

Disease, hunger stalk Iraq as result of U.S. war, embargo

Harvard study says 170,000 children will die

BY GREG McCARTAN

A Harvard medical team report, released May 21, exposes the deteriorating health conditions in Iraq. The worsening situation is the result of U.S. and allied bombing and the now 10-month-old embargo of the country.

Epidemics, lack of electrical generation capacity, shortages of medical personnel and medicines, and the onset of summer are combining to create "a real crisis," according to Dr. Harvey Fineberg, Harvard School of Public Health dean, who reviewed the team's findings.

Coming one day after U.S. President George Bush reiterated Washington's demand that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein be ousted from power before the sanctions are lifted, the report reveals who really suffers from the imperialist assault on Iraq: children and working people.

"Throughout Iraq gastroenteritis, cholera and typhoid are now epidemic," the study says. "Contrary to the statements of both the Iraqi Government and Western journalists that the health situation is stable and will continue to improve, the study team finds that the state of medical care is desperate and — unless conditions change substantially — will continue to deteriorate in nearly every region and at nearly every provider level."



Bombing damage in Basra. Destruction of power plants means water treatment stations and hospital facilities cannot operate, encouraging epidemic diseases.

For children under age five, the death rate is now double or triple that before the war "as a result of the delayed effects of the Gulf Crisis," the team found.

Typhoid, cholera, malnutrition

One hundred and seventy thousand additional children will die this year in Iraq from typhoid, cholera, malnutrition, and other health problems as a result of the bombing and embargo, the report says.

During the six-week bombing of Iraq that began January 16, allied forces targeted power plants needed to run hospitals, water treatment plants, food factories, and other sectors of the country's infrastructure. Iraq's inability to import medicines and food compounded the already desperate conditions created by the bombing.

The study, one of the first complete reports from Iraq, is drawn on information gathered in numerous cities around the country. The group of doctors, lawyers, and public health specialists visited hospitals, clinics, power plants, sanitation facilities, and private homes.

Commenting to the press about the possi-

ble number of children who will die, team leader and physician Megan Passey said she "wouldn't be surprised if it were at least double" the 170,000 figure.

In four pediatric hospitals, between 32 and 57 percent of the children suffered from malnutrition — uncommon over the last decade in Iraq. Malnourished children are admitted to hospitals only if they have a treatable intestinal infection because hospitals lack food or infant formula, Passey said.

Of the hospitals and health centers that are operating, many lack clean water, sewage disposal, and electric power. Shortages of drugs, intravenous fluids, needles, syringes, bandages, and other supplies are universal.

Cholera epidemics

Cholera epidemics are flaring up across the country as well. While this was predicted by a World Health Organization report in mid-February and again by a March 20 United Nations report, Washington has continued its policy of strangulation of the Iraqi people.

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Lift the embargo! Open U.S. borders to refugees!

Recent media reports based almost entirely on visits to Baghdad claimed that Iraq's capital city was recovering rapidly. Maybe the U.S.-led assault on the Iraqi people wasn't so bad after all, implied articles in the *New York Times*, the *Nation*, and other publications.

The Harvard medical team report, based on visits around the country and to hospitals and neighborhoods in Baghdad, deflates those stories by getting out the shocking facts.

The report confirms what a United Nations delegation found in March: The U.S.-led war and embargo "destroyed or rendered tenu-

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ous" most "means of modern life support" in Iraq.

Unmoved by the unfolding human tragedy, by a death rate for children under five that is double or triple what it was before the war, and by the epidemics of cholera and typhoid, Washington and London are pressing for the continuation of the embargo against the Iraqi people.

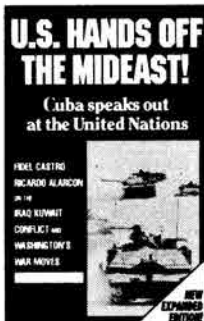
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Court assaults abortion rights; Congress hits affirmative action

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

The U.S. Supreme Court delivered a serious blow to abortion rights May 23. In a 5-4 ruling, the Court upheld federal regulations barring employees of federally financed family planning clinics from all discussion of abortion with their patients.

At the same time, the U.S. Congress is pressing ahead with legislation aimed at gutting affirmative action programs. On May 21, members of the House Judiciary Committee unveiled a civil rights bill that would outlaw the use of hiring quotas.

Previous versions of the bill stated employers were not required or encouraged to use quotas, but in a bipartisan drive against any numerical requirements on employers to hire women and members of oppressed nationalities, the Democrats added that quotas are "not permitted."

The new bill immediately came under criticism by some Republican representatives who said the limits on damages for victims of job discrimination did not provide enough protection for employers. The legislation limits compensatory damages to \$150,000.

Democratic officeholders said the measure is written so nothing in the bill "shall be construed to require or encourage or permit

an employer to adopt hiring or promotion quotas on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin."

Democratic Congressman Vic Fazio said, "Democrats are about to make quotas illegal, driving reverse discrimination out of the workplace and driving Republican race-baiting out of politics."

In addition, the bill would allow those who claimed they were not hired or promoted because an employer implemented any form of quotas to sue and collect damages.

Eliminating quotas would take the teeth out of affirmative action programs. It is primarily through the use of quotas that employers are forced to hire minorities and women. The adoption of the legislation would allow employers to probe for ways to re-segregate the workplace and carry out discriminatory employment practices.

Attack on abortion

The antiabortion ruling by the Supreme Court will affect 4,500 clinics. These clinics serve nearly four million women each year who are overwhelmingly low income. One-third of the clinics' patients are teenagers. The

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Latino groups call for Gates' ouster at Los Angeles hearing

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — More than 300 Latinos packed a public hearing here May 20 to voice their anger over police brutality and add their voices to the call for removal of Police Chief Daryl Gates.

Representatives of various community organizations spoke out at the hearing of a commission appointed by Mayor Tom Bradley in the wake of the political furor created by the videotaped police beating of Rodney King, a union construction worker who is Black.

Al Belmontez of the Mexican-American Political Association charged there that Mexican-Americans have been treated like "the enemy." The police department, he declared, "has acted like an army of occupation."

Dora Alicia Alarcón, president of the Street Vendors Association and an emigré from El

Salvador, described how cops grab the goods of vendors with no real explanation.

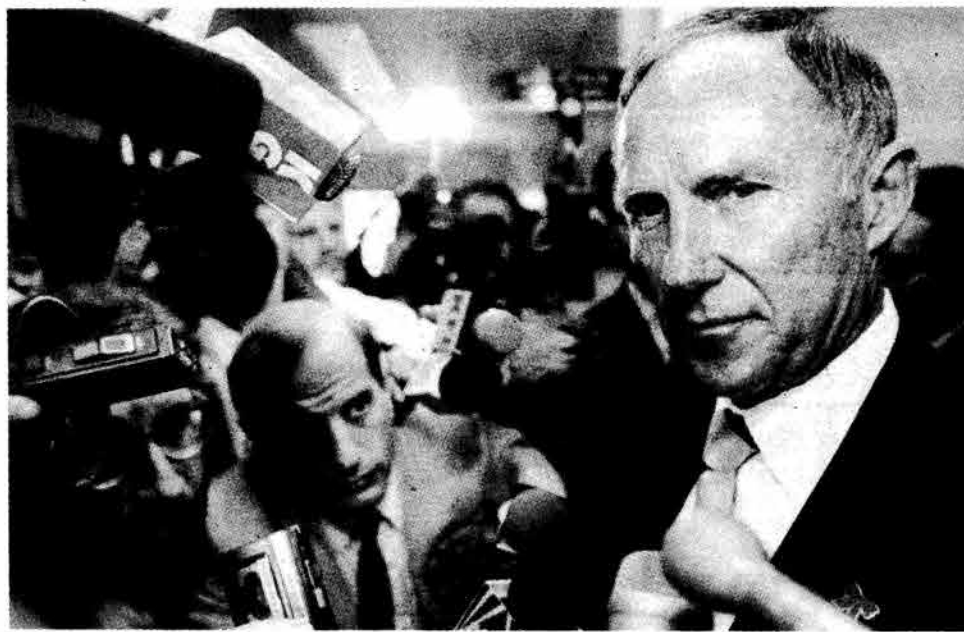
She said she had not expected to come to the United States "to get such racist and bad treatment from police officers."

A petition drive to qualify a recall-Gates proposition for the ballot is being supported by the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and by the Association of Mexican-American Educators.

An official of the educators' group declared, "If our representatives refuse to fire Daryl Gates, we will recall him."

Cops' excuse: 'no chokehold'

Meanwhile Sgt. Stacey Koon, one of the four cops indicted in the brutalization of King, said a key point in their defense will be that they had to club and kick the prostrate King because the Los Angeles Police Depart-



"If our representatives refuse to fire [Police Chief] Daryl Gates, we will recall him," vowed an official of the Association of Mexican-American Educators. Gates (above) speaks to press.

ment (LAPD) no longer officially permits the use of the chokehold.

Koon noted that Chief Gates had been prominent in bemoaning the loss of the chokehold and had predicted cops would use their clubs more freely.

During the time when the beating of King was being filmed, the cops delivered a reported 56 blows to the unresisting King, many as he lay prostrate on the ground.

The chokehold, a form of neck strangulation, was formally eliminated in 1982 after a public outcry against its use. In the previous seven years the cops strangled at least 17 people to death with the chokehold.

Meanwhile, in a mockery of justice, two cops in the city of Long Beach beat the rap after being filmed brutalizing Don Jackson, a former policeman who is Black.

To support his charges of widespread police abuse of Blacks, Jackson had joined with a TV news crew in a sting operation.

An NBC-TV camera secretly rolled while Long Beach cops brutalized Jackson. The film shows two cops arresting him at a traffic light, and then assaulting him, smashing his head into a plate-glass window.

Not knowing the incident had been filmed, the two cops filed a report that said Jackson had leaped from his car, assumed a fighting stance, and cursed them. He then lunged forward, their report claimed, and plunged into the window.

The two cops were charged for assault and for filing a false report.

A jury of eleven whites and one Black saw the film, which flatly contradicted the cops' reports. Yet the eleven whites pressed for acquittal of the cops, with the lone Black refusing to go along.

With a hung jury, the judge dismissed the charges against the cops.

Jackson branded the outcome "an endorsement for police abuse, for racism."

LOS ANGELES — A jury ordered the city of Los Angeles to pay \$3.84 million to

civil rights activist Michael Zinzun for damages done to him by Assistant Police Chief Robert Vernon. The jury also ordered Vernon to pay \$10,000 in punitive damages.

Vernon had taken material about Zinzun from the police department's "antiterrorist" files and made it available to Zinzun's opponents in his 1989 bid for a seat on the Pasadena city council. Smeared as a "terrorist," Zinzun was narrowly defeated in the election.

From the secret files of the police department's Anti-Terrorist Division, Vernon had selected a sheaf of newspaper clippings about Zinzun, which were then used to suggest he had been under surveillance as a "terrorist."

After a news report on what Vernon had done, Police Chief Daryl Gates said he had "reprimanded" his assistant. But in the trial which ended May 10, Gates testified in Vernon's behalf.

The award was the third won by Zinzun. In 1983, he was a plaintiff in a suit that put the spotlight on the illegal activities of the LAPD's Public Disorder Intelligence Division, resulting in the dismantling of that surveillance and disruption operation and its replacement by the Anti-Terrorist Division.

Zinzun also won a \$1.2 million settlement from the city of Pasadena after cops there gave him a beating in 1986 that left him blind in one eye. Jurors in the current trial were interviewed by the *Los Angeles Times*. They bluntly said they did not believe the testimony of either Vernon or Gates and felt that the full story of what Vernon had done remains to be told.

"I felt they had a blatant disregard for the truth," declared one juror.

Another scoffed at the defense insistence that Vernon had merely made available information reported in the public press.

"That was a smokescreen," the juror said.

Several jurors added they had been unimpressed by Gates' appearance on the witness stand in uniform and sporting a 9-millimeter pistol. Commented one juror: "He looked like he was in a clown suit."

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The Militant

Closing news date: May 27, 1991

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Circulation Director: RONI McCANN

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Published weekly except the last two weeks of December by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Telephone: (212) 243-6392; Fax 727-0150; Telex, 497-4278.

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant, Business Office, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y.,

and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Subscriptions: U.S., Latin America: for one-year subscription send \$45, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first-class (airmail), send \$80. Canada: send Canadian \$75 for one-year subscription to Société d'Éditions AGPP, C.P. 340, succ. R, Montréal, Québec H2S 3M2. Britain, Ireland, Africa: £35 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution, 47 The Cut, London, SE1 8LL, England. Continental Europe: £50 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution at above address. Australia, Asia, Pacific: send Australian \$75 to P.O. Box 79, Railway Square Post Office, Railway Square, Sydney 2000, Australia.

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Vermont students occupy building to protest racial discrimination

BY JOHN HARRIS

BURLINGTON, Vermont — Student protests here are demanding an end to the discrimination and racist treatment of oppressed nationalities. On April 22, 17 Black, Latino, and Native American students occupied the presidential wing of the University of Vermont (UVM). They presented 18 demands, including cultural diversity in the university curriculum, granting tenure to minority professors, barring police from campus and banning guns for campus security, implementing affirmative action in the enrollment of students and hiring of faculty, as well as a raise in pay for the staff workers.

Struggles in defense of the rights of oppressed nationalities go back over 20 years on the campus. In 1969 and 1988 students won promises from the administration of a commitment to cultural diversity. A 1988 agreement signed by the University president committed UVM to expanding the representation of oppressed nationalities in the faculty, student body and administration, as well as increasing ethnic studies programs.

However, virtually no progress has been made toward fulfilling this agree-

ment. The new UVM President George Davis, who arrived in the fall of 1990, refused to sign the 1988 agreement. He instead agreed to sign a personal pledge of his commitment to the underlying values of the 1988 accord. But Davis backed off from even signing this.

"UVM and the American educational system in general are Eurocentric and deny the global picture of the world and help to perpetuate the acceptance of intervention in countries of peoples of color," said Josh Weiner, one of the student occupiers.

This lack of progress has added to the anger that has increased over a series of incidents of racist harassment and violence.

Over 1,000 students rallied April 26 and hundreds have mobilized night and day in defense of the student occupiers to provide food and secure the perimeter of the building from police attack. Support has also come from 1,260 hunger strikers and the Burlington City Council.

On May 12, over 60 cops in riot gear removed the students from the Waterman Building. Nineteen were arrested. The protesters have declared that "the struggle will continue."

