribers to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *L'Internationale* and readers of *New Internationalist*. This week supporters are gearing up for a special

duce the *Militant* to coal miners and others in eastern Kentucky and West Virginia.

"Everywhere we went we encountered workers trying to find ways to fight the effects of layoffs, lockouts, plant closings, and other attacks by the employers," said participant Linda Joyce.



GETTING THE MILITANT AROUND

eight-day target effort set for May 25 to June 1.

Readers and distributors from the Twin Cities in Minnesota and nearby Austin launched the drive with a sales team to Mankato State University. Four students there recently joined the Young Socialist Alliance.

After a day of knocking on doors in student dormitories and off-campus housing, supporters had signed up eight new subscribers to the *Militant* and one to *Perspectiva Mundial*.

"I wish I had found this paper a long time ago," said one young woman. She had taken a position against the U.S.-led war on Iraq.

Militant supporters from Charleston and Morgantown, West Virginia, as well as Pittsburgh hit the road for four days while on layoff to intro-

Through the course of the sales effort 70 workers and others bought copies of the *Militant* and 9 *International Socialist Review* supplements, including 18 at mine portals. Three new readers signed up to get the *Militant* and one locked-out Ravenswood striker bought a copy of the newly published Pathfinder book *The Eastern Airlines Strike: Accomplishments of the Rank-and-File Machinists*.

In Frankfort, Kentucky, three members of the United Mine Workers of America bought copies of the *Militant* at a rally in solidarity with 400 miners recently laid off after an organizing drive.

In Ravenswood, West Virginia, the sales team visited the picket line of United Steelworkers of America members on strike against Ravenswood Aluminum Corporation

(RAC); knocked on doors at a nearby trailer park and other communities where several strikers live; and participated in a labor solidarity picnic organized by the strikers.

At the picnic *Militant* supporters talked with many strikers about Washington's war against Iraq, the state of the labor movement, and the fight against police brutality. "We have really changed," said one woman active in the strike. "Until this whole thing happened I didn't even know where the union hall was. Now I think we should have shut down production right from the start. Even though we made some mistakes we are going to stay out one day longer than Emmett Boyle." Boyle is the Chief Executive Officer of RAC.

The *Eastern Airlines Strike* book drew a lot of attention, especially the photographs of Eastern strikers visiting the coalfields in solidarity with then-striking Pittston miners. One Ravenswood striker who got the book and a subscription to the *Militant* explained he was on his way to carry out strike-support activities. He was headed for Louisville to the Kentucky Derby to leaflet with other strikers in urging those attending the Derby to boycott aluminum products.

The next morning *Militant* supporters sold at the plant gate of a garment plant called Ripley Apparel Company. Workers there have dubbed the place "Little RAC." Nine members of the United Garment Workers Union bought copies of the *Militant*. Several women workers were

married to Ravenswood strikers.

One explained: "They're trying to get us there and here — whenever we turn around. We gave up rights in our new contracts and the company is forcing speedup or threatening to shut down." She had seen the *Militant* before at an April 28 rally in solidarity with the RAC strikers.

Militant supporters stopped by Southern Ohio Coal Company's Meigs 31 Parker Run mine and talked with workers at the portal.

The personnel director stood at the entrance and screamed at everyone coming in that the team members were communists. Sixteen workers decided to buy the *Militant*, some making a special effort to do so. Two miners bought copies of the *International Socialist Review* supplement to the *Militant*. This infuriated the boss who decided to call the local sheriff and state troopers. By the time the squad cars arrived the shift change was over and the team was on its way to another sale.

On May 2 the *Militant* sales team spent the day in Gallipolis, Ohio, where many Ravenswood strikers live. At one shopping center a woman explained that her husband — on strike at RAC — and she had been discussing the struggles of workers. "We should have supported the miners when they went out," she said. "Knowing what we know now, we'll support all other struggles from here on out."

"Members of the Young Socialists and other supporters of the *Mil-*

itant here in Wellington, New Zealand, signed up 51 new readers to the paper among students," writes Felicity Williams. "This was part of a nationwide effort to sell subscriptions to students in the initial weeks of campus registration."

The effort began at Victoria University as Washington launched its invasion of Iraq. The YS members set up tables with books and pamphlets from Pathfinder each day. Seventeen students signed up for introductory subscriptions to the *Militant* and five bought copies of the book *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*. One of the new readers was a soldier who picked up a subscription and the *Malcolm X Talks to Young People* book published by Pathfinder.

YS members also set up tables on student club day. Four new readers were won when the team visited students who had left their addresses at the table when purchasing single copies of the *Militant*. In two days at Massey University, an agriculture-oriented campus, 18 students subscribed. Among the new readers were students from Thailand, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, and Zambia.

In Auckland 23 new readers were won among students and 15 in Christchurch.

Candace Wagner from Austin, Minnesota; Linda Joyce from Charleston, West Virginia; and Felicity Williams from Wellington, New Zealand, contributed to this column.

Kentucky miners fight for union representation

BY JOHN CHARBONNET

FRANKFORT, Kentucky — Eighty coal miners and family members from eastern Kentucky rallied at the state capitol here April 29 as part of their fight against the South East Coal Co. Miners say the company is attempting to starve them into submission for exercising their right to join the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) last year.

"All the other miners are watching us," a young South East miner said, explaining the significance of the struggle in the heavily nonunion eastern Kentucky coalfields.

On July 24, 1990, the 800 workers at South East's underground mines and preparation plant, the largest nonunion coal operation in eastern Kentucky, shocked the operators by not only voting for the UMWA but doing so by a 4-1 margin. It was the UMWA's largest organizing victory in 15 years.

Letcher County, Kentucky, where most South East Coal Co. miners live, is only about 30 miles from the Pittston company mines in Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia, where UMWA members waged a hard-fought, 10-month strike in 1989-90. UMWA organizers saw the success at South East as a direct result of the victory at Pittston.

Following the election, South East management quickly counterattacked. First the

company delayed certification of the UMWA by filing charges, later proven groundless, with the National Labor Relations Board. Then, in October, South East laid off half the work force, targeting union supporters and completely ignoring seniority. Shortly afterwards the company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

When the NLRB finally certified the election April 18, 1991, after nine months of foot-dragging, UMWA Locals 3007 and 3008 demanded bargaining begin with the company. The company responded by announcing it would lay off all employees.

'We now have reached a crisis'

"Why is Frankfort ignoring our problem?" and "Miners pay taxes forever. Why do unemployment benefits only last six months?" were two of the hand-made signs that miners and members of their families carried in the April 29 protest here.

The miners brought a petition addressed to Kentucky's Governor Wilkerson stating that "we now have reached a crisis" and asking for a 13-week extension of unemployment benefits, food programs and for the governor's intervention in the fight with South East.

Instead of meeting with the governor, who was said to be out of town, rally participants were ushered into a large meeting room with various state officials.

Howard Green, a UMWA District 17 International Executive Board member, explained that hundreds of miners had no source of income.

Joe Anderson, director of the Kentucky unemployment compensation program, responded that the official state unemployment rate of 3.8 percent was not high enough to trigger extended benefits. The Kentucky attorney general, who made a five-minute appearance, explained he had no "magic solutions" and could only "interpret the law." Another official recommended lobbying Congress to change the federal law. Still another handed out brochures on dislocated workers and retraining programs.

The miners grew increasingly angry with the course of the discussion and the obvious lack of concern for their situation demonstrated by the state officials.

"Why should we have to leave when we've got a job at South East?" said one miner.

A woman whose husband works at the mine said, "It was because of the company's



Militant/Mary Imo
Pittston miners sit in at Moss No.3 preparation plant in Carbo, Virginia, in 1989. The victory at Pittston helped to inspire the fight at South East Coal.

unfair labor practices that the miners lost their jobs.

"We wouldn't need an extension [in benefits] if we didn't have to fight all these coal companies, if they would just abide by the law," she continued.

"Why aren't you investigating South East when they declare bankruptcy? They have tons of money," asked one miner.

"It's all to block our union," said one among a group of young miners.

One of the UMWA officials argued that, "we need to all go upstairs to the governor's office and stay up there till the governor comes back."

The state officials then promised they would attempt to set up a meeting between the UMWA and South East Coal. One miner demanded an open meeting be held in the coalfields and said they would turn out "more people than you could shake a stick at."

Then, while most of the group rallied on the steps of the capitol, a delegation took the petition to the governor's office.

After the meeting, the miners explained they are determined to keep fighting despite the many obstacles they face, such as an effort to blacklist them by other employers.

Earl Edwards, secretary-treasurer of Local 3008, summarized what the miners are up against: "The Kentucky Coal Association has

got the NLRB by the nose."

The September 1990 UMWA convention voted to step up organizing efforts and to target eastern Kentucky, central Pennsylvania, and the Powder River Basin in Wyoming and Montana — areas where the bulk of 35,000 nonunion coal miners work. The state of Kentucky ranks as the number-two coal producer in the United States.

Recently released federal Mine Safety and Health Administration figures show that Kentucky led the United States in coal-mining deaths in 1990 with 24 of the 67 fatalities reported, part of a steadily worsening national trend.

MSHA recently cited a small nonunion eastern Kentucky operator, Big Mama Coal Co., for multiple serious violations directly resulting in the deaths of three miners in a July 1990 explosion.

The worst disaster since the Wilberg mine fire in Utah in 1984 occurred in western Kentucky at Pyro Mining Co.'s William Station mine, where 10 miners died in a 1989 methane explosion. MSHA cited Pyro for 100 violations and fined it \$500,000 dollars. A criminal investigation is pending. A UMWA organizing drive has been underway at Pyro as well, which is the largest nonunion operator in the western Kentucky coalfields.

ANC calls protest campaign of boycotts, strikes

Continued from back page

Brought to her house by the "Mandela Football Club" — as her bodyguards were known — they then beat the four youths. One, a 14-year-old, died. She has maintained her innocence, saying she was away from her home during the entire incident.

Nelson Mandela later told a news conference at the University of Stellenbosch that his wife was innocent. A statement by the ANC said: "The last word in this entire affair has not yet been spoken. We elect to leave the matter in the hands of the courts, fully confident that in the end the truth will emerge."

Hundreds at march say 'Gates must go!'

Protest on eve of Mother's Day sparked by Black women's groups

Continued from front page

bearing the names of a dozen people who had been killed or brutalized by cops.

Virtually all the speakers at the memorial rally were either victims of the police or relatives of victims.

Daryl Hopper was driving home when cops ordered him to pull over. Already in front of his house, Hopper pulled into the driveway. Apparently construing this as defying their order, the cops yanked him out and administered a murderous beating.

Hopper said they cracked his ribs, broke his wrist, knocked out seven teeth, and delivered a blow to his head that left permanent brain damage.

Brian Beasley told of his brother, a member of the Nation of Islam, who was shot to death when he tried to intercede with police who had placed a chokehold on a man.

Beasley appealed to the audience, "Keep on fighting. If you don't, you'll be next!"

Fuiaavallili Aliailima, is the cousin of two Samoan brothers who were gunned to death by police in Compton just outside of Los Angeles. He said the police have persistently victimized Samoans, and the killing of his cousins was "no aberration."

He described how, in 1989, police smashed into a Samoan wedding shower in nearby Cerritos and brutalized 50 guests.

"People were laying on the ground, being beaten," he charged, "but nothing happened, nothing was done."

He declared, "I'm a human being. I don't want to be treated like an animal."

The featured speaker, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, emphasized that she had first demanded the ouster of Gates 10 years ago and has persisted in that demand since.

She said she would do what she could in Congress to advance the fight against police brutality and, at the same time, continue to help press the fight "in the streets."

She defended Melanle Lomax, a widely known figure in the Black community and a member of the police commission. Lomax has come under fire from city council members for assertedly leaking commission documents to a civil rights activist.

Waters emphasized that police brutality is not "a local issue." She pointed to the recent demonstration of outrage by members of the Latino community in the Mt. Pleasant district of Washington, D.C. The people there, she



Participants in May 11 march. Many who have been victims of police brutality or are relatives of those beaten or shot by the cops spoke at rally. Janitors for Justice are pressing fight against cop attack on their struggle.

said, are rebelling against what the police have done to them and are declaring, "We won't be disrespected!"

Speakers at the rally expressed indignation at the refusal of the grand jury probing the King beating to indict the 17 filmed cops who stood by while four of their associates savaged King.

Earlier, in a statement to reporters, John Mack, chairman of the Los Angeles Urban League, assailed the grand jury action, charging it "sends out a message that if you wear a badge and uniform, you're above the law."

Center of city politics

The issue of police brutality has been a focal point of city politics since the widely-viewed videotape of the March 3 beating of King, a union construction worker who is Black.

King has filed a federal civil rights damage suit against the city and its police department. It also named the four cops who beat him and the 17 who stood by, as well as California Highway Patrol cops and two school cops

who were present during the beating.

The explosive rifts created within the city's political structure by the issue was given an added twist when one of the four cops who did the beating called for the resignation of Gates.

Stacey Koon vented his anger at Gates for suspending him and two others of the cops and firing the fourth who was still on probation.

In a guest column in the *Los Angeles*

Times, Koon said Gates had "prostituted" the police department in his fight to save his job.

Koon's lawyer noted that Gates cried foul when he was suspended, but penalized the four indicted cops.

On May 8, the commission appointed to probe the brutality issue held a tumultuous public hearing in one of the city's Black communities. Known as the Christopher Commission after its chairman, Warren Christopher, the panel was created after the King beating.

A *Times* report said, "In a demonstration of the continuing anger over the beating... an emotional, overflow crowd stood three deep along the walls" of the auditorium where the hearing was held.

The report added, "The King beating, more than two months ago, remains a powerful catalyst for individuals and organizations to come forward and state their grievances against the department."

LOS ANGELES — Directing a blow at the movement for the ouster of Police Chief Daryl Gates, a superior court judge ruled May 13 that the city council had acted within its rights when it reinstated Gates as chief moments after the police commission had suspended him pending an investigation of the Rodney King beating.

A majority of the council members — backers of the racist, anti-working-class cop commander — acted on the basis of a legal gimmick. The city charter permits the council to settle law suits against the city. When Gates threatened to sue, the council promptly "settled" by reinstating him, even though no suit had been filed. The judge ruled the council had acted properly.

— H.R.

Union, garment bosses far apart as outerwear contract expiration nears

BY DON MACKLE

NEWARK — Discussions have been heating up among garment workers in New York and New Jersey as the May 31 expiration date for the current contract draws near.

The outerwear contract now under negotiation covers some 100,000 workers and sets the pace for other garment contracts throughout the country.

The initial stance from the employers' associations was to demand a three-year freeze on wages and benefit contributions.

The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) has been asking for an 18 percent salary increase over three years for production workers, an hourly increase of 75 cents a year for warehouse employees, and an increase in company contributions to the benefits funds.

The biggest fight appears to be coming between the ILGWU and the employers covered by agreements under Local 23-25. The local represents the majority of garment workers covered by the outerwear contracts. Ninety percent work in New York's Chinatown.

Some bosses have begun to settle. Many of the warehouses have signed contracts for a 49 cent an hour raise for each of three years. Another layer of bosses has agreed to a 12 percent raise over three years.

But the main bloc of bosses is still holding out.

In a meeting with workers at the Liz Claiborne warehouse in North Bergen, New Jersey, before any of the bosses had settled, a union business agent announced that if the companies did not meet the union's demands the union would go on strike May 31. He

added that the union is considering calling a one-hour work stoppage in which union members will leave the job to attend mass rallies.

At Tammie's, a Brooklyn garment shop, union members arrived at work recently to find union buttons with the slogan, "We are one in 91," placed at each of their machines.

A button distribution by shop stewards at Liz Claiborne began with a dozen workers tentatively wearing the buttons one morning. By late that afternoon almost all the hundreds of union members in the plant were wearing the buttons. "We are one," in three languages, became a way of saying hello and goodbye throughout the plant.