S. Korea protests spread, regime's crisis deepens

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Hoping to contain growing protests in South Korea, the U.S.-backed regime of President Roh Tae Woo replaced its prime minister May 24. The previous day the government announced a limited amnesty for political prisoners and those charged with "antistate" crimes.

Chung Won Shik was named to take the prime minister's post after Ro Jai Bong resigned. Ro's departure was a foregone conclusion after days of debate in the upper echelons of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party and in the press over how to dampen the upsurge against the regime.

"The silent majority . . . does not want the current demonstrations to be pushed to an extreme situation," an editorial in *Hankuk Ilbo*, a national daily, said. "[Roh] has room to turn the situation around by reshuffling the Cabinet and promoting other convincing measures to further democracy."

Chung served as education minister in 1988-90 and was chiefly responsible for the stiff repression against Chunkyojo, the Korean Teachers and Educational Workers Union. In early 1989, authorities arrested some 1,000 delegates at the union's founding convention.

Just changing shields

"Roh is just changing his shield," Oh Jong Yol, a protest leader in Kwangju, told the press. "The fundamental problem is the Roh Tae Woo regime."

On May 23, officials announced that 74 political prisoners would be released, 30 others would have their jail terms reduced, and charges against another 154 government opponents would be dropped, including against Kim Dae Jung, a former political prisoner and the leader of the opposition New Democratic Party. Kim had been charged with "antistate crimes" after failing to report to authorities that an aide had traveled to North Korea.

All those to be freed were convicted under the notorious National Security Law which has served as the regime's legal cover for repression against political opponents, trade unionists, supporters of Korean reunification, and others.

Government spokesmen said, however, that many other political prisoners would remain behind bars. There are currently 1,200 people convicted of political crimes in South Korean jails.

Im Su Kyong, a student sentenced to a 10-year jail term after traveling to North Korea for the 1989 World Festival of Youth and Students, will not be released. Im's case has attracted international attention and calls for her freedom. "Lenience toward her would not help calm the situation," one Justice Ministry official said.

The government's moves came in the midst of a week of massive protests led by students commemorating the 11th anniversary of the Kwangju massacre and after a month of sustained street demonstrations by students and workers.

In 1980 South Korean troops cold-bloodedly slaughtered as many as 2,000 citizens during an uprising in the southern industrial city of Kwangju. The U.S. military, which since the 1950-53 Korean War has retained command of the South Korean army, gave the orders that allowed South Korean troops to suppress the 1980 rebellion.

Roh, a leading general in the military regime in power at the time, is reviled by many Koreans as responsible for the Kwangju massacre.

The current upsurge has focused on the fight for democratic rights, the reunification of Korea, and the resignation of Roh's government. It was sparked when plainclothes security police beat a 20-year-old student, Kang Kyung Dae, to death with iron pipes at the end of April.

Mobilizations across the South

The Kwangju commemorations began May 18 with hundreds of thousands participating in demonstrations across the country. International press reports said actions occurred in as many as 139 cities and towns. South Korean state-run radio issued conservative figures of 200,000-300,000 protesters in 44 cities and towns.

Yonhap, the semi-official news agency,

reported 20,000 demonstrated in Pusan, the country's second largest city and major port. Unionists employed by South Korea's largest exporter, the Hyundai Group, joined a march in Ulsan, the east coast city where the company's headquarters are located.

In Taejeon, New Democratic Party leader Kim Dae Jung spoke to a rally of 10,000 calling on Roh to dismiss his cabinet and form a new government that would also include his party.

The largest protests occurred in Seoul and Kwangju where tens of thousands marched in funeral processions for Kang Kyung Dae. On May 14 police blocked the funeral march to the center of Seoul by lobbing tear gas at the procession. Student leaders declared the funeral would not go forward unless they were allowed to proceed.

Another attempt to march to the city's center was organized May 18. But thousands of police met protesters and hurled "pepper fog," a toxic gas that causes vomiting, at the procession. A five-hour street battle and stalemate ensued with police unable to disperse the up to 50,000 protesters. The memorial was finally held in another part of the city.

From Seoul, hundreds filling 17 buses continued the funeral procession and made a 165-mile trip to Kwangju, where thousands began to assemble at dawn. Police blocked the cortege in the early morning hours as it exited the main highway to the city. They ordered it to go straight to the cemetery. Organizers refused and thousands gathered as an 11-hour standoff developed. Finally, police launched a massive barrage of tear gas and a brutal assault to disperse the crowd.

When the gas had cleared, however, the main component of the procession had eluded police and managed to arrive in downtown Kwangju where 100,000 students and workers had gathered for a militant memorial rally. Several thousand then marched to the outlying cemetery for the burial.

During the police attack, 11 policemen viciously beat 22-year-old Kwon Chang Soo, cracking his skull and causing a brain hemorrhage. The youth remains in a coma after three major brain operations in 36 hours.

Officials, worried that the beating of Choo will provoke further protests, moved rapidly to arrest and charge the police involved. Prosecutors have said they will be charged with homicide if Choo dies.

The regime mobilized tens of thousands of riot police countrywide, 25,000 in the

capital city of Seoul alone, and put the Capital Garrison Command, an elite army unit for "internal security," on alert for the May 18 protests.

Protests against U.S. troops

Daily protests continued around the country in the week that followed. On May 21, police in Kwangju fired 14 rounds of live ammunition over the heads of protesters, the first time police opened fire since the upsurge began several weeks ago. Thousands nevertheless assembled the next day, focusing their protest on the presence of 43,000 U.S. troops on South Korean soil.

Massive demonstrations rocked South Korea again on May 25. Tens of thousands responded to the government's prime minister shuffle and limited amnesty measures by surging into the streets of Seoul, Kwangju, Pusan, Taegu, Ulsan, and many other cities and towns.

Hundreds of Buddhists, including monks and nuns, launched their own protest in Seoul after police tear-gassed a religious procession earlier in the week. They demanded Roh resign.

In Kwangju, police withdrew from the city's center when more than 50,000 protesters joined memorial ceremonies for 19-year-old Park Seung Hee. Park set herself on fire and died May 19. Since the end of April, 10 young people have attempted suicide in desperate protests against the regime. Seven, including Park, killed themselves, and two others are hospitalized in critical condition.

The memorial was held in front of the



Procession for Kang Kyung Dae, student slain by police. Hundreds of thousands protested against South Korean regime in May.

provincial government building. Park's father, standing beside his daughter's coffin draped with the national flag, addressed the massive crowd. "Seung Hee died fighting for democracy, I will stay alive and fight," he said in an emotional speech.

Protest leaders, concerned by the suicides, issued an appeal from Kwangju to young people May 23. "Please don't kill yourselves," they said. "With your courage and determination, fight to end the dictatorial regime."

Roh's government mobilized 42,000 riot police for the May 25 demonstrations. A young woman was killed after police rushed protesters in Seoul. Witnesses reported the woman was trampled as fellow students fled the police charge.

Canadian nurses end parity strike

BY JOE YOUNG

REGINA, Saskatchewan — Six thousand Saskatchewan nurses began returning to work May 21 after 11 days on the picket line.

At issue were wages, job security, and working conditions. The Saskatchewan Union of Nurses (SUN) was seeking contract language to respect seniority when layoffs occur or units are amalgamated, equal union representation on the pension benefits committee, the right to trade shifts, and a 19 percent wage increase over two years to achieve wage parity with Manitoba nurses. Nurses in the neighboring province of Manitoba waged a victorious strike in January.

Just prior to the strike, hospital administrations closed hundreds of beds and laid off many hospital workers.

Myma Pugh, a 10-year registered nurse who works in the operating room at the Regina General Hospital, explained some of the issues in an interview on her way into work.

"Number one was our issue of seniority," Pugh said. "The hospitals gave no protection at all to senior staff members, which was a really terrifying thing for many of them. One of the other points was that they were taking away things that we had fought for since 1974 — like education rights."

"Another of the big issues was having participation in the pension plan. And of course wages are always an issue in any sort of negotiations and we were third on the list from the bottom [in comparison with nurses in other provinces]."

For many nurses the strike was about the

quality of health care. Lorne Wolfe, who has worked in psychiatry at the Pasqua Hospital in Regina since 1983, explained the impact of lack of staff on patients. "Since 1983, the time that we have been able to spend at the bedside with the patients has become less and less and the time that we spend doing technical things is becoming more and more," she said. "There is more machinery to be working with, more charting to be done, more medications, so you are not at the bedside."

Nurses saw their fight as a struggle to defend quality in the government-funded Medicare system, which covers all citizens in every province. Pugh said, "It's an agenda of the Tories to get rid of Medicare. It's really a pathetic reflection of what's happening to this country." The Tories are the Conservative Party, which forms the government in Saskatchewan and federally.

Dori Scutchings, a nurse for the past four years at Regina General, reflected the view of many nurses: "It's important to stick together for what you believe. I'm on strike to support my union, my coworkers. It's time to take a stand. We've been pushed around long enough. We're behind other nurses. We need better health care, not cutbacks."

Kandis Meikle, essential services cochairperson of SUN Local 106 at Regina General, added, "They misjudged us. They got us angry. Who do they think we are? We're standing up for our rights. In doing so we are defending decent health care."

In addition to picketing, the nurses union organized rallies to win broader support. Five hundred nurses rallied in Saskatoon May 16

and 200 in Regina May 17.

Speakers in Regina included Barb Byers, president of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour; Louise Simard, New Democratic Party health critic in the Saskatchewan legislature; and Pat Stuart, president of SUN. Support came from nurses unions across Canada. In Saskatoon, the Chemical Workers Union brought members to the picket line. Some postal workers refused to cross nurses' picket lines to deliver mail.

SUN is organizing regional meetings in the weeks ahead, after which union members will vote on the proposed contract. According to SUN President Stuart, quoted in the May 20 *Toronto Globe and Mail*, "We made very significant gains in the area of job security for nurses and we're very pleased with that." The nurses will receive a 9.2 percent wage increase over two years. Starting wages will be brought in line with those of Manitoba nurses.

This is the second large nurses' strike this year in Canada. Some 10,500 Manitoba nurses struck for the entire month of January, the longest nurses' strike in Canadian history.

Midway through their strike, the Manitoba nurses resisted threats of back-to-work legislation when they voted down a government offer that had only token improvements. Fighting against intolerable working conditions and sex discrimination, and for higher wages, they eventually emerged victorious with a 14 percent wage increase over two years in addition to a 5 percent pay equity wage increase already mandated by government legislation.

Defense leader explains Curtis parole fight

BY PETER THIERJUNG

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee has launched a special campaign to win the release of political activist and unionist Mark Curtis who is incarcerated in the state prison in Fort Madison, Iowa. Curtis was framed on rape and burglary charges in 1988 and is now serving a 25-year jail term.

"The object of this campaign is straight forward," John Studer, coordinator of the defense committee, said in an interview. "We aim to do whatever we can to respectfully convince the officials of the Iowa Board of Parole to release Curtis."

Studer explained that the parole board is the government agency that has the power to release Curtis and is responsible for assessing whether an inmate has met the criteria for parole as outlined by Iowa's administrative law code.

According to the code, the board may consider an inmate's previous criminal record, the nature and the circumstances of the offense, length of time served, participation in prison programs, general attitude and behavior while incarcerated, and other factors.

An exemplary record

"On all the criteria, Mark is a beyond average prisoner," Studer said. "He is exemplary. Mark has no previous criminal record. Even though the authorities have on a number of occasions challenged his exercise of his political rights in prison, they admit they rate him as excellent in relationship to his conduct and his performance on every prison job he has ever had."

"Mark has now served more than two-and-a-half years in prison, well over the average time served by someone in the state of Iowa convicted of the rape charge Mark was framed-up on," Studer said.

The defense committee coordinator pointed to the huge support network available to Curtis once he is released, another factor weighed by the parole board. "Because of what the defense campaign has accomplished, Mark is supported and looked to by thousands of people all over the world," he said.

"Union officials have offered their help in getting Curtis a job, because they would like to see him active in their union. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference has offered to have Curtis come to their Atlanta headquarters to join in mutual endeavors on behalf of human rights."

"These facts show Mark is an excellent candidate for parole," Studer said. "Far from having to spend the average time in jail, Mark should have spent less time. Every day that he spends in jail now smacks of political retaliation by the parole board and by prison authorities for Mark's political activities, those before he went to jail and while in prison."

Curtis' frame-up by Des Moines police stems from his participation in efforts to defend 17 Latino coworkers arrested during an immigration raid at the meat-packing plant where he worked. In prison, Curtis has remained politically active and is known among fellow inmates for his views opposing Washington's war against Iraq. He was an elected officer of the Martin Luther King Jr. Organization at the state prison in Anamosa until he was moved to Fort Madison.

A simple matter of justice

"We do not think we should let this issue rest," Studer said. "We want the parole

board to act now, to meet and to decide to release Mark Curtis as a simple matter of justice."

While Curtis has had two annual parole hearings, the last one in November 1990, the parole board is authorized by law to grant parole at any time, Studer explained. The annual hearing on the anniversary of a prisoner's incarceration is the minimum required by law.

"If the board were to follow its present course, they would have to allow Mark a hearing next November," the defense coordinator said. "But he is beyond the time when they should have released him. We want to convince them to meet and rectify the mistake, one that gets bigger each day he is not released."

The campaign to convince the parole board to release Curtis will focus on a letter writing effort, Studer said. "We want individuals and organizations — unionists, unions, political groups, social justice organizations — to write to the board in their own words and request that the board meet now and release him."

The defense committee projects collecting hundreds of letters by the end of July and will organize a delegation of unionists and others to deliver them to the board. "We believe this effort can have an impact and will help open the board's eyes to the justice

of releasing Mark," Studer said.

Studer emphasized that he believed the campaign would win a significant response in the labor movement. "It is in the traditions of the labor movement to respond to the just appeals of union members who have trouble with the authorities," he said.

"We did pretty well at demonstrating the broad support that exists for releasing Mark at the parole hearing last fall," Studer said. "It was support that goes way beyond those who are convinced that Mark was framed."

Coretta Scott King, the founding president of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Inc., in Atlanta, is not an endorser of the Curtis defense effort, Studer said. "But she wrote a very powerful letter to the board last November saying justice would be served if they released Mark to resume his life as a productive citizen."

"Many union and political leaders and activists will decide to add their voice to this campaign even before they consider endorsing the defense campaign," Studer said.

Renewed interest in case

The defense committee coordinator concluded the interview explaining that the recent spotlight put on police brutality around the country would lead to renewed interest in Curtis' fight for justice.