Lively discussions are now taking place about what it means to go on strike, what kind of income we will get, will the company give in at the last moment if we stop production in the plant, and is the union strong enough to take on the company.

As more and more workers come to understand exactly what the employers are offering, increasing numbers express the sentiment that while a strike would be difficult, three years without a raise is unacceptable.

ILGWU officials are asking members to support the union negotiation team by joining the Committee to Fight for a Fair Contract. To join the committee, members are asked to return a post card that was sent to them with a letter explaining the current state of the negotiations.

Don Mackle is a member of the ILGWU and works at Liz Claiborne.



PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

JUDY STRANAHAN

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

In the June issue of *Class*, a magazine published in the United States and widely read in the Caribbean community, Herb Boyd reviews the Pathfinder book *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*.

"What makes this book so valuable and unique," Boyd writes in his full-page article, "is not that it is specifically packaged for young readers — all of Malcolm's speeches are readily understood by the young and old — but, that we have under one cover, a collection of speeches that clearly shows Malcolm's ever-evolving political outlook."

"Although two of the five speeches were prepared for a young audience," he says, "Malcolm's words and analysis were in no way watered down for his listeners; no matter who was listening Malcolm offered the same insight and challenge, prodding his constituents on to a deeper understanding and commitment. He poured his soul into his speeches and he expected no less from those within ear-shot."

In addition, the cover of the magazine features a photo of the portrait of Malcolm X that appears as part of the six-story Pathfinder mural in New York City.

The inclusion of this review in the magazine reflects the increased interest in Malcolm X's ideas sparked by events to commemorate his birthday May 19.

National Public Radio scheduled radio time on Malcolm X to be aired May 19. As part of their program they interviewed Pathfinder spokesperson James Harris about *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*.

The heightened interest in Malcolm X's

ideas extend around the world as well.

Alan Harris, a representative of Pathfinder in Britain, explained that *Malcolm X Talks to Young People* was the highest-selling Pathfinder title at the Tenth International Book Fair of Radical Black and Third World Books held in London in March.

Harris also reported there were more orders from bookstores for Malcolm X titles during a recent trip by a Pathfinder representative to Scandinavia. Again, of the Malcolm X books, the best selling title was *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*. Harris said Pathfinder's *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* topped the list of best-sellers during the trip.

Among the letters received by Pathfinder from U.S. soldiers sent to the Mideast is one that reads: "I am a soldier in the United States Army currently serving in Operation Desert Storm stationed in Kuwait."

"I would first like to say that I enjoyed reading previous books published by Pathfinder, including *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches*. I feel that Pathfinder books does a superb job of educating its readers about the struggle Afro-Americans face and continue to face. For that, I would like to thank you."

"I've attained many of your books on Malcolm X from friends, and would like to own them for my own collection. Because of my location I am unable to purchase these books from a bookstore or dealer."

Pathfinder spokesperson Rich Stuart reports that Pathfinder will be mailing out new order forms to local bookstores. The forms include a listing of non-Pathfinder titles that Pathfinder carries including Marxist classics in English, Spanish, and French.

Montréal workers walk out

Continued from Page 16

ship, a new culture."

This "new culture" — simply a continuation of the class-collaborationist policies of the union officialdom — is now being used as a bludgeon against blue-collar workers here. All of the big-business dailies have editorialized against their fight.

The *Gazette* ran an editorial entitled, "City taxpayers can take no more; Blue-collar union should heed Québec unions' lead." It explained that the Québec unions "provide a model in wage restraint during the current recession . . . This is the kind of self-discipline all public-service unions should impose on themselves at this time."

In a statement following the announcement of the wage freeze agreement, CSN president Gérald Larose explained that the unions had exercised "flexibility and maturity" because they recognize that Québec is facing serious economic problems.

The FTQ, CSN, and CEQ put forward the idea that collaborating with the bosses and capitalist parties in Québec is the best way to defend workers' standard of living and fight against the national oppression of the Québécois. Québécois, who are French-speaking, compose 80 percent of the Québec population and face systematic discrimination based on their language. According to the latest opinion polls, the majority of Québécois today support Québec sovereignty as the way to fight against their oppression.

No strike pledge

In April, steelworkers at Atlas Stainless Steels in Tracy, Québec, organized by the CSN and FTQ, signed a six-year no-strike agreement. In an article in one of Montréal's French-language dailies, *La Presse*, CSN Secretary General Pierre Paquette explained that in Québec, because of their common interest in sovereignty, business and the unions could work together to fight for full employment. He cited the Atlas agreement as an example of the union's "willingness to take charge of the problem of employment by . . . involving itself in the organization of work."

The attacks on Québec and Montréal public sector workers comes in the wake of a wage freeze imposed by the federal government on 215,000 federal government employees this past February.

Since then, at Ottawa's urging, provincial governments in Newfoundland, Québec, New Brunswick, and British Columbia have also proposed or imposed wage controls.

The federal and provincial governments are trying to convince workers that they should tighten their belts to overcome the current recession. "The competitive position of Canadian industry will improve as workers adjust to lower wage settlements," explained Michael Wilson, then Federal Finance Minister, to the Empire Club of Canada, a Toronto businessmen's club.

The latest attack by a provincial government came May 14 when the Nova Scotia government announced a two-year wage freeze for public sector workers as well as drastic cuts in social programs. Greg Blanchard, president of the Nova Scotia Government Employees Union, responded to the announcement. "We have nurses, doctors and teachers paying for the mismanagement of this government. I think it is work-to-rule time, I think it is time to call an election," he said. "It is time for massive demonstrations, time for civil servants to walk off the job, time for teachers to walk off the job — time to defy the law."

At the forefront of the resistance to these attacks are the 5,500 nurses in Saskatchewan who walked off the job at 100 hospitals May 10. They are demanding a 19 percent wage increase and improvements in working conditions. Saskatchewan nurses are the lowest paid in Western Canada.

This is the ninth nurses strike in Canada since 1980 and the second this year. In January, 10,000 Manitoba nurses staged a one-month strike, standing up to government threats to impose a back-to-work order. They won a 14 percent wage increase. Saskatchewan nurses hope to win wage parity with the nurses in Manitoba.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

FLORIDA

Miami

Washington's Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III. Speaker: Ernie Mailhot, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., May 25, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$5. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

IOWA

Des Moines

Revolutionary Cuba today — An Eyewitness Account. Speaker: Elizabeth Keely, just returned from Cuba as member of the Venceremos Brigade. Sat., June 1, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

The Importance of Malcolm X's Ideas for Youth Today. Panel discussion of young people. Sat., May 25. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: Dinner, \$3; program, \$3. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Malcolm X and the Struggle for Justice Today. *El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz.* Film. Sat., May 25, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Famine in Africa, Deaths from Typhoon in Bangladesh: Natural or Man-made Disasters? Sat., June 1, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S. Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

Che Guevara, Cuba, and the Road to Socialism. Sat., June 8, 7:30 p.m. Speaker: Dave Sandor, Socialist Workers Party, member United Food and Commercial Workers. 1622 S. Broadway. Donation: \$2. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

After the Gulf War — An Eyewitness Report. Which Way Forward for the Palestinian Struggle?

Salvador talks open door to cease-fire

Continued from Page 4

and peasant groups, stated that the accord between the government and the FMLN is "positive, but not sufficient. It does, however, open the door to further changes."

He noted that attacks on the union movement have continued. Rojas, who is a long-time leader of a union at the state social security institute, was fired from his job in March.

A March strike by 4,000 treasury workers was ended after 22 unionists were arrested. They were later released.

"There are many labor disputes, although the only strike right now is of 400 construction workers," Rojas said. Workers fighting for wage increases, union representation, and better working conditions have been fired in many cases.

On April 11 the army killed a top guerrilla military commander who had been involved in the recent negotiations, Antonio Cardenal.

gle? Speaker: Argiris Malapanis, Socialist Workers Party, recently returned from Israel and the occupied territories on a *Militant* reporting tour. Sat., May 25, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

Washington's Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III. Speaker: Francisco Picado, Socialist Workers Party National Committee, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Sat., June 1, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

TEXAS

Houston

Socialist Educational Weekend. "Lessons of the Working-Class Fight against Imperialist War, 1939-1945." Session I: Sat., May 25, 7:30 p.m.; Session II: Sun., May 26, 11 a.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Fundraising barbecue: Sun., May 26, 3 p.m. 12217 Dumas. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

Che Guevara and Revolutionary Cuba Today. Speaker: David Anshen, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., May 25, 7:30 p.m. 1586 E. Washington St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (304) 345-3040.