After his arrest in 1988, police took Curtis to the police station where they severely beat him and called him a "Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds." He suffered a shattered cheekbone and required 15 stitches to close a gash on his cheek. Curtis now has a civil rights lawsuit pending against the City of Des Moines and the police officers involved. The suit is scheduled for trial in November.

At the time of Curtis' arrest and frame-up, a series of revelations publicly exposed the brutal and racist treatment carried out by Des Moines police against working people, especially in the Black and Latino communities. New revelations are now coming to light, Studer said.

Sgt. Ronald White, the commanding officer of the shift the night Curtis was arrested, was recently suspended from the police force for stealing from the police station's evidence room, Studer reported.

"All this will increase interest in what happened to Mark and in the justice of his release," Studer said. "These events will add momentum to our campaign."

Letters calling on the Iowa Board of Parole to release Curtis should be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. For more information on the campaign, call (515) 246-1695.

Garment workers back El Paso strikers

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — Union garment workers staged a demonstration here in support of striking coworkers in El Paso, Texas.

The El Paso workers have shut down four sweatshops, occupying one in a sit-in strike. Seven of the workers went on a hunger strike May 14.

Ninety percent of the strikers are Hispanic women. A good number are Mexican nationals, commuting daily across the border from neighboring Ciudad Juárez in Mexico.

Backed by La Mujer Obrera (The Working Woman), an El Paso organization of garment workers, the workers have fought scandalous sweatshop conditions for the past year. Now they are signed up with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) and are demanding a union contract.

The solidarity demonstration here, May 16, was staged in the busy shopping mall of a downtown office building. Some of the 60 union participants wore 19th Century costumes and carried brooms and buckets to dramatize their aim of cleaning up sweatshop conditions. Some sat on the floor to register their support for the El Paso sit-down strikers.

The demonstrators were members of the ILGWU on their lunch breaks. They were joined by solidarity-minded members of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees union.

In the mall, they marched and chanted in front of Judy's, one of a chain of upscale women's apparel shops which sell products from the struck company.

The ILGWU has initiated a boycott of Judy's and of the scab apparel — denim sports clothing, usually bearing the labels, "Maximum Energy USA" or "Total Energy."

These products are marketed by an outfit called DCB Apparel Group. It has a shop here and another in El Paso. The Los Angeles shop shut down after the ILGWU blew the whistle on illegal conditions.

It was paying workers in cash without receipts and failing to provide Workmen's Compensation coverage. The union also obtained evidence that the shop was giving out illegal homework.

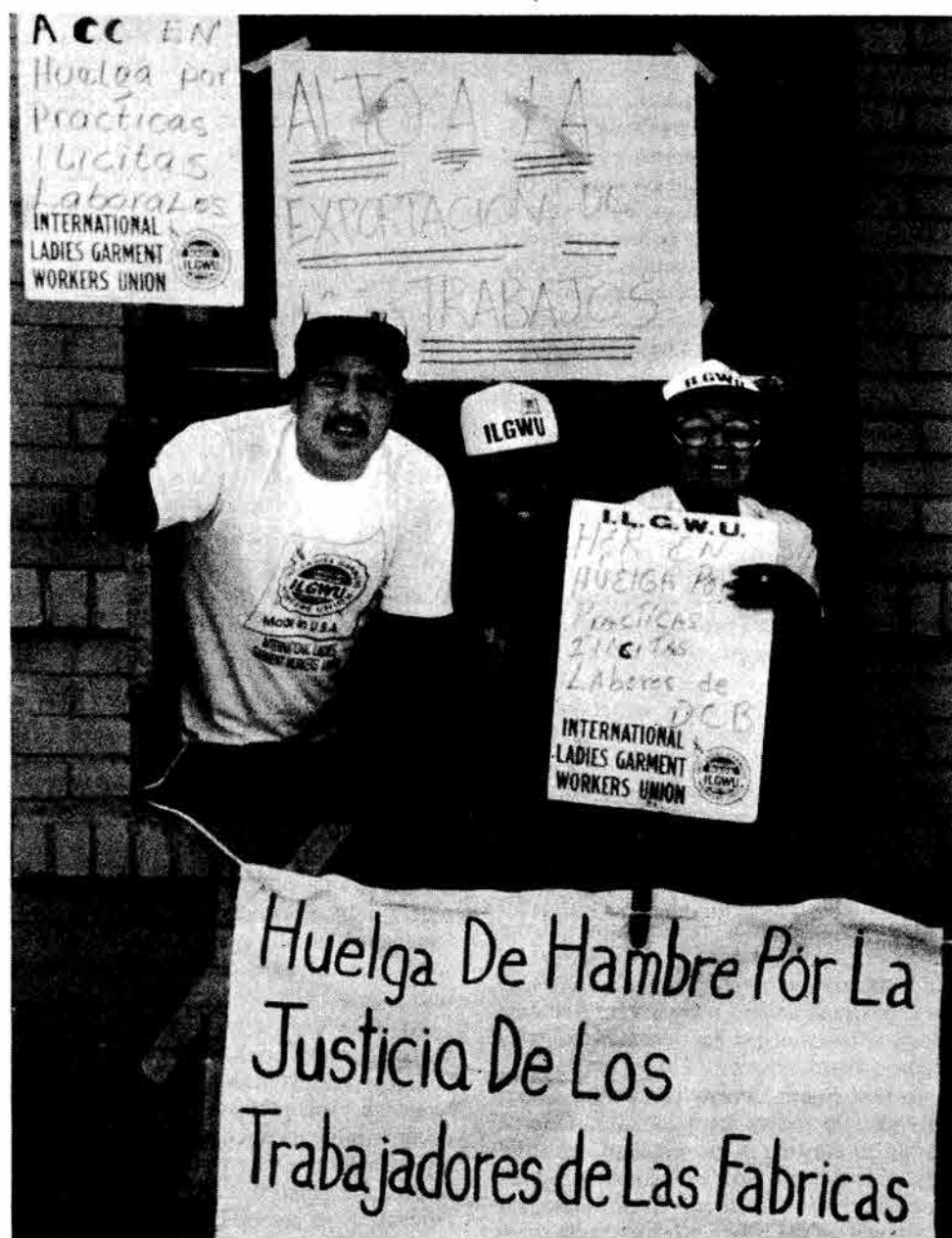
Refused to pay back wages

In El Paso, the strike involves 200 workers at the DCB shop and three DCB contractors. About half are employed at Sonia's, the biggest of these contractors. The sit-in and hunger strike is taking place at Sonia's.

The strike was triggered April 29 when the boss at Sonia's reneged on a promise to pay back wages he owes.

An ongoing ripoff operation, Sonia's owes its workers \$25,000 in back pay. Last year, while still nonunion but backed by La Mujer Obrera, Sonia workers staged an eight-day hunger strike.

In each of the struck shops conditions are



El Paso Herald-Post/Billy Calzada

Garment workers in occupation of El Paso sweatshop, one of four closed by strike. Sign below window reads: "Hunger strike for justice for factory workers."

wretched — no air conditioning in the summer heat, no heating in the winter cold. Toilets and eating facilities are not kept clean and there are fire hazards.

Workers get the minimum wage, or less. Overtime is mandatory and sometimes without overtime pay.

There are no sick leaves, no paid holidays, no vacations.

The strikers are demanding the money owed them, an end to these abuses, and, to back it up, a union contract.

According to La Mujer Obrera, garment is the largest industry in El Paso, employing 15,000 workers, mostly in small sweatshops.

At the demonstration here, Marta Samano, an ILGWU official, said all the workers in the four struck shops signed up with the union

during a two-month organizing drive. La Mujer Obrera is building support for the strike.

A circular issued by the group declares: "More than just a strike — a struggle for a life with dignity."

The circular adds: "With this act, for the first time in El Paso, garment workers are raising their heads in hope. Their aspirations are modest — they want to be paid on time, to work in a place where they do not freeze in winter, to be treated without verbal abuse or physical threats, to have a contract that gives them some measure of job security. Your support will help make the achievements of these hopes a reality."

Contributions to aid the strikers can be sent to La Mujer Obrera, P.O. Box 3975, El Paso, Texas 79923.

Correction

In the May 24 *Militant*, the article "Auto giants hint at reopening union contracts" contained two editing errors.

In the third paragraph the last sentence reads, "GM has set aside \$4.3 billion, but has already told the union that it expects the funds to dry up by the summer of 1991, a full year before the contract expires." It should have read, "by the summer of 1992."

In the second to last paragraph, the last sentence reads, "Estimated labor costs run between \$8 and \$13 an hour lower in Japan." It should have read, "Estimated labor costs run between \$8 and \$13 an hour lower in nonunion Japanese-owned auto plants in North America."

Neighborhood in U.S. capital remains occupied by police

BY ELLEN M. WHITT

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Heavy police occupation of the Mt. Pleasant community here continues in the wake of a three-day rebellion against police brutality.

The rebellion of hundreds of youth was sparked by the May 5 cop shooting of Daniel Enrique Gómez, a Salvadoran construction worker. A number of witnesses stated that Gómez was handcuffed at the time he was shot in the chest.

Bail for Gómez has been set at \$15,000. His case has been referred to the D.C. Superior Court Grand Jury, which will consider indictments against him for assaulting a police officer. Gómez is still hospitalized.

The D.C. government responded to the rebellion with tear gas, massive police deployment, and a 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. curfew. A 15-day state of emergency was declared that enabled Mayor Sharon Pratt Dixon to maintain the police occupation and to reimpose the curfew at any time without further approval by other government bodies. Dixon decided that all investigation of the shooting would be conducted by the police.

Some 230 people were arrested during the three-day curfew. Most were released overnight on bail and face future hearings. A number of people displayed marks on their bodies resulting from police beatings during the curfew.

The American Civil Liberties Union expressed support for the curfew and favored its extension. The ACLU only cited concern that the curfew be applied uniformly to all races.

Following the rebellion, the city government and various agencies were forced to hold two public meetings to respond to the outcry against long-standing police brutality and harassment in the community. At a meeting in Mt. Pleasant sponsored by the police civilian complaint review board, 200 people turned out to voice their concerns regarding police brutality.

Four high school students spoke about the constant harassment of youth by the cops. However, the review board made it clear that they would not open the floor to persons wishing to cite specific instances of cop violence. Instead, the board stated that they only wished to review the procedures for filing

individual complaints against the police.

Along with others, one Black youth who was badly beaten during the rebellion was denied the right to speak. The majority of youth left when it became clear that an open speakout against cop brutality would not be allowed. Dozens of cops stood outside the building during the entire meeting, watching people come and go.

Abuse of Latinos

The following day, the D.C. Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights convened a public hearing to review complaints that city police routinely abuse Latinos, both verbally and physically. In addition, evidence was presented that the city has discriminated against Latinos in hiring and budgeting. The D.C. Latino Civil Rights Task Force requested that the commission carry out a full investigation of the city's treatment of Latinos. Dozens of residents testified to abusive and discriminatory actions. The D.C. advisory committee is expected to make a recommendation to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights about whether to pursue a full investigation of these charges.

Students from the area have formed a group called Young Minds That Care as a way to voice their complaints. Heidi Mendez, a student leader from Bell Multicultural High School, told the *Washington Post*: "The government has to hear what young people say. We are part of this community and they have to hear what we want." The students developed a list of demands for improvements in education, recreation, and health-care facilities and for multilingual teachers.

Various private meetings between government officials and community leaders have taken place since the shooting of Gómez, but no further public protests in Mt. Pleasant have occurred.

Meanwhile, a deaf Black man, Frankie Murphy, was killed May 16 while being restrained by the cops. Witnesses stated that one cop placed his knee on Murphy's neck and applied pressure for 10-15 minutes, causing death by asphyxiation. The city medical examiner's office has ruled the death a homicide. The cops involved have been placed on administrative leave without pay awaiting an investigation by the police.



Impact Visuals/Rick Reinhard

Meetings in Washington, D.C., have protested widespread police brutality following May 5 shooting of immigrant construction worker Daniel Enrique Gómez. Above, part of police occupation force in Mt. Pleasant neighborhood.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS IN ACTION

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

In the tradition of Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, Thomas Sankara, and Malcolm X, the YSA has placed the fight against imperialism and war at the center of its activity today. The YSA continues to demand: end the sanctions against the people of Iraq, U.S. troops out of Iraq, and open the U.S. borders to the Kurds and other refugees created by the imperialist war.

The YSA supports the worldwide fight against apartheid in South Africa, defends the Cuban revolution, and backs the struggle to reunify Korea.

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

Derek Bracey, national organizational secretary of the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA), recently completed a five-campus speaking tour in Utah and Montana. Bracey spoke to dozens of students at public talks on "Young people and the fight against imperialism and war." During the course of the tour, seven people decided to join the YSA.

At Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, Bracey spoke at a meeting sponsored by Black Scholars United. In his presentation, he described the devastating conditions facing the Iraqi people as a result of the U.S.-led war and continuing economic embargo.

Bracey explained that the increased competition between rival capitalist powers means that more such wars are coming. "The YSA thinks that the war in Iraq sounded the opening guns of World War III," he said. "The course capitalism is on in the world today will lead to more class, national, and interimperialist conflicts. The result of this will be more devastation for working people around the world."

"A third world war is not inevitable," the YSA leader stated. "There is one solution — the transformation of society by workers and farmers. Working people need

our own government, a government run in our own interests." He ended by encouraging any young person who wants to be part of the fight to change the world to join the Young Socialist Alliance.

Both at Weber State and at a meeting at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, participants had questions about how and if socialism can be achieved and whether people can be motivated to struggle for such a future. Some students expressed the opinion that, by nature, human beings are concerned only with their own immediate interests and not the problems of others.

Bracey pointed to socialist Cuba where millions of people volunteer their labor to build health clinics, child-care centers, and increase agricultural production. Cuba has a government that acts in the interests of working people and farmers. Cubans know that their effort goes to benefit the whole society, not a small group of rich capitalists.

Bracey also spoke at the College of Eastern Utah in Price and at Utah State University in Logan, where one student joined the YSA.

During a tour stop at the University of Montana in Missoula, five students decided to join the Young Socialist Alliance. The campus had been the site of several demonstrations against the war in the Middle East and 80 students from Missoula traveled to San Francisco in January for a national antiwar march. One student who had been active in the fight against the war explained that he had been looking at different problems in the world such as racism, destruction of the environment, and wars. He had been trying to figure out how they are connected. The student said that, through talking with members of the YSA, he realized that the fundamental problem is capitalism. He decided to join the Young Socialist Alliance.