BRITAIN

Manchester

Bangladesh, Sudan, Ethiopia: Natural Disasters or World Order in Crisis? Cancel the Third World Debt. Speaker: representative, Communist League election campaign. Fri., May 24, 7:30 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Tel: 061-839 1766.

Sheffield

Justice for Mark Curtis — the Fight for Parole. Video and speaker. Fri., May 24, 7:30 p.m. 2A Waverley House, 10 Joiner St. Donation: £1. Tel: 0742-729469.

CANADA

Toronto

A Celebration of Socialist Publications: The

The day before his death, Cardenal held a press conference with international reporters in the town of Arcatao, 70 miles from San Salvador and an area largely under control of the guerrillas. The event itself served to disprove government claims that it controls the whole country.

The FMLN launched increased attacks on the country's electrical grid in early May, causing large-scale power outages.

"If the armed forces want the FMLN to stop sabotaging electric energy, they must abandon their intransigence and negotiate in good faith a global accord that eliminates the causes of the war," the front said in a broadcast on Farabundo Martí Radio.

During April the FMLN said it inflicted close to 700 casualties on the Salvadoran armed forces. The government has also stepped up its attacks on guerrilla-controlled areas.

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The Eastern Airlines Strike: Lessons for Labor Today. Speaker: Maggie Trowe, Communist League. Sat., May 25, 7:30 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

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SWEDEN

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Who's "we"? — A New Zealand business analyst proposed a further slash in the country's welfare payments. "It may seem like a step backward," he observed, "but if the



Harry Ring

country's income is moving toward peasant levels, we have to consider living like peasants."

Read it and retch — Michigan had its first taste of a new state law

authorizing probate judges to determine if minors should be permitted to have abortions. One judge vowed that in any case he handled, he would appoint a guardian for the fetus. Another said he would permit abortions without parental consent only in cases of incest or when a Black man rapes a white woman.

March of American education — An advanced training facility for McDonald's, and an accredited institution, McDonald's Hamburger University offers a Bachelor of Hamburgerology degree.

Better than Disneyland — We had reported that tourists could check out the stricken Soviet nuclear plant at Chernobyl, and now

the specifics: Tours are handled by California-based Multi Entertainment Holdings, Inc. A package includes a night's lodging, car and driver for a guided tour, lunch, and a souvenir photo snapped in front of the devastated reactor. \$500 and up.

Laid-back Los Angeles — "Some people get on the freeway, it's rush hour, bumper to bumper, and they're terrified. Their hearts are pounding, they're sweating, they're hyperventilating. They'll get off at the next ramp and take surface streets, even though it may take them two extra hours. Or they'll call [work] and say they're sick." — Psychiatrist Michael Singer.

Crash course — Czechoslovak official Alexander Dubcek recently visited New Zealand. To provide him a sampling of the country's society and culture, officials arranged for him to visit the National Museum and a K-Mart.

The pushers — One drug company gives doctors 1,000 frequent-flyer points for each patient they put on its hypertension drug. Another pays off doctors \$1,200 to prescribe one of their antibiotics for 20 hospital patients. Doing so is called a "study."

They forgot the proof? — In padding its swindle sheet for government-paid research, one university listed an item as "special merchandise."

It turned out to be liquor.

L.A. Times getting ultraleft? — In a review of good eating around town, the *Los Angeles Times* lauded the baked pork tacos at our neighborhood burrito stand. Waxing lyrical over the quality of the pork, the usually staid journal declared: "This is one pig that died for a good cause."

How about chastity belts? — Nigeria's education commissioner told a delegation of young women that the state was concerned about the "moral decadence" of Nigerian girls, particularly those of school age. He said male social vices could be more readily solved if women maintained a high moral standard.

The revolt of U.S. troops after World War II

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

Many working people today are unaware of an important chapter of U.S. history: the revolt of the troops following World War II, the largest such protest of a victorious army.

This rich and powerful story was first published in the *Young Socialist* magazine in 1965 and later as a *Young Socialist* pamphlet. It is reprinted in *New International* no. 7 in an article by Mary-Alice Waters entitled, "1945: When U.S. Troops Said 'No!'"

The new issue of the Marxist magazine, *New International*, focuses on telling the truth about Washington's murderous assault on the Iraqi people and how the working class can fight against imperialism and war.

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 in 1990 and 1991 by Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party.

The second section of the magazine, titled "Communists Don't Have a Revolutionary Policy for Peacetime and a Peace Policy for Wartime," contains three articles that explain the course fighting workers and youth took in opposing earlier imperialist wars and militarization drives. They point to the importance of reaching out to and mobilizing working people in and out of uniform.

Learning about the wave of protests fol-

lowing World War II, when GIs demanded they be demobilized and brought home, enriches such a perspective.

Colonial revolution

In the article "1945: When U.S. Troops Said 'No!,'" Waters explains that the heart of the political issue in 1945 "was whether U.S. troops would be demobilized or whether they would be kept in the Pacific to protect Western interests from the growing colonial revolution."

The GIs thought that with the end of the war in the Pacific there was no longer a need for millions of men in arms. They assumed they would be released. But instead, the U.S. government began transferring troops from Europe to the Pacific.

The official explanation for why the combat troops were being transferred to the Pacific was that they were needed for occupation duty in lands conquered by Washington. But the real reason had more to do with the fact that in the closing years of World War II, the international relationship of class forces had shifted to the detriment of imperialism.

A revolutionary tide was sweeping China, Korea, Vietnam, and elsewhere in Asia. This was of vital concern to U.S. imperialism, as China in particular was the great prize market of the Pacific.

"It would be an anomalous position for the United States to occupy, after putting up the men, the money, and enduring all the sacrifices which these mean, to have our country precluded from the markets which we have liberated," complained Senator Tunnel, in a speech to Congress on February 15, 1945.

Washington's redeployment of troops produced a flood of protests both from soldiers abroad and at home. A wave of demonstrations by GIs began to take place worldwide. Thousands of GIs participated in demonstrations in the Philippines, France, Britain, Germany, and the United States in the fall of 1945 and in early 1946.

GIs began organizing themselves to raise even broader issues, including the regular everyday abuses and forms of discrimination in the military. The soldiers began to put forward demands to the military brass for army reforms that included abolishing some of the special privileges accorded the officer corps.

The revolt represented a serious challenge to the American military system, which the U.S. government could not afford to have happen.

While military authorities tried to crack down on protesting GIs, they were unable to halt the revolt. Washington was in a tight spot because the revolt was so massive.

Labor battles of 1930s

An important aspect to this unfolding fight was the fact that many of those in uniform had also participated in the great labor battles of the 1930s and had been deeply affected by them. Waters points out they "had learned the methods and tactics of mass struggle from their experiences. They had gained organizational ability and knew the power of united action."

As the troops continued their demonstrations abroad in 1946, a fight by unionists against attacks by employers was unfolding at home.

The employing class had hoped returning

GIs could be used as strikebreakers. But union consciousness among the leaders of the troop demonstrations helped to assure that veterans would be sympathetic to organized labor.

A number of reasons are cited for why such a large and widespread revolt developed. In addition to being tired of fighting, the troops resented being used by imperialism to put down colonial rebellions. One soldier in a letter to his father expressed it this way. "Dad, if I could only impress you with the bitter hatred that exists among the marines over this, perhaps you could understand how we feel."

While the mass revolt by the soldiers was short, it had an important impact on world politics.

Washington was forced to demobilize the troops, and the revolt made it clear it would not be easy to get the idea of a permanent conscript army past the U.S. population.

The fact that GIs were unwilling to be used to "prevent the spread of communism" made it clear to the U.S. rulers they had to prepare an anticommunist campaign.