During the tour, students bought 16 subscriptions to the *Militant* newspaper along with 20 single copies, 6 copies of the magazine *New International*, and \$250 worth of Pathfinder books and pamphlets. In addition, two students joined the Pathfinder Readers Club which offers discounts on Pathfinder books to club members.

This week's column was contributed by Denise McInerney of Salt Lake City, Utah.

Court deals blow to abortion rights; Congress attacks affirmative action

Continued from front page

clinics receive federal funding under Title X.

The ruling upholds Title X regulations that prohibit federally funded clinics and their medical personnel from providing basic medical information about abortion. The clinics will be required to refer pregnant women for prenatal care and may not help women find doctors who will perform abortions. If a woman asks about ending a pregnancy, the clinics must inform their patients that "the project does not consider abortion an appropriate method of family planning."

The Court's ruling was in response to a lawsuit by Planned Parenthood and the City and State of New York. They had argued that the regulations violated free-speech rights of clinic employees as well as the constitutional rights of clinic patients to choose whether to end a pregnancy.

"These rules tell us that we can say to a woman: you're pregnant, here's a list of prenatal clinics, goodbye and good luck," said Joan Hennebery, director of family planning for the Colorado Department of Health.

Following the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court ruling that threw out state antiabortion laws and legalized abortion, the Court made a series of rulings that limit access to abortion, particularly for poor women and teenagers.

In explaining the majority's opinion, Chief Justice William Rehnquist said, "We held [in 1977] that the Government may 'make a value judgment favoring childbirth over abortion, and ... implement that judgment by the allocation of public funds.'"

In July 1989 the Court ruled that state governments could set restrictions on abortion rights. Since then, hundreds of antiabortion bills have been introduced into state legislatures.

Most recently, the Alabama House of Representatives passed a bill prohibiting abortions except in documented cases of rape, incest, or when the life of the woman is threatened. Doctors who perform abortions could be sentenced to up to 10 years in prison.

Violation of free-speech rights

Justice Harry Blackmun, who delivered the Court's minority opinion, said the prevailing opinion was an "intrusive, ideologically based regulation of speech."

"While suppressing speech favorable to abortion with one hand, the Secretary [of Health and Human Services] compels anti-abortion speech with the other."

Officials at a number of clinics and family planning centers indicate they will either forgo the funding and find other financial means, or will provide separate clinics that counsel on abortion.

"The government is putting us in the position of choosing between our ethics and our budget," said Jill June, president of Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa. "Women and their rights and our principles are not for sale, so we will do without the money rather than comply."

Faye Wattleton, president of Planned Parenthood, said the organization would "gear up the political machinery, to move legislation quickly."

Join us!

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

☐ Yes, I want to join the YSA.

☐ Please send me more information.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Union/School/Organization _____

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

Unionists greet Cuban labor leaders' tour

BY JULIETTE MONTAUK,
STEVE CRAINE, AND PETER LINK

DETROIT — "Communication between working people transcends borders. I speak for the members of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) when I welcome our Cuban guests tonight."

This greeting by Detroit CBTU leader Horace Sheffield was echoed at every event during a tour of two Cuban trade unionist leaders in Michigan May 8-11.

Joaquín Bernal Camero, a member of the National Secretariat of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CTC), and Luis Guillermo Abreu Mejías, general secretary of the National Union of Workers in Education, Sciences, and Sports, addressed a range of meetings during their visit.

The two spoke at Michigan State University in East Lansing, answered numerous questions before five high school classes, and toured two plants organized by the United Auto Workers union (UAW). The tour's sponsors included the Detroit City Council president Maryann Mahaffey, several UAW officials, Ismael Ahmed from ACCESS, an Arab community service organization, and others.

Bernal and Abreu explained the social

and political achievements of the Cuban people since their revolution in 1959. That massive struggle by workers and peasants threw out the hated U.S.-backed dictator and, as Abreu explained to students at Plymouth-Canton High School, "opened an immense opportunity in every endeavor in life for Cubans."

"As a trade union leader in Cuba, how would you defend workers' rights against the government?" one student asked. Abreu said that the revolution in Cuba established a government of working people. He cited several examples of the gains workers have made since the revolution, including the fact that the unions discuss and make recommendations on every law that affects workers before it is adopted.

One class the union leaders spoke to had been discussing whether there would be any incentive to work under socialism, when basic necessities of life are guaranteed for all.

Motivation to work and be a productive part of society is a political and social question, one that can be politically approached when fighting to build socialism. This comes from two sources, Abreu said. One is that Cuban workers know that the fruits of their labor better the conditions

of all Cubans, not a tiny handful of super-rich employers.

Visit to UAW-organized plants

One of the plants that the Cubans toured was John Johnson Co., which is organized by UAW Local 417. Workers there make tarps for army tanks. American flags, yellow ribbons, and Operation Desert Storm posters abound in the work areas. Bernal and Abreu were introduced by their escort Velma Duhart, the union steward, to nearly all of the 100 workers at the plant. Except for one person, everyone gave the Cuban unionists a warm response.

Toward the end of the plant tour workers began receiving their paychecks. Before being able to talk with the Cubans, one worker exclaimed, after looking at her paycheck with deductions for health insurance, "I think the government should pay for health insurance."

This initiated a discussion between her and Bernal about the fact that not only is health care available to everyone in Cuba, but education, sports, and all the arts are as well. Duhart and this worker were surprised to learn about workers' benefits in Cuba and the fact that 97 percent of the work force there belongs to a union.

The second Detroit-area plant visited on the tour was the GM Hydromatic plant in Warren, which employs 3,500 workers and is organized by UAW Local 909. Before touring the plant, Bernal and Abreu spoke to the local's executive board.

One of the Latino executive board members escorted and translated for the Cubans in an hour-long tour of the plant. As the Cubans went down the production line they were introduced to workers who took a few moments to exchange greetings.

While speaking at a reception after these plant tours, Bernal was asked what those who want to learn more about Cuba and who want to continue such exchanges could do. "I have been in the United States for 20 days," he said. "Just today I met with workers who greeted me with respect. I would like to say that one of the best ways you can help Cuba is by helping other workers in this country." Bernal went on to explain that in Cuba solidarity with workers all over the world is part of building socialism and defending Cuba.

The main event for the union leaders was held May 10 at the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) hall. Jack Brown from ACTWU welcomed the Cubans to the meeting. International UAW civil rights representative Nathan Head said that "much can be learned from Cuba. The streets of the United States are not paved with gold. There are four million homeless people, 23 percent illiteracy, a 65 percent dropout rate, and hunger existing in this great nation."

Bernal explained some of the basic facts of the trade union movement in Cuba to the 85 people in attendance. Union membership is voluntary and in Cuba, he said, and union dues are not mandatory. Instead, they are collected by union officials each month. This sparked a lively response from participants and much laughter, especially among the labor officials in the audience.

One participant asked about the relationship between the unions, the workers, and the government. Bernal said that Cuban workers see themselves as the owners of the factories, but not because it "is in writing. We are not the owners because someone told us or that we just imagined it. We are the owners because the revolution brought down the capitalist who exploited us."

At the end of the night's program, Bernal and Abreu made formal invitations to unionists in attendance to come to Cuba, tour their plants, and meet Cuban workers.

BY CATHERINE SEDWICK

NEW YORK — Joaquín Bernal Camero, a member of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade unions (CTC), Cuba's labor federation, wrapped up his four-day stay here May 18 where he was enthusiastically greeted by 150 people attending a meeting at the musicians' union hall.

Esmeralda Brown, a leader of the U.S. Hands Off Cuba Coalition, one of the sponsoring organizations, chaired the meeting. She explained the meeting was taking place at a time when Cuba faces new challenges as a result of changes in Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, and the international recession.

Bernal said that during his one-month tour

he and Luis Abreu Mejías have received the hospitality of many North American workers and engaged in hours of discussions.

In his presentation Bernal said the roots of the Cuban workers movement lie in the last century and are marked by a long history of struggle. Before the triumph of the Cuban revolution in 1959, workers organizations constantly fought attempts by the employers to destroy the unions. Many union leaders lost their lives in this struggle.

The triumph of the revolution opened the road to dramatically increase the participation of workers in unions. Today, trade unions in Cuba have two goals, Bernal said. The first is to defend the rights of workers, and the second is to promote the active participation of the working class in the construction of socialism. Trade unions in Cuba are neither



Militant/Marc Lichtman
Cuban union leader Joaquín Bernal Camero, speaking to public meeting in New York City.

party nor state organizations, but they have the respect and support of the government. Since the triumph of the revolution not one law against workers has been passed.

The lively question and answer period covered many different topics, from the role of voluntary labor to retirement benefits and vacations. A member of the Communication Workers of America asked several questions regarding maternity leave, integration of youth into the work force, and retired workers.

In response, Bernal said women are guaranteed a minimum of three months maternity leave and the right to leaves for doctor's visits — all with pay. Workers pay not one penny for prenatal care, childbirth, or postnatal care because all medical care in Cuba is free, he said. Due to the fact that 49 percent of the work force in Cuba is women, with many technical fields having an even higher percentage, such measures are crucial to the full participation of women in the labor force.

Youth are allowed to begin work at age 17. Many receive training through vocational and technical high schools as well as union-organized hands-on training programs for those who need them. Retirement benefits are one of the greatest gains of the revolution, Bernal said. Before the revolution there were hundreds of fake retirement funds that were pilfered by those in charge. Many workers, after a lifetime of work, would find themselves receiving as little as two pesos a month.

Today every Cuban worker receives immediate payment of up to 90 percent of their salary earned during the last five years of work upon retirement. These facts drew enthusiastic applause from the audience.

Bernal concluded the evening with some impressions of his tour. He said that his admiration for the working class in the United States has deepened. This class is disciplined, hard working, and includes millions of immigrants from around the world, Bernal noted.

"The misuse and mismanagement by the capitalists of the wealth created by the workers is truly shocking," he said. "I leave here shaken that in this wealthy country there is no guaranteed health-care and that in cities big and small there are empty housing units while people live in the streets. Through our visit here we have been able to explain another reality and experience for workers — that of Cuba."

Pledges grow, funds received rise; supporters aim for 100% by June 1

BY CINDY JAQUITH

Celebrating the publication of *New International* no. 7, on "Washington's Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III," supporters of the Marxist magazine have raised their pledges to the New International Fund \$4,600 over the original goal of \$75,000.

As of May 24, \$56,452 has been collected,

leaving \$23,156 to be sent in. That's a lot, but all indications are that *New International* readers are determined to make the goal on time.

A letter arrived from Belgium pledging to contribute 26,150 Belgian francs, or \$747, to the fund. Belgian supporters have also taken quotas in the international periodicals circulation drive, including a goal of selling nine *New Internationals*.

Supporters in St. Louis and Des Moines decided to raise their pledges to the fund, joining readers in seven other U.S. cities who have increased their original pledges.

The confidence that the goal can be achieved and surpassed stems in good part from the response socialist workers are find-

NEW INTERNATIONAL FUND

Collected:
\$56,452

Goal:
\$75,000



ing to the magazine as they introduce it to coworkers.

In Atlanta, airlines workers have approached fellow unionists at Northwest Airlines to contribute to the fund. Three workers have already done so, contributing a total of \$45.

In Charleston, West Virginia, supporters visited a coal miner who is a long-time *Militant* subscriber and member of the United Mine Workers of America. The miner bought both *New International* no. 7 and no. 8 and contributed \$100 to the fund.

Des Moines supporters have begun discussing the magazine and the fund with coworkers in the meat-packing industry. One member of the United Food and Commercial Workers donated \$5.

In addition to financing the cost of producing *New International* no. 7 and no. 8, the fund drive is raising the money needed to publish the inaugural edition of the Spanish-language magazine *Nueva Internacional*. It will soon be off the press with all the articles from *New International* no. 7 translated into Spanish, followed by *Nouvelle Internationale* no. 4, also containing the major articles from *New International* no. 7, translated into French.

In the next week, the biggest task is to collect and send in all the contributions in time to meet the June 1 deadline. In a few cities, rallies to celebrate the magazine and raise contributions are scheduled for June 1. In order to incorporate the contributions taken in at these events, the final fund scoreboard will be published in the issue of the *Militant* that comes off the press June 11.

Readers may send their contributions to New International Fund, 410 West St., New York, New York 10014.

Scoreboard

Area	Goal	Paid	% of Total
Houston	1,500	1,771	118%
Atlanta	2,300	2,232	97%
Miami	1,200	1,158	97%
San Francisco*	5,000	4,708	94%
Charleston, W. Va.*	1,900	1,700	89%
Chicago*	3,100	2,764	89%
Pittsburgh*	2,350	2,090	89%
Cleveland	1,600	1,376	86%
Phoenix	750	630	84%
San Diego	1,000	795	80%
Philadelphia	2,000	1,590	80%
Washington, D.C.	1,250	965	77%
St. Louis*	2,500	1,910	76%
Salt Lake City*	2,500	1,825	73%
Austin, Minn.*	1,000	725	73%
Los Angeles	6,000	4,257	71%
Detroit	2,100	1,435	68%
Birmingham, Ala.	1,750	1,118	64%
New York	7,000	4,452	64%
Boston	1,500	946	63%
Albany, N.Y.	350	220	63%
Newark*	4,300	2,623	61%
Des Moines*	1,100	639	58%
Omaha, Neb.	750	435	58%
Greensboro, N.C.	750	390	52%
Baltimore	900	430	48%
Seattle	2,250	915	41%
Morgantown	1,250	355	28%
Twin Cities, Minn.	1,750	485	28%
Price, Utah	600	150	25%
TOTAL U.S.	62,300	45,089	72%
Canada Total	4,250	3,587	84%
Montréal	1,529	1,283	84%
Toronto	1,370	1,125	82%
Vancouver	791	577	73%
Other	560	602	108%
New Zealand Total	3,011	2,249	75%
Auckland	770	524	68%
Christchurch	1,286	1,003	78%
Wellington	955	722	76%
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%
Belgium	747		0%
Other		245	
TOTAL OVERALL	79,608	56,452	71%
SHOULD BE		73,239	92%

*Have raised original goal

U.S. unionists visit Cuba farm contingent

Morale among volunteers that make up agricultural brigades is high

BY WENDY LYONS

HAVANA — The Cuban government has launched a campaign to achieve self-sufficiency in food production as one of the ways to meet the challenges presented by what is termed the "special period" — brought on by a substantial decrease in trade with Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

More than 100,000 people from the capital city here have participated in voluntary work in the countryside over the last eight months. One half are members of the Cuban Communist Party or the Union of Young Communists. While the great majority have volunteered for 15-day stints on a contingent, others sign up for two years.

Along with other trade unionists from the United States visiting Cuba in May at the invitation of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions (CTC), I visited a farming enterprise organized by one such contingent.

The first group of volunteer workers arrived at the farm last November. When we visited the camp there were 258 volunteers. The numbers were expected to grow to 300 within a few days. They were organized into 30 brigades of 10 each — 2 women and 8 men in each brigade. Among the volunteers were factory workers and those with professional jobs.

One of our tour members asked the enterprise director if there was a problem teaching people from the city how to farm. "The Cuban people are not strangers to agricultural work," he said, "even if they are from the city. School children do it as part of their work-study and many have participated in mass mobilizations to harvest sugarcane over the years."

High morale

Morale is high among the volunteers. They work 10 hour days for 12 days and then take three days off to visit friends or family elsewhere. Pay has been raised for this kind of work recently, with incentives for high productivity. Good nutritious meals are prepared for the farm workers. The workers are organized to take care of the administrative aspects of running the enterprise to eliminate bureaucracy and unneeded non-productive positions.

The dormitories and other structures of the farm were built by volunteer labor as well. The plan is to build three different communities of several hundred each in the area, so people can establish permanent residence. New houses will be built and the present camps will serve as social facilities for the communities when it is completed.

The primary goals of this ambitious program are to boost food production in the countryside and help solve the shortage of adequate housing in the cities.

One woman told us she formerly worked in the publishing house of the youth organization in Cuba, before joining the brigades. When asked why she decided to volunteer for the contingent for two years she said, "It's very hard work, but we have principles to fulfill for the revolution. We are facing this special period, so we feel good about working as hard as we can to overcome our problems."

The U.S. trade unionists gave the director of the farm project two buttons as a gesture of solidarity: one produced by working farm-



Militant/Wendy Lyons

Billboard expressing determination of Cuban workers to continue building socialism despite U.S. pressures and threats. Slogan refers to Cuba's defeat of U.S. invasion at Bay of Pigs 30 years ago and says "Bay of Pigs, always!"

ers fighting against foreclosures that says "Farms Not Arms." The other, put out by the United Farm Workers union, features their union symbol and the saying, "Si Se Puede" (Yes it can be done).

The director of the farm told us, "Send greetings to the North American people from the Cubans, especially to the farmers who are fighting for their farms and to the farm workers and their union. Greetings and a hug."

Construction contingents

The two-year contingents in the countryside are organized along the same lines as the Blas Roca contingent, a model of the organization of volunteer labor. That contingent has constructed many roads and is now working on building the facilities for the Pan-American games to be held in Havana in August.

The contingent grew up out of the vast expansion of volunteer labor that has been organized in Cuba over the last five years as part of what Cubans call the "rectification" campaign.

Volunteer labor — using the collective brain and muscle power of Cuban working people to decide priorities and carry them out — had been a cornerstone of the Cuban revolution in its early years. Later, the methods of running the economy used in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union — with their emphasis on commodity relations and material incentives — were instituted in Cuba. Volunteer labor all but disappeared, labeled impractical and unprofitable by technocrats in the state planning apparatus.

As a result of these new economic practices the ranks of those not involved in productive labor swelled. Workers, farmers, and

others who could be won to participate in increasing the productivity and politicization of the country were demobilized.

As part of correcting this, voluntary labor brigades and contingents began to be organized on a vast scale again. Their first task was to set about building new housing, child-care centers, and family doctor clinics — all things that were not being built because they were considered "unprofitable" under the old system.

The shortages caused as a result of the political and economic developments in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union has forced the initial and rapid expansion of such building to be curtailed.

Pan-American games

The Blas Roca contingent, and several others that spun off from it, have taken on some of the larger construction projects.

Our delegation visited the site of the Pan-American games to see these contingents at work. They are aided by "minibrigades" that concentrated on housing construction before. The construction workers among us thought the quality of the buildings was high.

It's inspiring to see the many women who as a big part of the construction crew were holding their own on some of the hardest jobs.

The housing that is being built is superior to the quality of much of the post-revolutionary housing we had seen. For the Pan-Am site young architects worked with the crews to come up with a variety of designs for the new apartment complexes. When the games are over and the teams go home, these beautiful new apartments will be given to a selection of those who built them, to be chosen by their coworkers.

The colorful billboard where the Olympic-size pool is being constructed says: "Everything for Our Socialism"; the sign by the stadium says "Girón, Siempre." It commemorates the battle of Playa Girón where the U.S. invasion of Cuba was beaten back thirty years ago.

Students lead Cuban 'bicycle campaign'

BY ELIZABETH HAMEL

HAVANA — On every street, highway, and beach there are hundreds of bicycles being pedaled by Cubans young and old in response to the oil shortage facing this country during their "special period in peace time."

Since the summer of 1990, delays and shortfalls of deliveries of oil from the Soviet Union, from which Cuba imports 80 percent of its oil, have forced the initiation of rationing and restructuring of Cuba's consumption of oil.

In an interview, Carlos Alfaro, first secretary of the 125,000-member Federation of University Students (FEU) and a member of the National Committee of the Union of Young Communists (UJC), described the evolution of the "Bicycle Campaign."

The National Committee of the Union of Young Communists organized a movement in the universities and high schools to lay out the plans for the campaign and began to implement it in November, 1990, Alfaro said. Polytechnic high schools around the country are assembling Soviet and Chinese-imported bicycle parts. These high schools are similar to what are known in the United States as "trade schools" where students from 15-18 years old learn technical skills and trades.

At one such school I had a chance to visit during my two week stay on the island, the students were building 100 bicycles a day. Twelve thousand had been assembled in just three months. The students were proud and enthusiastic to carry out this task given them by the government, "to respond to the transportation needs of the people," as one student said.

100,000 already assembled

Alfaro estimated that since November 1990, 100,000 bicycles had already been assembled and distributed, 40,000 of those to students. The projection is to assemble and import enough bicycles so that by the end of the year 800,000 will have been distributed.

In the spirit of self-sufficiency for the struggling island, a former bus assembly plant is now being remodelled to be used as a factory where Cuban bicycle parts would be made to build Cuban bikes, eliminating

the need to import any parts.

The bikes are needed so that workers and students are able to carry out their studies and work during the oil shortage. The Cubans are preparing in this way for further challenges and difficulties in transportation. Oil is prioritized for the agricultural sector, to be used planting and harvesting the food the population needs.

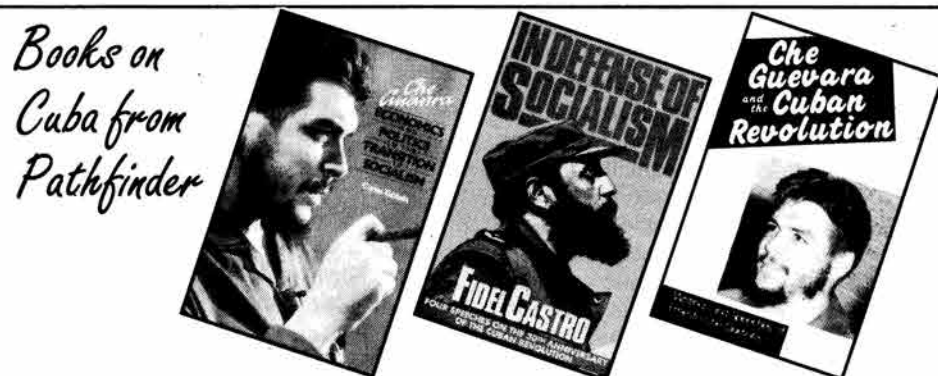
Alfaro explained that distribution of the

bicycles is being done according to certain priorities. Distribution among students is decided according to the student's level of necessity (how far from school he or she lives) and the level of commitment he or she has shown in his or her studies and political leadership. Who should receive the limited number of bicycles is decided in each study brigade of twenty students studying the same subject.



Militant/Wendy Lyons

Cuban farm director (left) told U.S. unionists to convey greetings to the U.S. farmers who are fighting foreclosures, and to farmworkers and their unions.



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Communist League in Sweden holds first congress

BY MARIA HAMBERG
AND CATHARINA TIRSEN

STOCKHOLM — "U.S. imperialism did not achieve its goals in its brutal Mideast war. In fact, Washington is now facing a political fiasco as a result of their military adventure," said Communist League leader Carl-Erik Isacsson at the first congress of the Communist League in Sweden, held here April 27-29.

"As a small imperialist power, the rulers in Sweden maneuver within the strongest imperialist blocs seeking any slight advantage they can find. They avoid trade wars that force them to take sides between the main imperialist rivals, but they are now being drawn into those disputes. This accelerated economic competition between Washington, Bonn, Tokyo, and others is what marks imperialism in its decline — it is heading toward more wars and a depression," Isacsson said.

Thirty-five delegates and guests, from 13 countries, participated in the discussion on reports and resolutions before the congress.

Members of the Communist League forged their organization over the last two years through a range of common activity. At the center of their efforts has been the distribution of Pathfinder books and the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *L'internationaliste*, and the *New Internationalist* to coworkers and fellow unionists, students and other youth, and those seeking to build solidarity with the Cuban revolution and struggles from South Africa to Korea. The congress came after months of carrying out a working-class campaign against imperialism and war as Washington and its allies mounted their as-

sault against the Iraqi people.

The league put this campaign at the center of their political work and joined in a common effort with communist organizations in the United States, Britain, Iceland, France, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada.

'An organized slaughter'

"The imperialist war was an organized slaughter of the workers and farmers in Iraq — those in and out of uniform," said Isacsson in the political report to the congress. "Imagine the motorway between Stockholm and Södertälje, 35 kilometers long. Imagine this road during rush hour, packed with cars, civilian and military.

"This is what the road was like between Basra and Kuwait City," he said, "where U.S. and allied forces bombed the front of the caravan of fleeing soldiers and civilians, and then the back. No one could escape. They attacked these people — who were no longer an army — with bombers and mechanized artillery. It was a slaughter."

One negative consequence for Washington, Isacsson said, is that the war ended up destabilizing the Gulf state regimes. The aim of the bipartisan war drive was to remove the Hussein regime and put in place a more reliable and subservient government in Iraq — one that could better police the region for imperialism. This has eluded Washington.

"The brutal war has unleashed new and uncontrolled social forces," the Communist League leader said, "such as the massive struggles that erupted in the north and south of Iraq. The Kurdish peoples' struggle for



Militant

"The ruling classes of imperialist countries in Europe are not moving closer to economic integration. Instead, competition and rivalry is growing," said Isacsson.

self-determination has been opened up in a way unseen for several decades." Isacsson also pointed to the continued struggle of the Palestinian people as another reason why Washington cannot simply impose a "post-war order" benefiting imperialism.

Role of Stalinist regimes

Placing the growing economic problems of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union in the context of the war, Isacsson explained that the bureaucracies' desire to make accommodations with imperialism determined their stance during the war.

"We knew from the beginning that the representative of the Stalinist regime in the Soviet Union would vote for every U.S.-sponsored resolution against Iraq in the Security Council. They hoped to win massive loans and grants from the imperialists in an attempt to stem the growing economic crisis and disintegration of the USSR," he said.

Because of the worldwide capitalist economic crisis and the sharpening inter-imperialist competition, Sweden is being drawn into increasing trade wars.

"At the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) negotiations, chaired by Swedish minister of agriculture Mats Hellström, Sweden lined up with the stand of the governments in the United States, Britain, New Zealand, and Australia against the European Common Market and Japan. The Swedish rulers are prepared to sacrifice agriculture to gain markets for their industrial exports, such as cars, steel, and paper.

"The ruling classes of imperialist countries in Europe are not moving closer to economic integration. Instead, competition and rivalry is growing among them," Isacsson said. "This trend will continue as they move to defend their own state interests against each other and their rivals in the Americas and the Pacific — including with the use of military force abroad."

Offensive at home

In the early 1980s the employers tried to deliver some heavy blows to unions in Sweden. But this provoked resistance and the employers backed off to try a new tact.

In 1982 they began to use the social-democratic government to attack the standard of living of the working class. They devalued the krona — the Swedish currency — and began to use the government to more stringently police the unions.

The employers eroded national union contracts by giving wage increases on the local level and keeping wages in contracts at the national level low. Bonuses and wage systems that gave more to a small number of workers were used to divide the working class as a whole. But the rulers have not been as successful as they need to be, explained Isacsson. They have not broken the unions and resistance continues, as demonstrated by striking autoworkers at Saab-Scania in Södertälje last year.

"The employers must go much further, in their assault," Isacsson said. "Their crisis is deep and they must attack the social wage and increase productivity in important industries such as auto."

The head of the Swedish Employers Organization announced that their goal is to get rid of national contracts and have only local contracts, said Isacsson.

Last winter the social-democratic government tried to impose a strike ban and increase strike fines. That government was brought down by union protests and growing division among the rulers on how to wage the attack on the labor movement.

The employers have postponed their attack and are waiting for rising employment and a stronger government after the elections this fall to put them in a stronger position, Isacsson stated.

Not a 'nice' imperialism

"Swedish imperialism has never been a 'nice' kind of imperialism," said a member of the Metal Workers Union during the discussion. The worker described how Sweden helped Germany's Hitler send hundreds of thousands of soldiers through Sweden against the Soviet Union during World War II. Radicals were imprisoned in Sweden during that war as well.

The heavy involvement of troops from Sweden in the United Nations-organized war against the national liberation struggle in the Congo (now Zaire) in the 1960s was described by another delegate. "Swedish rulers have tried to use the UN to gain more leverage for themselves in the world. But in the end the U.S. decided everything."

Another delegate pointed out that, "Just as Japan and Germany now must figure out how to be able to use their military muscle abroad to bring their economic power to bear in today's world, the rulers in this country have to do the same. Swedish companies will not get orders from Kuwait and Iraq as before the war."

"Sweden," the delegate said, "is the most heavily armed country in the world in relation to the number of its inhabitants. Sweden's ruling rich are also driven to use their military power abroad in order to protect their interests around the world. They will use it against workers and farmers in the Third World to begin with."

In the summary of the discussion, Isacsson said, "The concentration of finance capital in Sweden has been dominated by 15 families, but more by one, the Wallenbergs, than any other.

"There has been a pact between the officialdom of the labor movement and finance capital, especially with the Wallenbergs, since 1917. Because of the relative expansion of the world capitalist economy since World War II the employers have had some space to grant concessions to the workers," he said. "But now Swedish corporations are deeply in debt. They have had to sell companies and find niches in the world economy in order to survive. The very foundation for the pact has been eroded."