Ever since the 1917 Russian revolution, it has been Washington's strategic goal to overturn the workers' states in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. However, the world relationship of class forces following World War II precluded using massive military force to accomplish this goal. The troops' refusal to fight any longer showed the imperialists that time was required to properly prepare an anti-Soviet campaign. This gave the Soviet Union more

time to recover from the war and to develop. The colonial revolution was able to advance as well.

The GIs' fight also gave a push to labor struggles in the mid-1940s and encouraged the struggle for Black rights through the interracial solidarity displayed among the GIs active in the revolt.

The second section of this issue of the *New International* includes two other articles. "Washington's Third Militarization Drive," by Waters, explains the accelerated preparations for war that began in the last year of the Democratic administration of James Carter. Waters details the two preceding U.S. imperialist war drives, from 1937 through the end of World War II, and from 1947 to the defeat of U.S. imperialism in Vietnam.

"The Communist Antiwar Program of the Socialist Workers Party, 1940 to 1969," is the third article in the section. The resolution outlines the proletarian military policy adopted by the SWP on the eve of World War II, which called for military training of the working class under trade union control. The resolution explains how changes in the relationship of class forces in the 1950s and 1960s called for different demands to achieve the same revolutionary goals.

All the articles that make up *New International* no. 7 are invaluable tools to aid the working class in the fight against imperialism and war. Issue no. 7 should be widely distributed and others should be encouraged to read it.

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People
May 30, 1966

The overt racism of the Los Angeles police has not been altered one bit by the uprising in Watts that took place less than a year ago, recent events demonstrate. But the black people of Los Angeles are more ready than ever to fight for justice and dignity.

On May 7, a Los Angeles cop stopped the speeding car of Leon Deadwyler who was driving his pregnant wife to the hospital. The policeman, J.M. Bova, walked to the car with drawn gun and killed Deadwyler without a word, according to eyewitnesses.

The next day, several police cars and policemen were met with rocks and bottles in two ghetto areas outside of Watts.

On May 17, about 500 people protested the shooting of Deadwyler. The demonstration began in a park in south Los Angeles, then marched to the 77th Street Precinct police station which patrols Watts.

The concern of the black community to see that the cop who shot Deadwyler is brought to justice and the killing not just whitewashed was demonstrated May 19. A crowd of more than 1,000, nearly all black, surged through the Los Angeles County Courthouse in an effort to attend the inquest. Several were injured by sheriff's deputies in two scuffles. One woman was hospitalized when the escalator a group of Negroes was riding was sadistically reversed.

"I've seen small children handcuffed and beaten by police," the May 20 *New York Times* quotes Maxine Howard, a Negro woman who said she was a bail bondsman. "This Deadwyler thing is going to be the big test. If he [the cop] is cleared, who knows what will happen."

THE MILITANT

Official Weekly Organ of the Socialist Workers Party

May 31, 1941

By unanimous decision of the National Committee, the Socialist Workers Party hereby opens a campaign for a \$10,000 War Chest.

This may seem like a very large sum for a small workers' party to raise in the face of war, when rival parties and groups are crying hard times, languishing or folding up altogether.

Some may regard the talk of a \$10,000 War Chest as a bluff — a fantastic sum of which we expect to collect only a small part.

All such assumptions are completely erroneous. They can be entertained only by people who do not know our party. We are calling for a \$10,000 War Chest, and our party members will subscribe to it 100% — to the last penny!

In every case the party strives to understand and single out the most important task of the hour. Then it concentrates all efforts and energies on the accomplishment of that task. The task of the present hour is to prepare the party for war — to provide it with a War Chest.



Veterans on picket line in Detroit, January 1946. Story of GIs' fight against war and how it gave a push to labor struggles in the mid-1940s, as well as encouraging fight for Black rights, is told in new issue of Marxist magazine.

Help us win 3,225 subscribers

Hundreds of *Militant* salespeople will be knocking on doors in working-class neighborhoods and farming communities during the eight-day sales blitz from May 25–June 1. They will be introducing as many people as possible to the only newspaper that tells the truth about the new wars and economic crises that imperialism holds in store for humanity; the only paper that offers a working-class perspective on how to defend their class interests.

We invite all our readers to join in this special target week in the international circulation drive. The drive's goal is to sell 3,225 *Militant* subscriptions; 1,950 copies of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*; plus 725 subscriptions to the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial* and 200 to the French-language *L'Internationale*. We're behind schedule in the drive but can catch up by talking to thousands of trade unionists, young people, and other political activists over the next week.

Whether they are coal miners in Australia, machinists in Canada, or farm workers in the United States, no working-class fighters can afford to be without the *Militant* as their weekly guide to what is happening in the world class struggle and how to respond to these political developments.

The *Militant* is the only newspaper that has not turned its back on the toilers of the Middle East. Week after week, we strive to bring you the facts of the devastating consequences of Washington's embargo against Iraq, the fight of the Kurdish people, the conditions of the many other refugees created by the allied war, interviews with Palestinian

leaders, and ongoing analysis of the attempts by the imperialists to impose stability in the region in order to protect their profits.

Only by being fully informed about the battles working people face in other parts of the world — especially today in the Mideast — and only by standing unconditionally with these sisters and brothers, can working people effectively defend their class interests at home against the employers and their governments.

For the same reason we do our best to bring you news of the unfolding battle in South Africa and the determined struggle of the people of Cuba to deepen their socialist revolution despite new hardships.

Militant readers are responding enthusiastically to the target week. Laid-off workers are volunteering for teams to visit cities where the *Militant* is not sold regularly. They are being joined by students on vacation. These teams, whether they travel to college campuses, to farming communities, or to visit union locals on strike, are making it possible for many fighters to read the *Militant* for the first time.

Industrial workers, who are the backbone of the circulation drive, are organizing to talk to every coworker they can about subscribing. During the war against Iraq, such an effort resulted in more than 1,300 trade unionists buying the special *International Socialist Review* supplement to the *Militant*. An even better response from coworkers is possible today. Join us.

Support anti-apartheid actions

Working people, youth, and other opponents of apartheid should respond to the call by the African National Congress for international solidarity actions.

A series of boycotts, hunger strikes, and work stoppages through June 16 in South Africa will focus on demands that the Pretoria regime release political prisoners and take steps to end government complicity with the terror being brought into Black townships in many parts of the country.

Unions and labor bodies, student organizations, and South Africa solidarity organizations can plan educational events, picket lines, and other meetings to back these protest actions, which are already under way.

Joining in the protests will help send a signal to imperialist governments that they should keep sanctions against the apartheid regime in place and enforce them. The recent lifting of sanctions by the European Community stands as a warning that renewed calls for the maintenance of the punitive measures must be made.

The battle to bring down apartheid and establish a new government based on one person, one vote, directly strengthens the labor movement worldwide. It aids in pushing back racist attacks, police violence, and assaults on democratic rights.

As the government of President F.W. de Klerk drags its feet and seeks halfway measures aimed at deflecting the revolutionary struggle and protecting the power and privilege of the country's ruling class, the devastating economic and social impact of apartheid continues unabated.

The steps taken by the ANC — mobilizing the broadest

numbers possible in the fight for a democratic, nonracial South Africa — show the determination of the liberation movement to continue the struggle until the decades-long shackles of apartheid are torn asunder and a new nation is forged.

To effectively advance the international struggle against apartheid, working people should reject attempts to discredit the ANC through labeling it violent or unwilling to "realistically" enter negotiations.

One such attack is being carried out through the trial of Winnie Mandela. From day one this trial has been politically motivated — simply a means to smear the ANC and its central leader, Nelson Mandela.

Tried by a government for which she cannot even vote, much less run for office, Winnie Mandela was sentenced to six years in prison. Unable to have a jury of her peers because they are not considered citizens in their own land, she was tried in the media and sentenced by a judge who called her a "liar."

This is quite an accusation from a government that is responsible for a system of rule appropriately called "a crime against humanity" by Nelson Mandela. To its countless victims inside South Africa must be added tens of thousands more from its military aggression in southern Africa as a whole.

Winnie Mandela is appealing her conviction. The charges against her should be dropped. This South African government has no moral or political right to continue its malicious prosecution.