Willingness to fight

Although the labor movement in Sweden has retreated over the past decade, when union officials have allowed fights to take place — especially on local contracts — workers have taken advantage of the opportunity. Many strike battles have been ended when the Labor Court declared them illegal. This means that if the workers do not return to work they can be fired.

"Now the employers are preparing to end all these forms of collaboration," Isacsson said. "They may decide to stop collecting union dues directly from workers wages,

Continued on Page 12

Ethiopian president flees; rebels advance on capital

BY SETH GALINSKY

With forces from a coalition of rebel groups closing in on the capital city, Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam resigned and fled the country May 21 after 17 years in power.

The two main rebel groups are the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) and the Tigre People's Liberation Front (TPLF). Along with the Oromo Liberation Front, they have been fighting for self-determination and against the policies of the Mengistu regime.

Washington is trying to negotiate a settlement that would keep the guerrilla organizations from occupying the capital city of Addis Ababa. Some of the liberation fighters were just eight miles from the capital May 24, poised to enter. On the same day, the Eritrean fighters captured Asmara, the capital of Eritrea and Ethiopia's second largest city. Up to 100,000 soldiers of the regime's Second Revolutionary Army appeared to have surrendered after a brief battle on the outskirts of the city.

Welcoming Mengistu's resignation, U.S. State Department spokesperson Margaret Tutwiler said, "The door is now open for the establishment of peace and democracy." She announced that the U.S. government was pressing for representatives of the Ethiopian government and the three rebel groups to meet to form a transitional government.

"We urge that all government and opposition forces immediately cease military operations in order to allow a political dialogue to begin," said Tutwiler.

Mengistu became the central leader of the Ethiopian government shortly after the overthrow of Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974. For more than 40 years, Selassie's regime was a bulwark of backwardness, reaction, and collaboration with imperialism on the African continent.

During the emperor's rule, 90 percent of peasant families — the great majority of Ethiopia's population — worked less than two acres of land each. A landlord class of about 30,000 people owned 70 percent of the arable land.

A widespread famine in 1973, caused by the conditions of underdevelopment, imperi-

alist exploitation, and the reactionary policies of the monarchy, caused increasing unrest.

In 1974 thousands of taxi drivers, teachers, and students organized strikes and demonstrations. Muslims marched demanding an end to religious discrimination. Women demonstrated for equal rights. Peasants seized crops and burned the homes of landlords.

A group of junior army officers — known as the Dergue — finally overthrew Selassie in September 1974.

The new government, of which Mengistu was a part, took measures that led to the sweeping away of the previous semifeudal structures. Land was given to peasants and debts of tenant farmers and sharecroppers were cancelled. Banks, credit institutions, and insurance companies were nationalized.

But at the same time the Dergue continued the war, begun under the previous semifeudal regime, against the Eritrean people in the north, who had been waging a guerrilla struggle for independence since the early 1960s.

Mengistu became the dominant figure in the Dergue by 1977. The ruling Workers' Party he led claimed to be Marxist, but in reality defended the interests of the capitalist class.

The U.S. government was hostile to the revolutionary measures undertaken after the overthrow of Selassie. It did everything possible to isolate the new government and set back the advances that had been made.

In 1977 the army of neighboring Somalia, at the instigation of Washington, invaded Ethiopia in an attempt to overturn the revolution. With the aid of Cuban troops the imperialist attempt was blocked.

In recent years the Mengistu government sought to reknit relations with Washington. The Ethiopian representative to the United Nations Security Council supported the U.S. war effort against Iraq. Mengistu also worked to establish close ties to the Israeli government.

Washington is concerned about the rapid advance of the rebel groups.

"It's still a dangerous period because we don't know what the rebels are going to do," complained a U.S. diplomat in an interview with the *Washington Post*.

U.S. troops to bolster 'order' in Kuwait

BY SETH GALINSKY

Washington is dispatching an armored brigade of 3,700 troops to Kuwait, at the request of that oil-rich kingdom. Due to arrive in mid-June from their base in Germany, elements of the 11th Armored Cavalry are charged with keeping order for the shaky regime as other U.S. troops are withdrawn.

On May 19 the Kuwaiti government began what amounts to little more than show trials of hundreds of people accused of "collaboration" with occupation forces after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990. Nearly all of those being tried are not considered to be citizens of Kuwait, but immigrants — some of whom have lived there for generations. So far most of those brought to "trial" are Palestinian.

On the first day of the trials the government provided no evidence or witnesses. Government-appointed defense attorneys were not allowed to meet with defendants prior to their hearing.

There is no jury. Instead, cases are decided by a five-judge tribunal.

In a May 20 news conference U.S. President George Bush defended the character of the trials.

"I tried to put myself in the place of the Kuwaiti citizens who were brutalized by Saddam Hussein," said Bush. "I can understand that there's a lot of bitterness from those Kuwaitis who saw their country raped and pillaged in an unconscionable way."

Bush added that "given the outrages that they faced" the Kuwaitis should try to be "as compassionate as one can."

In its first statement on the matter the U.S. State Department did not criticize the lack of democratic rights and due process in the trials. But as the kangaroo courts became something of an international scandal and embarrassment to the "liberators" of Kuwait, the department issued a statement expressing concern "that due process may not have been fully observed" in the proceedings.

Those who are on trial have tried to get out the truth about their conditions in jail and to demand respect for their rights.

"I am not guilty," stated Jawad Abdul Raheem at the May 19 hearing. "I confessed because they beat me." Prisoners in Kuwait are routinely tortured.

15-year sentence for Hussein T-shirt

Another prisoner, Adnan Abed Ali, who is accused of wearing a T-shirt with the portrait of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on it, also said he was innocent and requested a lawyer. His request was ignored and he was sentenced to 15 years in prison, to be followed by deportation. Once convicted, there is no right to appeal.

Saddam Hussein shirts were not uncommon in Kuwait before the August 1990 invasion. Like the regime in Saudi Arabia, the Kuwaiti government helped finance the Iraqi regime's eight-year war against the Iranian people.

A government prosecutor said March 19 that many prisoners would be hanged after being found guilty, but so far no death penalties have been announced.

On May 21 the trial of 22 people charged with working for the Iraqi newspaper *Al-Nida* began. Among those accused are reporters, plumbers, janitors, and secretaries.

Chief Judge Mohammed Jassem Ben Naji charged the newspaper employees with acting "in violation of international principles and the world order."

Acting as judge, jury, and prosecutor, Naji told the defendants, "You spread lies and rumors which caused casualties to the country. All this was proven during the investigation."

2,000 detained

By early March more than 2,000 Palestinians, Iraqis, and citizens of Sudan, Somalia, and Algeria had been detained, some by the returning government, others by armed Kuwaiti "resistance" groups.

No figures have been released on how many remain in prison facing charges or how many are being held without charges.

The arbitrary arrest and beating of Palestinians has continued without let-up according to the *Wall Street Journal*. An untold number have been killed, tortured, or expelled since the end of the Iraqi occupation.

Those Palestinians that remain must register with the government, as have other noncitizens. Prior to last August, 320,000

Palestinians lived in Kuwait. Many had been there for decades. Palestinians played a key role working in government offices and private businesses as accountants, engineers, computer programmers, bank managers, scientists, and professors.

Deep-going political crisis

The trials take place amid a deep-going political crisis in Kuwait. Martial law is still in effect, activities by opposition groups are outlawed, and little has been done to rebuild war-damaged areas. Kuwait's ruling family, the Sabahs, continue to try to maintain a tight grip on political power.

"This country is totally aimless," said Abdul Aziz Sultan, chairman of the Gulf Bank, Kuwait's second largest. "It's just swaying in the wind."

Harvard study: 170,000 children will die

Continued from front page

Lack of electricity has led to a shortage of clean water and ability to process sewage, the root cause of the epidemics. One hospital in Baghdad reported 30 to 35 new cases of cholera in one week during April. Cases of typhoid were also observed in six Iraqi cities. Typhoid patients who were still infectious have been discharged from hospitals because of the lack of chloramphenicol, the main treatment for the disease.

The March 20 UN report said the seven-month war had "destroyed or rendered tenuous" most "means of modern life support" in Iraq. Without massive humanitarian relief, including "fuel, and power to drive vehicles, pumps, generators, refrigerated vans, sewage disposal works, harvesting machines, all the kinds of mechanisms that an advanced industrial society depends upon" the Iraqi people face "an imminent catastrophe."

As the Harvard report indicates, the big-business media, Washington, UN agencies, and the Iraqi government have all tried to cover up the growing devastation facing the Iraqi people.

Stung by the March 20 UN report's indictment of the impact of the war and embargo, the Bush administration has tried to downplay the severity of the health conditions in Iraq.

Enzio Gianni Murzi, UN Children's Fund representative in Iraq, minimized the risk of cholera for some time. Finally, responding to an Iraqi Health Ministry report of 94 new cases of cholera in mid-May, Murzi said, "Certainly we are very worried" about the spread of the disease.

Reported cases of cholera represent only 10-50 percent of the "true cases" Murzi admitted, although he claimed that the statistics do not "appear to have the classic aspects of an epidemic."

Murzi reported that Health Ministry officials told him that none of Iraq's sewage treatment plants are running due to lack of electricity. In many cities raw sewage is dumped into rivers or has overflowed onto city streets.

22 percent of electrical capacity

The Harvard team documented that by the end of the allied offensive operations against Iraq only 4 percent of its prewar electrical generating capacity was functional. Output is now estimated — nearly three months later — at only 22 percent of the prewar level.

As with the rest of its claims of little "collateral damage," statements by top U.S. military commanders, minimizing the extent of the war's impact on those living in Iraq and the bombing of electrical generating units, proved to be false as well.

Allied commander in the war, U.S. Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, in a January 30 press briefing said, "We never had any intention of destroying 100 percent of all the Iraqi electrical power. Because of our interest in making sure that civilians did not suffer unduly, we felt that we have to leave some of the electrical power in effect."

After reviewing the most recent findings, Harvard Dean Fineberg said, "My reading of the evidence is that there will be a substantial increase in infant mortality in Iraq, and the severity of the conditions speaks to a real crisis."

"The consequences of war are not fully realized during the time of active conflict,

When announcing the new troop deployment to Kuwait, U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney put it just as bluntly, but from the standpoint of defending Washington's interests. "The situation in Kuwait is still very unstable," he said on the Evans and Novak program, televised on Cable News Network. "They've not really been able to reconstitute their own forces. They are necessarily nervous, given what happened to them just last August."

The weakness of the regime was demonstrated in the face of the August 1990 invasion by the Iraqi forces. The government collapsed and key leaders, including the emir—Kuwait's ruler—fled without putting up a fight.

Given its narrow social base and dependence on an immigrant work force, the royal

family has had to rely on foreign forces to patch together public services and act as an internal police force. A Pentagon press officer in a phone interview said that a total of "some 5,000" U.S. troops are still stationed there, although he said he did not have precise figures. In addition, 40,000 Saudi troops remain in the country.

Washington's war and the subsequent withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait did not solve any of the problems facing the regime. On the contrary, the government there is less stable today than it was last August.

While early reports of damage caused by the Iraqi invasion and the U.S. attacks were greatly exaggerated — most buildings, roads, and bridges were untouched by the war — the Sabah dynasty has proven itself incapable of maintaining order.

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Impact Visuals/Rick Reinhard

Survivor of bombing of civilian neighborhood in Baghdad. Forty people died in air raid.

and the aftermath carries with it a very real burden of death and disability," he said.

Washington imposed the embargo immediately after troops of the Iraqi regime invaded and occupied Kuwait on August 2, 1990. On August 6 the U.S. government got the UN Security Council to rubber stamp its military blockade of the country.

The brutal sanctions have had complete bipartisan backing in Washington ever since. No voice has spoken up in Congress to persistently demand the measures be lifted, even for humanitarian reasons.

Bush has made it clear that U.S. imperialism is determined to continue to squeeze Iraq, irrespective of the human suffering the measures are causing.

British Prime Minister John Major has stated that his government would veto any measure in the Security Council lifting sanctions before Hussein has been removed from power.

While forced to allow some humanitarian food and medicine shipments into Iraq, Washington refuses to allow Baghdad to sell

its major export item — oil. Without major humanitarian assistance and unable to raise funds from exports, the country cannot buy the items needed to solve the most pressing health problems.

Despite requests by the Iraqi government to be able to sell oil in order to buy essential items, the Security Council has refused to allow it to do so.

A May 20 Security Council resolution created a 15-nation body, the Governing Council of the United Nations Compensation Commission. Its members are drawn from the Security Council.

The body is to process claims against Iraq for war damage and tax the country's oil revenues as a means of payment. Kuwait alone is demanding \$60 billion in damages — and is adding on \$120 million a day to cover losses claimed for burning oil wells in the country.

While some governments say Baghdad's oil exports should be taxed at a 25-30 percent rate, the U.S. and Kuwaiti representatives have demanded a rate as high as 50 percent.

Che Guevara, Cuba, and the road to socialism

In *New International* no. 8

Che's proletarian legacy and Cuba's rectification process

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

The creativity of Che's economic thought

BY CARLOS TABLADA

The politics of economics: Che Guevara and Marxist continuity

BY STEVE CLARK AND JACK BARNES

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Unionists at tractor plant discuss concessions

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

Working people around the world are involved in skirmishes

concessions in medical care and a minimal wage increase.

Crenlo, an expanding and profitable manufacturer of tractor cabs, employs 600 workers. It does work for John Deere, Caterpillar, and other farm implement and construction companies.

it was presented to union members.

Workers have higher expectations now after seeing Crenlo drastically expand its production and rake in higher profits. More unionists see that simply granting concessions leads to more concessions.

Crenlo is an open shop. Only 55 percent of the workers are in the union. This is an obstacle to getting a better contract. A recruitment drive over the last year brought in over 100 new members, but it is clear that the drive must continue. The union is pushing ahead to win more new members which will put workers in a better position in future struggles.

employing 600,000 workers. The CSEU says this is at least three-quarters of the unionized blue-collar work force in the industry.

Unlike the previous reduction from 40 to 39 hours, won in the 1980s following a series of national one-day strikes, the absence of a national agreement means the cut in hours does not extend to workers at companies organized by the Engineering Employers Federation.

The CSEU will keep the outstanding £7.1 million strike fund for the next stage of the campaign — a reduction to 35 hours.

Rights Commission.

The average annual wage for the library workers — 70 percent of whom are women — is \$25,000 (Canadian). "If you're a woman with kids working here, you are on the poverty line," said Joan Links, a shift picket captain.

ON THE PICKET LINE

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

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

Members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 2125 at Crenlo in Rochester, Minnesota, are discussing the recent concession contract the union has signed with the company. The contract contains

The union's contract with Crenlo expired January 26, but workers stayed on the job until the new contract was adopted. The union membership voted down the first contract offer February 20 by a margin of almost three to one.

The most common reason cited for the big "no" vote were: a limit on wage increases to 90 cents over three years; a raise in medical-coverage deductible from \$150 to \$200; and a charge of an extra \$10 per month for family medical coverage.

On April 5, after an extended discussion, union members voted up a new contract proposal by a margin of 57 percent. The new proposal was the same as the one voted down earlier, but with an added 15 cents raise spread over three years and a bonus of \$100 on contract approval.

Three years ago a contract with similar concessions was accepted by a 70 percent margin the same day

Engineering workers across Britain participated in a rally in London April 12, to mark the suspension of the campaign for a 35-hour week by the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (CSEU). A campaign of selective strikes aimed at winning agreements company by company began after talks on the national agreement broke down two years ago.

The CSEU reported that during the campaign there were about 25 strikes.

The president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, Bill Jordan, told the rally that a 37-hour week or less had been achieved at 1,666 plants

After two months on the picket line, University of Toronto library workers, who are members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 1230, rejected a new proposal by the Ontario provincial mediator. On April 25 the nearly 500 strikers decided that the new wage offer fell short of the union's demand for parity with other library workers in Toronto.

The proposal also failed to address the question of job security for student workers and a number of questions related to deteriorating working conditions, such as the settlement of the 200 outstanding grievances and the resolution of the seven cases of racist and sexist harassment in the workplace currently before the Ontario Human

Richard Schmidt, a bankruptcy judge in Corpus Christi, Texas, reduced a \$120 million claim for back pay by 6,300 Greyhound workers, replaced by scabs during the strike by the Amalgamated Transit Union last year, to \$31.5 million.

Nine thousand members of the ATU — drivers, mechanics, cleaners and clerks — struck Greyhound March 2, 1990. The company rapidly hired "permanent replacement" workers and broke the strike. Greyhound declared bankruptcy on June 4, 1990.

Lawyers for the National Labor Relations Board had argued that the workers should receive more than \$120 million in back pay because Greyhound violated labor law by forcing the workers out on strike.

Andy Buchanan from London; Bonita Murdoch from Toronto; and Craig Honts and Henry Zamarrón, who are members of the UAW Local 2125 at Crenlo in Rochester, Minnesota, contributed to this column.

Supreme Court rulings curtail democratic rights

BY PETER THIERJUNG

The U.S. Supreme Court rendered a series of decisions recently that narrow constitutional protections, help speed up executions of prisoners on death row, and in several instances provide greater latitude for police to victimize and frame-up working people.

The rulings come on the heels of a High Court decision in March that permits confessions coerced by police to be entered as evidence in criminal trials.

In a major decision curtailing the right to appeal handed down in April, the Court sent a green light to states with death penalty laws to more quickly execute prisoners sentenced to death. The 6-3 ruling restricts inmates' rights to challenge the constitutionality of their convictions or punishment to one federal court appeal.

The Court's new standard calls on lower federal courts to accept a prisoner's second habeas corpus petition or later appeals only in unusual circumstances. Habeas corpus is the right of a prisoner or someone detained to go before a court to challenge the lawfulness of their imprisonment. Federal statutes do not set limits on habeas corpus petitions.

Reversing past rights' gains

The ruling specifically targets previous Supreme Court decisions dating back to the mid-1960s that registered gains for the right to appeal. The Court ruled then that a federal judge could dismiss a second or subsequent habeas corpus petition only if an appeal contained new arguments that could have been made earlier, but were not because of an attorney's legal strategy or bad faith.

The High Court's decision comes on top of previous judicial rulings and moves by the federal government to limit the right to appeal and speed up executions.

According to the *New York Times*, some 40 percent of all death sentences are overturned as a result of federal judges ruling that a conviction or sentence is unconstitutional.

The new ruling stemmed from a Georgia prisoner's appeal. The Supreme Court majority said a federal district court judge should have dismissed the second habeas corpus petition filed in 1987 by Warren McCleskey, who is Black and was sentenced to death in 1978.

McCleskey's attorneys filed their first habeas corpus petition challenging the death penalty on grounds that its application discriminated against Blacks. The High Court rejected the appeal in 1987.

In a second petition, McCleskey's attorneys argued that his Sixth Amendment right to an attorney had been violated when the state



Miami police on the attack during 1989 Miami rebellion. Recent Supreme Court rulings narrow constitutional protections.

placed an informer in an adjoining cell. The state prosecutors had earlier withheld a statement by the informer from the defense team.

A federal district court had ruled McCleskey's second petition was valid and excused his attorney's failure to make the Sixth Amendment argument in the first petition because the informer document had not been available.

An appeals court overturned the district courts' decision, saying McCleskey had "deliberately abandoned" the Sixth Amendment argument in his first appeal. The court asserted that the death-row inmate should have raised the issue of the informer earlier even though he had no proof.

The Supreme Court upheld the appeal court's dismissal. McCleskey "had at least constructive knowledge all along of the facts he now claims to have learned only from the 21-page [informer] document," and therefore he lacked sufficient "cause" for not making the argument in the first appeal, Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote for the majority.

Attacks on Fourth Amendment

In another April ruling, the Supreme Court further chipped away at Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable searches and seizures, which constitute a foundation of the right to privacy.

Fourth Amendment protections have been

interpreted by courts until now to require police to have a "reasonable suspicion" of criminal activity before detaining someone even briefly. If material evidence is secured by the police while detaining someone without reasonable suspicion, the evidence has in the past been excluded from court.

But the 7-2 ruling by the Court now allows such evidence to be entered in a trial. The High Court overturned a California appeals court in a case involving a teenager who began running when he saw a police car approaching.

As the youth ran, he was alleged to have discarded a small amount of the illegal drug crack. Moments later a police officer nabbed and handcuffed him. The California court ruled that the crack could not be entered as evidence because the police lacked reasonable suspicion to stop the teenager's flight.

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia arguing for the Court said, however, that the youth had not been "seized" until the police officer tackled him and therefore the crack should be permitted in court as evidence.

Justice John Paul Stevens issued a sharply worded dissenting opinion. "If carried to its logical conclusion," the ruling will "encourage unlawful displays of force that will frighten countless innocent citizens into surrendering whatever privacy rights they may still have."

In a decision undermining the right to be presumed innocent, the Supreme Court ruled

May 13 that police can detain an individual for up to 48 hours without an arrest warrant.

Most states require law enforcement officials to show "probable cause" for an arrest without a warrant in a shorter period of time and most have laws that bar "unnecessary delays." But delays in showing probable cause can actually be longer, and commonly are, when holidays or weekends intervene during a detention.

The American Bar Association recently recommended a delay of no more than 6 hours during the day, and only slightly longer if someone is detained at night.

The court's ruling came in a lawsuit by prisoners challenging the constitutionality of a 36-hour limit imposed by Riverside County in California. They argued that the delay violated the Fourth Amendment's prohibition against "unreasonable" seizures.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote the majority opinion for the Court. "In our view," she said, "the Fourth Amendment permits a reasonable postponement of a probable cause determination while police cope with everyday problems of processing suspects through an overly burdened criminal justice system."

Justice Scalia dissented in this case, reflecting concerns that the Court might be going too far in its attack on the Fourth Amendment. "We today repudiate one of its [the Fourth Amendment] core applications so that the presumptively innocent may be left in jail," Scalia said.

Tribute to life of Duncan Williams

BY JIM GOTESKY

SAN FRANCISCO — Duncan Williams, a long time member and supporter of the Socialist Workers Party, died May 22 following a fall while working at Chevron Chemical. Williams was 42.

Those who wish to celebrate Williams' life and political contributions are invited to attend a memorial meeting that will be held June 2, at 1:00 p.m., at the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Local 1-5 hall. The meeting is sponsored by Mike Baer and the socialist worker friends of Williams.

Featured speakers will be Joel Britton, National Committee member of the Socialist Workers Party and member of OCAW 1-547, other union activists, friends, and coworkers.

Messages of remembrance may be sent c/o the Socialist Workers Party, 3284 23rd St., San Francisco, Ca. 94110.

New York supporters hit the streets in sales blitz

BY RONI McCANN

NEW YORK — Teams of *Militant* supporters here kicked off an eight-day international sales blitz May 25. Along with others in dozens of cities around the world, New York supporters are organizing to make our sales goals by June 15.

From Queens to Coney Island we knocked on doors and stopped people on the street to talk with them about the criminal war waged by Washington against Iraq, the devastation it caused and that continues today as U.S. imperialism maintains its embargo, and the political fiasco opened up for the U.S. ruling rich and their government in the wake of their military adventure.

Those interested in reading the truth about Washington's war against working people from Los Angeles to Baghdad were urged to get the *Militant* every week. The goal of the international sales drive is to sign up 3,225 new subscribers to the *Militant* and thousands more readers of *Perspectiva Mundial*, *L'Internationale*, and *New Internationalist*. The scoreboards below show our results at the end of week four — the beginning of the target effort.

Chris Hoepfner led off the special Saturday morning mobilization in New York with a report to supporters before hitting the streets. He outlined the challenge supporters face in putting the drive on schedule and the opportunities to win new readers. A member of the Machinists union who works at Trans World Airlines began the target week on the

midnight shift just hours before by selling two subscriptions to coworkers, he said. Two teams were already on the road that morning. One was headed for Connecticut to sell the press with the help of readers there; the other to a nearby army base along with supporters from Newark.

Hoepfner pointed out that the *Militant* is the only paper that did not turn its back on the toilers in the Middle East after President Bush declared his military "victory" over the Iraqi people. Only by being informed about the battles of working people the world over and standing unconditionally in their defense can working people effectively defend their interests at home.

Every supporter available — including 13 members of the Young Socialist Alliance — turned out for the special sales effort. They decided at the meeting to stay out for five hours.

The results? The best Saturday in New York so far — 33 new readers won, including 14 to the *Militant* and 9 who purchased a copy of *New Internationalist*. Additionally, 108 people bought single issues of the paper and 30 gave supporters their names and addresses so they could visit them when they had the money to buy a subscription.

As part of the eight-day sales blitz supporters are organizing sales teams for the two days of the holiday weekend.

Militant salespeople plan to get out to a range of political events in the New York area. A high school teacher called the Path-

finder bookstore and invited supporters to set up a literature table on May 28 at a high school fair expected to attract some 2,000 youth.

On June 2 fighters for abortion rights will be taking off on a "Bikes for Choice" ride from New York to Seattle. Along the way, one young woman reported, they will stop off in various cities and educate about abortion rights. She invited *Militant* supporters to their send-off rally at City Hall.

During the week a carload of socialists will travel to upstate New York to introduce the paper to dairy farmers, workers in the region, and students attending school for the summer.

Socialists active in industrial trade unions here are stepping up their efforts to sign up coworkers on the job and at labor events as well. This past week supporters sold three *Militant* subscriptions and four to *Perspectiva Mundial* to fellow unionists. Members of the International Union of Electronic Workers began phoning readers in their union whose subscriptions are about to expire.

This is the kind of effort that will be needed until June 15 to make the circulation goals on time.

Supporters from Salt Lake City, Utah, to Sydney, Australia, are encouraged to send in reports on their target week results along with their subscriptions in time for a full report on the target week in our next issue.

Readers will notice that the unionists' sales

drive goals in the scoreboard below on the left have been corrected. Last week the goals shown for the United States were mismatched.



Militant/Marc Lichtman

Sales in New York during target week

Final effort needed to reach goal in million-dollar capital fund

BY GEORGE BUCHANAN

A final push is needed to reach the \$1 million goal of the international Expansion Fund which was launched at the August 1990 convention of the Socialist Workers Party.

According to fund director Dave Prince, \$77,189 has been received in new pledges since a special appeal was made in March, 1991. These now total \$903,069, of which \$588,827 has been collected. The fund aims to reach \$1 million in pledges by the end of June, and to collect this amount by August.

The Expansion Fund was established to enable the upgrading of printing and publishing equipment, and to rebuild several floors of the Pathfinder building in New York. The building houses the offices of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, two socialist periodicals, and of Pathfinder publishers. Part of

the fund will go toward remodeling the national offices of the Socialist Workers Party, which are also located in the Pathfinder building.

This upgrading is needed to respond to expanded openings for circulating books and periodicals that educate today's fighters — to arm them to meet the political challenges before working people. For example, from the launching of Washington's criminal embargo against the people of Iraq up until the cease-fire, hundreds of thousands of copies of books, newspapers, magazines and other pieces of literature that contributed to the fight against the war have been written, edited, and printed.

The rebuilding project has just gotten underway, with volunteers arriving in New York. A major reorganization of the existing offices in order to make way for reconstruction work is now completed.

Implementing the plan to upgrade the computer systems used by the editorial and business staffs of Pathfinder, the *Militant*, and *Perspectiva Mundial* is continuing. One particularly valuable addition which has been made to this equipment is an optical scanner which "reads" text from books and magazines directly into a computer, bypassing the need for most of the keyboarding work previously required for such tasks.

Prince explained that reaching the pledge goal and collecting it on time is essential if the fund's aims are to be met in full and on schedule. "This includes having funds on hand at the completion of the rebuilding project to begin the next phase: upgrading the presses and other printing equipment," he said.

In March it was reported that a total of \$900,880 had been pledged to the fund. This included a pledge of \$75,000 which will not now be received.

A total of 74 supporters have now contributed to the Expansion Fund, which includes 13 more than when the special appeal was made in March. "The recent pledges include \$11,500 that four railroad workers donated from contract bonus payments they received and \$11,500 from two supporters who sold their houses and pledged a portion of the proceeds to the fund," Prince reported.

The fund appeals to people who are in a position to contribute \$1,000 or more. These donations are not used to finance daily operating expenses but are exclusively used for major capital improvements that will have long-term benefits.

For more information about the fund, write: The Expansion Fund, 406 West St, New York, N.Y. 10014.