Canada workers fight austerity

The fights being waged by public sector workers in Montréal and nurses in Saskatchewan deserve the attention and support of all working people. These workers are taking the lead in challenging the severe austerity measures which are being implemented by the federal, provincial, and city governments across Canada.

These measures, taking the form of wage freezes on public sector workers, or below-inflation ceilings on wage increases, are a threat not just to government workers but to those employed in private industry as well. Precedents established in one area will be used as a club to beat back workers in other areas.

Unions and the labor movement as a whole should seek every opportunity to link up with the Montréal city workers and the Saskatchewan nurses, whether by joining or building their rallies and other actions, or by sending messages of solidarity and other forms of support.

The Montréal workers' action is especially significant in that it is being taken against the policy of the three major union federations in Québec that have accepted a wage freeze for provincial workers — two of the federations were party to a six-year no-strike agreement for steelworkers — all on the grounds that this is the way to strengthen the "Québec" economy and fight against the national oppression of the Québécois.

By adopting the patriotic framework of the employers and their government, the labor officialdom is promoting the rulers' concept that everyone in a given country (or province) benefits in the same way from upholding the

"national" (or "provincial") state interests.

This is the same problem working people in every part of the world face today: the labor officialdom encourages workers to view the health of the rulers' factories, businesses and state machinery in one country as "our" concern. They push the reactionary notion that we have to protect "our country," "our province," "our industry," or "our plant," against "them" — "them" being anything from the bosses' foreign (or local) competitors to immigrant workers and workers in other countries.

Accepting this line only means growing divisions within the working class and greater competition for the ever-shrinking pie the employers say is available. It saps the fighting capacity of the labor movement to organize in a common struggle — across craft, industrial, and national lines.

Ultimately it leads to supporting the protectionist measures of the bosses in any given country against those in competing countries. The stakes in this are much higher in the 1990s, because, in the context of today's sharpening competition between imperialist countries for markets and sources of raw materials, trade wars lead in the direction of shooting wars, in which all workers are victims.

By rejecting this whole framework working people can free themselves from the political shackles imposed on them by the labor officialdom and can begin to look toward mobilizing union power to defend their real interests — the interests of the entire working class at home and abroad.

U.S. war on Iraq & petty-bourgeois currents' collapse

In this week's column we are reprinting excerpts from the article "Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq." Written by Jack Barnes, Socialist Workers Party national secretary, the article appears in the just-released issue no. 7 of *New Internationalist*. For more information on purchasing this Marxist magazine, see the advertisement on page 1. Reprinted by permission. Copyright © 1991 by 408 Printing and Publishing Corp.

The various petty-bourgeois currents in the workers' movement in the United States were stunned, impressed, and frightened by what imperialism did during its war against Iraq. They buy Bush, Powell, and Schwarzkopf's claims that the Gulf war showed that U.S. imperialism is all-powerful. Perhaps the clearest example, among the many I've seen, is an article by Irwin Silber in the April 1991

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

issue of a magazine called *Crossroads*.

As a result of the outcome of the war in the Gulf, Silber says, "The U.S. has unmistakably re-established itself as a superpower."

"The 'Vietnam syndrome' has become, at most, a secondary factor in U.S. foreign policy calculations," Silber says, and "The U.S. is now — more than ever — the dominant force in the Middle East." He despairs that the Soviet Union — he means the Stalinist Gorbachev regime — "has a qualitatively diminished capacity to affect the direction and outcome of world events." Calling Moscow's abject support in the UN Security Council for imperialism's economic blockade of the people of Iraq "a not unreasonable decision," Silber adds that the Soviet government nonetheless "doesn't have much to show for its support of the war either. . . . Not only has the U.S. regained superpower status. It is now the only superpower."

It's not just that Silber is wrong on every count — he is. The most craven thing is swallowing hook, line, and sinker the self-image that the U.S. imperialist rulers seek to project. Not recognizing that Baghdad had no intention of organizing the toilers to fight U.S. imperialism, he mistakes Washington's devastation of Iraq for a grand military victory — and he is terrified and overwhelmed by it. Silber has been so slavish for so long in looking to the Stalinist regime in Moscow for salvation that he is let down by what is simply the privileged caste's continuing class-collaborationist course in face of its deepening crisis. He doesn't say a word about the Kurds and other oppressed peoples in Iraq, whose rebellions were beginning to unfold.

Another common reaction by Stalinist, social democratic, and centrist currents to imperialism's "victory" in the Gulf war has been to turn their backs on the millions of victims of the U.S. war in the name of concentrating on "domestic issues." Many present the false view that the U.S. rulers launched the war to divert attention from pressing economic and social problems in the United States. They echo the "America first," "charity begins at home" claptrap of the U.S. labor officialdom.

A little more than a week after Bush announced the temporary suspension of offensive operations, for example, the *People's Weekly World*, newspaper of the Communist Party, ran the front-page headline: "Enough War — Time to Rebuild America!" Just consider what working people in the United States already know about the devastation wreaked on Iraq and Kuwait by the U.S. government, and by Baghdad's policies as well, and then think about that headline: "Enough War — Time to Rebuild America!" What about rebuilding Iraq? What about rebuilding Kuwait? What about aiding the refugee populations throughout the Gulf?

I've been struck over the past few weeks in looking at the front pages of newspapers of groups on the U.S. "left" that virtually none feature the information coming out about the U.S. destruction of Iraq, the horrors being inflicted on the Kurdish people, or other aspects of the unfolding consequences of Washington's war. Instead, almost all of them contain some variant of the line, "Enough of the war diversions — let's get back to the economic and social problems here at home."

Counterposing the conditions, interests, and struggles of toilers in the Gulf to those of workers and farmers here in the United States is the opposite of a revolutionary approach, of a communist approach. It's as if there is a calibrated scale to measure the worth of human beings from different parts of the world and the horrors we face — one for U.S. citizens, another for Iraqis, Kurds, Kuwaitis, South Africans, and so on.

The war in the Gulf was *not* waged by the capitalist rulers to divert attention from pressing social questions at home. Wars fought by the U.S. imperialists have never been a "diversion"; they have always been an *extension* of the rulers' domestic course and a preview of coming attractions at home, if we don't organize to stop them.

Effort to stop trade deal no answer for workers

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

ST. LOUIS — In the last year, officials of the United Auto Workers union (UAW) have been crying crocodile tears over the conditions of workers in the auto industry in Mexico.

Their tears are becoming a flood as the U.S. government moves toward an agreement with Mexico that would break down many trade barriers between the two countries.

According to the mouthpieces of the capitalists of both countries, the agreement would spur the Mexican economy, which is in deep crisis. Economic growth has declined; the

UNION TALK

minimum wage has dropped 50 percent; and unemployment has skyrocketed. One of the main culprits of the economic disaster in Mexico's debt to the imperialist banks and governments. It rose to \$107 billion in 1989.

UAW officials claim they want to slow the trade pact until ways can be found to guarantee the rights of Mexican workers to decent wages and working conditions, democratic trade unionism and an end to child labor.

They point to the low wages and poor working conditions of workers in factories in Mexico's free trade zone along the U.S.-Mexico border. These factories are known as *maquiladoras*. The *maquiladoras* are set up under an agreement with the Mexican government. This agreement allows U.S. corporations to set up factories in Mexico, bring in machinery and raw material duty free, exploit labor for assembly, and export the product back to the U.S. with a reduced duty.

There are some 1,800 *maquiladoras* operating in Mexico today. Approximately a half million people work in these factories. Many workers there earn the minimum wage of 68 cents an hour or less. Environmental pollution is rampant and working conditions are so harsh that the turnover rate is often 10 percent a month.

For many autoworkers here the officials' concern for Mexican workers does not ring true. For the last 12 years, these same officials have ceded concession after concession to the auto giants. After more than a decade of such takebacks real wages in the auto industry have declined and working conditions have deteriorated.

The cynical character of the officialdom's concern for Mexican workers was exposed in a recent issue of *Solidarity*, the UAW's magazine. The lead article entitled "Wiping Away Jobs" told about a windshield wiper factory which moved from Buffalo, New York to Mexico. The line of the article was expressed succinctly in the subtitle: "They've seen their jobs swept away to Mexico. It's a story that could be repeated over and over if the proposed U.S.-Mexico free trade agreement is not stopped soon."

The officialdom is not concerned with fighting for jobs for all who need them. This was clearly demonstrated in the last auto contract where they guaranteed the union would passively accept the companies' projected plant closings. These officials today turn a blind eye as General Motors,

for example, closes down one shift at its Kansas City plant and works the other shift overtime. The officialdom has relegated to the archives any demand that the workweek be shortened with no cut in pay to spread the available work around.

The officialdom is really only interested in maintaining their dues base. This was clearly demonstrated in their \$24 million fight with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees over who would represent public employees in Indiana. To protect the dues base, these officials will defend and promote any protectionist measure regardless of how it weakens the unions.

No member of the UAW officialdom has distanced themselves from this campaign against the trade agreement. In fact the union's opposition caucus, known as New Directions, has projected campaigning against the pact as its central activity. Its only criticism of the officialdom is that they are not doing enough to oppose Bush administration moves to conclude a trade treaty.

There is a real desire among auto workers here to unite with workers on the other side of the border in face of the auto companies' attacks. In an attempt to tap into this sentiment, New Directions has falsely claimed that fighting against "free trade" is the way to build solidarity with Mexican workers.

A campaign around how the bosses organize trade among themselves is a dead end for U.S. workers. A campaign for barriers between nations cannot unify workers but will deepen divisions among us.

Demanding that the trade agreement be stopped and protectionist measures continued will pit us against Mexican workers. Such a campaign will, like the anti-Japanese import campaign before it, unleash a racist backlash against Mexican workers. It is primarily the distaste many workers feel toward the racist character of such campaigns that has kept the officialdom from successfully whipping up auto workers around this question.

The campaign against the trade pact is a diversion from the real discussion working people need in the face of our worsening conditions. Such a discussion cannot begin with American workers or with "our" jobs. It must begin with the fact that working people, regardless of what country we live in, form an international class.

I recently attended an event featuring talks by workers from a number of different countries. What struck me from their talks was how similar we are. We share a common experience. We share a common exploitation. We share a common enemy — the capitalists. Capitalists also form a class internationally. They too live basically the same. They share a common goal — to drive down our standard of living and increase their profits.

The bosses function internationally. But we are still caught in the trap of thinking of ourselves as Americans or Canadians or Japanese and not as part of a world class. Therefore the labor officialdom can make headway in whipping up campaigns to protect what is "ours" against

other workers. But other workers are not the problem. It is the bosses and their governments that are trying to take back the hard won gains of working people.

Because we are all members of one class our future is bound together. We cannot protect ourselves anywhere without joining with our class brothers and sisters around the world in struggle against imperialism's wars and the rulers' attempts to make working people pay for the crisis of their system.

In place of a campaign against free trade, working people should be discussing the demands we need to raise to unite with workers of the semicolonial world in a common struggle. Such demands include cancellation of the third world debt, opening the border, and an international fight to reduce the workweek with no cut in pay. The desire among a number of UAW members to unite with other autoworkers and their repulsion at the racist character of the protectionist campaigns has made many open to this discussion.

The debt, which amounts to hundreds of billions of dollars, is owed to the imperialist banks and governments. Just to pay the interest on the debt, capitalist governments throughout the third world are squeezing workers and farmers — driving down their standard of living — forcing them into poverty. As long as the debt burden exists workers and farmers in Mexico and throughout the third world will see their standard of living plummet. Workers and our unions in the United States can join with our brothers and sisters in demanding the debt be cancelled. Our entering into this struggle will add tremendous power to it.

To build solidarity among working people we need the freest flow of goods and people. Therefore we should demand not only that duties be lifted but that the border be opened. Workers must be free to move to sell their labor power at the best price. Opening the border would enrich the working class by integrating diverse class struggle experiences and help tie workers around the world more closely together.

In the last two years, Korean workers struck Hyundai while Mexican and Brazilian workers struck Ford. These strikes were a golden opportunity for the officialdom to stop crying over conditions of these workers and do something to help them fight to raise their standard of living. Workers in auto plants followed these strikes and willingly would have helped. Unfortunately, the silence of the UAW officials in the face of these struggles was deafening. But solidarity between workers will only be built through concrete support for real struggles.

The union officialdom's campaign to stop the trade agreement will neither raise the standard of living of Mexican workers or protect jobs or the standard of living here. It will, however, put a road block in the path of unifying workers. Their chauvinist campaign will further weaken the union.

Andrea González is a member of UAW Local 325 in St. Louis.

LETTERS

Defeat of apartheid

I would like to commend you for the many enlightening articles covering the U.S. invasion of Iraq. I would also like to see more articles concerning South Africa and the end of apartheid.

Each time one of imperialism's tentacles is cut off we are closer to liberation. The struggle in South Africa is the most important battle of the century for Black people and all people of color. Defeat of apartheid will bring Afrikans and all people who are oppressed closer to liberation, justice, and equality.

A prisoner
Crescent City, California

Washington and Hussein

I was reading the lead article of the May 17 *Militant* when I came upon the sentence, "Washington favored Hussein's victory over the Kurdish rebels." I asked myself, is this so evident to working people that it requires no additional proof?

The U.S.-led war/massacre against the Iraqi people resulted in military control over virtually all of Iraq, particularly in the air. Then came the strange and unexplained freedom of action that the conquerors gave the vanquished Iraqi military forces.

It was this, and the resulting murderous use of weapons like tanks and attack helicopters, that effectively enabled the Hussein regime to repulse the Kurdish uprising.

Yes, the *Militant* statement is cor-

rect. The real history of the war proves it. That history, however abridged, should be included, whenever possible, in relevant articles.

Ed Bromberg
New York, New York

Abusive authority

I've covered all the articles concerning the brutal beating of Rodney King very closely in every segment thus far.

I'm not surprised to find that the proletarian mass has unified and demonstrated their outrage at the "vigilante audacity" displayed by the Klansmen in blue.

Those of us presently incarcerated can certainly identify with and applaud your efforts to oust the devil's advocate, Gates.

A prisoner
Crescent City, California

Important voice

Being one of the few periodicals, the very few, out there trying to put across the truth about the Gulf war makes you a very important voice indeed. Your devotion and courage are commendable.

Please send information on ordering *The Assassination of Malcolm X*. I was living in Manhattan at the time of his murder and don't believe the official lies for a minute.

S.B.
El Cerrito, California

[Editor's Note: *The Assassination of Malcolm X* (Pathfinder,



\$13.95) is available from the Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12 or by writing Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Enclose \$3 for postage and handling.]

Hypocrisy?

In response to the indictment of the East German chief of security, when is J. Edgar Hoover going to be indicted for his crimes against Martin Luther King and the untold progressives who suffered because of fascist FBI abuse.

When is Harry Truman going to be indicted for his unspeakable crime against the civilians of Hiro-

shima and Nagasaki.

And, when will America be indicted for the Nazi tactics of the racist murderous Uncle Sam.

A reader
Minneapolis, Minnesota

20-year subscriber

I have taken this paper for 20 years. It is the best. I couldn't get along without it.

A.D.
Sacramento, California

'Keep up good work'

The *Militant* is one of the best written newspapers in the world.

You should keep up the good work and information. The *Militant* has some real true stories about things happening all over the world. By reading the *Militant* you might learn something about events around the world.

A prisoner
Attica, New York

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.

ANC calls campaign of mass action

Boycotts, strikes to demand regime action on violence, political prisoners

BY GREG McCARTAN

The African National Congress (ANC) announced plans May 18 for a series of mass actions through mid-June. The protests seek to force the government to take steps to halt the spiraling violence against anti-apartheid forces and to release political prisoners.

According to a press release, the ANC's National Executive Committee also decided at a May 17 meeting that "until such time as progress is made in regard to these demands, the ANC will not involve itself in constitutional discussions with the government, or in any all-party congress to discuss the mechanisms for drawing up a new democratic constitution."

In addition to members of the ANC leadership body, representatives of the ANC Women's League and Youth League, the South African Communist Party (SACP), and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) attended the meeting.

"The central concern dominating the meeting was the serious threat that the violence is posing to the negotiations process," the press statement said. Some 800 people have died this year alone in politically inspired attacks on Black townships or at events sponsored by the ANC or organizations affiliated to it.

In a phone interview from Johannesburg, ANC information secretary Pallo Jordan said the mass protests would commence May 22 "with a one-day hunger strike in support of the political prisoners by ANC National Executive Committee members" and leaders of the SACP, COSATU, and other organizations.

A consumer boycott, "decided on by each region of the country," is also being planned. This will lead up to demonstrations and rallies to be held June 15-16. Jordan said preparations for strike actions in support of the demands are also underway. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a prominent campaigner against apartheid, began a hunger strike in support of the political prisoners May 17.

June 16 is observed as the commemoration



Bodies of five ANC supporters in Sebokeng who were attacked by supporters of Inkatha. ANC has called mass protests demanding an end to the violence.

of the apartheid regime's massacre of protesting youth during the 1976 uprising in Soweto.

The ANC leader said prominent people around the world planned to join in the hunger strike and he encouraged support actions be held as widely as possible.

For a peace conference

In deciding to suspend constitutional talks and embark on a mass protest campaign the expanded ANC leadership meeting stressed that "peace is absolutely necessary for a democratic transformation of our country." The organization came out strongly in favor of "a peace conference involving all parties and organizations." It expressed backing to an initiative by religious leaders to convene

such a meeting, but rejected one called unilaterally by South African President F.W. de Klerk for May 24-25.

On April 5 the liberation organization said it would suspend talks unless the government met seven demands by May 9. These included the dismissal of Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok and Defense Minister Magnus Malan, the dismantling and disarming of counterinsurgency units, the outlawing of weapons at political events, the suspension of policemen involved in two fatal attacks on ANC supporters, and the prohibition of the use of live ammunition by police assigned to monitor political rallies.

Earlier agreements between the ANC and the de Klerk government stipulated that all political prisoners would be released by April

30. The regime openly admits it has not met this deadline.

The demands are aimed at ending the complicity of government security forces with vigilante attacks that have claimed the lives of thousands over the past several years.

An example of the character of these murderous assaults is an attack on the township of Kagiso May 12.

Up to 1,000 people identified with the Inkatha Freedom Party launched an attack on the township at dawn. Twenty-seven residents were killed and 30 wounded. Some 82 shacks — the kind of housing in which the majority of Blacks in the country are forced to live in — were destroyed.

As in previous attacks, many of the township residents interviewed said the police participated in the assault and aided the attackers identified with Inkatha.

Long opposed to the policies of the ANC, Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi has collaborated with the government as the head of the KwaZulu Bantustan. He built Inkatha into a political force utilizing Zulu symbols and cultural traditions. At political rallies supporters are armed with spears and other weapons. Often these have been used against ANC supporters and in rampages through townships.

ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela has sought to draw Buthelezi away from his collaboration with the regime by opening talks on resolving disputes where they arise between the two political organizations. But the attacks by groups identified as Inkatha, along with the police as their accomplices, have continued.

Residents in Kagiso told *New York Times* reporter Christopher Wren that the attackers were "Inkatha people together with the police." Another said, "They had weapons and the police escorted them."

The attackers came from a nearby hostel — one of the barracks-like, sex-segregated living quarters set up by the regime to house migrant workers. The isolation between Blacks from various areas in South Africa and township dwellers inherent in the hostel set-up and migrant labor system has created and perpetuated divisions and tensions.

For these reasons the ANC has also called on the government to phase out the hostels altogether.

Political prisoners not released

According to the nongovernmental Human Rights Commission, based in South Africa, some 1,700 people remain in jail because of their political activity. Between February 2, 1990, and the end of March 1991 only 310 had been freed. In April the regime stepped up its release of such prisoners, freeing 623.

On May 15, political prisoners remaining on Robben Island were moved to Pollsmoor Prison in Cape Town, despite their desire not to go. Among their numbers are 18 hunger strikers who have been refusing food since May 1 to demand the release of all prisoners agreed to between the government and the ANC.

Commenting on the treatment meted out to the hunger strikers, the May 18 ANC statement said that "some have been put in mortuaries and told they will be left to freeze to death. Others who have suspended their hunger strike have been charged by prison authorities with 'attempted suicide' and sentenced to a spare diet."

Willie Hofmeyr, lawyer for the hunger strikers, said in a press release May 15 day that the "attempt to move them was not only illegitimate, but also unlawful."

In a blow to the ANC, Justice Michael Stegmann found Winnie Mandela guilty of kidnapping and being an accessory to several assaults. She was subsequently sentenced to six years in jail. An appeal was immediately filed.

The judge ruled that Mrs. Mandela was complicit in the kidnapping of four youths in an attempt to discredit a local minister.

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Johnny Imani Harris granted parole

BY JOAN LEVITT

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — Racist frame-up victim Johnny Imani Harris has been granted parole after serving over 20 years in prison, 14 of those on death row.

Harris' frame-up began in 1970 when his family moved into a previously all-white neighborhood here. After months of

racist harassment by the Ku Klux Klan and the police, Harris was stopped on his way to work one day and subsequently charged with four robberies and the rape of a white woman.

His defense attorneys did virtually nothing to prepare his defense and advised him to plead guilty or face a death sentence.

Montréal city workers walk out in defiance of government wage freeze

BY SUSAN BERMAN

MONTRÉAL — On May 14, 5,200 workers, members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 301, staged their seventh walkout since mid-February. The union is demanding an 8 percent pay increase and a 35-hour, four-day workweek in the reopener of their 3-year contract. The city's last offer of 5 percent and designation of a committee to study the workweek was rejected by a 3-1 margin.

The day of the walkout, yellow school buses made their way through Montréal picking up the workers — city street cleaners, arena attendants, and maintenance workers — at their workplaces, and then converged on City Hall. Waving their brooms in their hands, over 2,000 angry workers occupied City Hall, shouting "On ne lâche pas" ["We're not giving up"].

Montréal city workers are on the frontlines of resisting the Québec government's attacks on public sector workers.

In March, the Québec government announced plans to impose a wage freeze on 400,000 provincial employees. Montréal Mayor Jean Doré just announced a 2 percent ceiling on wage increases for city workers. The city is also in negotiations with white-collar workers and firefighters.

On April 23, the three major Québec union federations — the Confederation of National Trade Unions (CSN), the Québec Teachers Federation (CEQ), and the Québec Federation of Labor (FTQ) — agreed to a 6-month wage freeze for provincial workers. This will be followed by a 3 percent wage increase, far below the inflation rate.

'A new partnership'

The provincial government has hailed the union agreement as ushering in a new era of labor-management relations. Québec Treasury Board President Daniel Johnson told the Québec National Assembly that "it constitutes the beginning of a new partner-

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Harris was sent to Atmore prison to serve five life jail terms. In 1974, during protests against prison conditions later declared to be "cruel and unusual punishment," prisoners took two guards hostage in an attempt to expose these conditions to the public. The warden ordered guards to break up the protests, resulting in the death of one prisoner and a guard.

Although no evidence was presented, Harris was tried for the death of the guard. At the trial the prosecutor maintained that even though Harris did not personally stab the guard, his involvement in the protest meant he was accountable for the death. Using an 1859 slave-era law mandating the death penalty for an inmate convicted of killing a guard while serving a life jail term, Harris was convicted by an all-white jury and sentenced to death.

The National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression has spearheaded the defense campaign on behalf of Harris for the past 15 years. After serving 14 years on death row, Harris' death sentence was overturned; the murder conviction was thrown out shortly thereafter.

In 1989 Harris was moved from Atmore to Springville, Alabama, and his case was heard before the Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles. The board stated that Harris had not served enough time to be released.

On May 6 Harris' case was heard again. Despite a written protest by the Attorney Generals' Office, the board voted unanimously to parole Harris. A victory meeting, to be attended by supporters of Harris from across the country, will be held here May 31.