Selling the press to unionists

Union	Militant		New Int'l	
	% Sold (Goal)	Sold	(Goal)	Sold
UNITED STATES				
ACTWU	22%	46	10	30
IAM	22%	143	31	87
ILGWU	5%	20	1	10
IUE	29%	42	12	25
OCWA	12%	50	6	55
UAW	31%	87	27	32
UFCW	29%	93	27	35
UMWA	79%	33	26	19
USWA	34%	90	31	50
UTU	54%	65	35	50
TOTAL	31%	669	206	393
SHOULD BE	57%	382	382	225
AUSTRALIA				
MTFU	50%	6	3	6
SHOULD BE	57%	6	3	0
BRITAIN				
AEU	7%	15	1	11
NUM	22%	18	4	15
RMT	28%	32	9	22
TGWU	25%	8	2	3
TOTAL	22%	73	16	51
SHOULD BE	57%	42	42	29
CANADA				
ACTWU	0%	7	0	2
CWA	33%	9	3	10
IAM	7%	14	1	8
USWA	0%	16	0	11
TOTAL	9%	46	4	31
SHOULD BE	57%	26	26	18
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	57%	18	18	8
SWEDEN				
FOOD WORKERS	0%	6	0	0
METAL	0%	5	0	3
TRANSPORT	0%	1	0	1
TOTAL	0%	12	0	4
SHOULD BE	57%	7	7	2

Sales Drive Scoreboard

Areas	The Militant			Perspectiva Mundial		New Int'l*		L'inter*		Total	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES											
Austin, Minn.	50	26	52%	10	9	20	0	2	1	82	36
Price, Utah **	50	26	52%	9	5	25	16	2	0	86	47
Birmingham, Ala.	85	36	42%	8	0	43	27	2	0	138	63
Phoenix	30	12	40%	10	5	20	18	1	0	61	35
Seattle **	89	33	37%	33	8	75	52	3	0	200	93
Twin Cities, Minn.	115	39	34%	15	12	53	44	2	0	185	95
St. Louis	100	33	33%	5	0	48	21	2	1	155	55
Detroit	80	26	33%	8	3	40	31	2	0	130	60
Charleston, WV	60	19	32%	5	1	30	32	2	1	97	53
Philadelphia	60	19	32%	21	3	56	22	2	0	139	44
Omaha, Neb.	65	20	31%	10	4	18	6	2	0	95	30
Des Moines, Iowa	98	30	31%	15	6	35	16	2	0	150	52
San Francisco	135	38	28%	70	17	110	85	5	0	320	140
Baltimore	66	18	27%	10	4	31	11	3	0	110	33
Boston	100	25	25%	25	8	50	17	10	4	185	54
Atlanta	70	17	24%	10	0	55	50	2	0	137	67
Salt Lake City	105	24	23%	18	6	50	38	2	0	175	68
Chicago	130	29	22%	30	99	70	2	5	0	235	130
Pittsburgh	75	16	21%	3	0	40	14	2	1	120	31
New York	200	40	20%	75	26	150	119	15	1	440	186
Houston	65	12	18%	20	3	35	12	2	0	122	27
Morgantown, WV	65	12	18%	5	0	40	18	2	0	112	30
Greensboro, NC	50	9	18%	10	3	34	22	2	0	96	34
Los Angeles	150	25	17%	80	16	124	51	3	0	357	92
Newark, NJ	110	17	15%	40	8	140	70	10	5	300	100
Washington, DC	80	12	15%	13	2	50	33	2	0	145	47
Miami	67	10	15%	25	2	45	29	15	1	152	42
Cleveland **	85	12	14%	10	3	50	18	2	0	147	33
Albany, N.Y.	15	0	0%	2	0	10	0	0	0	27	0
U.S. TOTAL	2,450	635	26%	595	253	1,547	874	106	15	4,698	1,777
AUSTRALIA	10	4	40%	3	3	22	0	0	0	35	7
BRITAIN	1	0	0%	1	0	9	2	10	4	21	6
London	100	19	19%	15	3	90	36	5	0	210	58
Manchester	50	9	18%	5	0	45	22	2	0	102	31
Sheffield	50	11	22%	3	0	75	66	2	0	130	77
Other Britain	2	2	-	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
BRITAIN TOTAL	202	41	21%	23	4	210	124	9	0	442	169
CANADA											
Vancouver	65	24	37%	15	8	40	40	5	2	125	74
Montreal**	70	15	21%	15	7	75	47	35	4	195	73
Toronto	80	12	15%	30	6	50	32	5	0	165	50
CANADA TOTAL	215	51	24%	60	21	165	119	45	6	485	197
FRANCE	5	2	40%	5	2	5	6	15	2	30	12
ICELAND	30	10	33%	1	0	12	6	1	0	44	16
MEXICO	0	0	0	15	6	0	0	0	0	15	6
NEW ZEALAND											
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 NZ	6	6	-	1	0	1	0	0	0	8	6
N. Z. TOTAL	122	72	59%	6	3	101	32	3	0	224	107
PUERTO RICO	2	0	0%	10	1	1	0	1	0	14	1
SWEDEN**	35	9	26%	20	6	20	21	3	1	78	37
TOTAL	3,072	824	27%	739	299	2,092	1,184	193	28	6,094	2,335
SHOULD BE		1,754	57%		422		1,195		110		3,481
DRIVE GOALS	3,225			725		1,950		200		6,100	

* Single copies of *New Internationalist*; subscriptions to *L'Internationale*

** Raised *New Internationalist* Goal

League holds congress

Continued from Page 8

which will really be an attack against the trade union bureaucracy itself."

Catharina Tirsén gave the second report, "Building the Communist League."

"We know that a workers' and farmers' alliance is the only social force that has the strength to take power out of the hands of the imperialist warmakers. Organizing and uniting this force requires a working-class leadership," she said.

"Our task at this congress is to discuss how we will organize to help solve that problem, to build an organization that can mean the difference between repeated massacres like the one in the south of Iraq, or victories in the decisive battles ahead for working people."

Tirsén spoke of the accomplishments of the organization leading up to the congress. This included holding well-attended public meetings to launch several new Pathfinder books; building a Pathfinder bookstore in Stockholm; organizing a tour of Cuban economist Carlos Tablada who visited each Nordic country; participating in several subscription drives for the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *L'internationaliste*; and joining in the strike by autoworkers at the Saab-Scania plant.

"We've done many successful things," the Communist League leader said. "Still, the last months have been the most decisive for our organization. We faced the pressures of the imperialist war drive and responded to it as a working-class vanguard. In this period our organization has passed a major test and been strengthened because of it."

Campaigning against the war

Communist League members who belong to three labor unions took goals and participated in the international campaign to circulate the socialist newspaper, the *International Socialist Review* supplement, "Working-class campaign against the imperialist war drive"; and the Pathfinder book on Cuba's actions in the UN, *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!*

The campaign "took hard political work," Tirsén said. "All of this has strengthened the orientation of the league to the industrial working class. We have been strengthened both politically and numerically."

Tirsén explained that when U.S. President George Bush declared a halt to offensive operations on February 27, the real problems imperialism faced in achieving its political goals became apparent almost immediately. The lies and the cover-up of the slaughter and the devastation of Iraq began to come out, new mass refugee flows erupted, millions of Kurds faced imminent death, and the undemocratic and brutal character of the Gulf state monarchies was unmasked to a certain extent. "Now we must move forward with the campaign," she said. "It is just as urgent now as when the bombs were falling on Baghdad and other cities."

Tirsén said that the central tasks of the organization are getting the *Militant* into the hands of workers and youth in Sweden, writing more articles for the *Militant* on developments in the class struggle in Sweden, and running candidates for public office as an opportunity to explain more broadly the need for working people to organize independently in order to face and resist the wars and economic crisis imperialism is dragging the world into.

In the discussion under Tirsén's report one worker described lessons the organization had learned through building support for the international defense effort on behalf of Mark Curtis, a packinghouse worker framed-up and imprisoned by the police in Des Moines, Iowa, for his union and political activity.

"We learned a lot about conditions in Sweden doing this work, when coworkers told us of their experiences with the police. We also learned more about the conditions of immigrant workers in Sweden," he said.

Representatives from the Workers Communist Party in Finland participated in the congress as guests. Greetings were received from the Organizing Committee of the Communist League in France, the African National Congress, and the Palestinian Workers Organization in Sweden.

Two participants asked to join the Communist League at the end of the conference.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

ARIZONA

Phoenix

Washington's Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III. Speaker: Mark Severs, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Seattle City Council, member International Association of Machinists. Sat., June 1, Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m., 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$5. Tel: (602) 279-5850.

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco

Washington's War against Working People around the World: How Do We Fight Back? Speaker: Jim White, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor. Sat., June 1, 7:30 p.m., 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Donation: \$3. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

FLORIDA

Miami

Report from Cuba: Tour by U.S. Unionists. Speaker: Rick Walker, former Eastern Airlines striker, member Transportation Workers Union. Sat., June 1. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: Program, \$3; dinner, \$3.50. 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.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

In Defense of a Woman's Right to Choose! Speakers: Margo Storsteen, Socialist Workers Party, and others. Sat., June 1, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Life in Revolutionary Cuba Today. Video.

Sat., June 1, 7:30 p.m. 5019½ Woodward Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

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.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

Free Trade with Mexico: Does It Help Working People? Speaker: Héctor Marroquín, laid-off member United Auto Workers. Sat., June 1, 7 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (402) 553-0245.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

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.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Abortion Rights under Attack. Sat., June 1, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

The Postwar Situation in Iraq. Speaker: David Warshawsky, Socialist Workers Party, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Sun., June 2, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$3. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

The Fight to Stop Union-Busting: Speak-Out in Solidarity with Strikers in Western Penn-

sylvania. Speakers: Gary Best, Giant Eagle strike coordinator, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 23; striking Giant Eagle worker; former Eastern Airlines striker; and others. Sat., June 1, 7 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

Out of Control. Video on unsafe practices in petrochemical industry. Speakers: Maggie McCraw, Socialist Workers Party, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 3-89; Pam Nixon, president People Concerned about MIC; Bethel Purkey, vice president United Mine Workers of America Local 1751; representative Safety and Health Committee, United Steelworkers of America Local 5668 at Ravenswood. Sat., June 1, 7:30 p.m. 1586 E. Washington St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (304) 345-3040.

BRITAIN

London

Imperialism: Marching to War, Stumbling to Depression. Speaker: Martin Hill, Communist League. Fri., May 31, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Tel: 71-401-2409.

CANADA

Vancouver

Washington's Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III. Speaker: Nancy Walker, Communist League. Sat., June 1, 7:30 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

SWEDEN

Stockholm

Che Guevara and the Struggle for Socialism in Cuba Today. Speaker: Dag Tirsén, Communist League. Sat., June 1, 3 p.m. Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

U.S. troops to bolster 'order' in Kuwait

Continued from Page 9

pable of organizing to rebuild the country.

The government has yet to sign any contracts to clear minefields and areas hit by allied bombs. Only 100 out of 500 oil well fires had been controlled as of May 16.

Government ministries are not functioning. Only 100 out of 1,300 mostly Kuwaiti employees of the commerce and industry ministry have been coming to work, although they all continue to receive their paychecks.

Banks, which are among the few businesses with customers, mainly exchange old Kuwaiti dinar notes for new ones and convert dinars to foreign currency.

Even though the government has flown Kuwaitis who fled the Iraqi invasion back home free of charge, just as many are leaving. Roughly half of the 200,000 people trapped

in Kuwait during the invasion have since left.

Opponents of the dictatorship have become more open since the end of the Iraqi occupation. According to the *New York Times*, opponents of the Sabahs include some of Kuwait's leading merchant families, who argue that the "essentially feudal structure is inadequate to modern needs."

An April 22 press conference in Kuwait City by opposition groups was cancelled by the government. It had been scheduled to take place shortly before the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on one of his many trips to the region.

The press conference was called by a coalition of seven opposition groups ranging from merchants to Muslims to university-based activists.

"This is what we are saying. There is no

freedom of the press or freedom of democracy now in Kuwait," said Ahmed Baqir, an Islamic opposition leader and member of the parliament that was disbanded by the emir in 1986.

The opposition coalition is calling for elections and reinstatement of the parliament.

For the most part the opposition groups say they do not oppose the Sabah family's continued participation in the government. In a further crackdown on opposition, five student supporters of the Islamic Constitutional Movement were arrested the second week of May for putting up signs saying, "Let's Build the New Kuwait Together."

While upset at the arrest of the students, there have been no reports of the opposition groups condemning the arrest and harassment of Palestinians or others without Kuwaiti citizenship.

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SWEDEN

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

Continental backs off — Continental Airlines retracted a recent ruling requiring women employees to wear makeup. Saying it made a mis-



Harry Ring

take, it apologized to a Boston ticket agent fired for refusing to wear lipstick, and offered her job back.

We believe him — General Dynamics is slicing its work force by a third and is also qualifying 25 in

top management for \$7.6 million in bonuses. GD top dog James Mellor advises that for business success, both layoffs and executive bonuses are necessary. "There's no embarrassment," he assures.

Taking care of business — The Alaska legislature confirmed Harold Heinze as watchdog of the state's vast oil and wilderness resources. Heinze previously headed Atlantic Richfield's Alaskan oil operations. He sees conservationists as "extremists" who are trying to "strangle" the state.

Uncle's little helper — Operating in Massachusetts' Cape Cod area, Sgt. Randy Brown was tapped

as Army recruiter of the year. Last year he signed up four times the required minimum. He modestly concedes the recession was a factor. "The unemployment rate is higher," he observed, "so I can help more people."

Things are tough all over — At the Horseshoe Bend Country Club in Georgia, so many of the executive-type members are out of work that the club initiated a job-hunting program. Commented one, "It's hard to have fun when you're unemployed."

Textbooks by Cheerios — Whittle Communications, creator of the classroom "news" programs that

feature commercials, is planning to open 200 profit-making schools.

Some companies do care — The 1991 Porsche 911 Turbo won favorable reviews, but one critic noted that in a test car, the windshield washer light didn't shut off, the cooling fan was stuck on low, and the knob fell off on the hood release cable. A Porsche spokesman assured that on a \$103,000 car, a local rep would usually make house calls.

Concerned citizens — In Bel-Air, a wealthy Los Angeles suburb, the Wilson's are having a pool and 45-foot waterfall built in their backyard. Concerned about the water

shortage, Jayne Wilson assures, "We'll only run the waterfall a couple of times a week."

Holy Moses — Manischewitz, the matzo biggie, pleaded no contest to a criminal charge of conspiring to fix the price of Passover matzos and paid a \$1 million fine.

Free-market product — With growing awareness of water contamination, sales of bottled water are booming despite rip-off prices. Yet a quarter of the bottled stuff comes from the same sources as tap water. One cursory federal check showed that a third of the sampled bottles exceeded allowable microbe contamination.

U.S. continues prosecution of Los Angeles Eight

Palestine solidarity activists threatened with ongoing gov't deportation attempts

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — In its ongoing drive to deport the Los Angeles Eight, the government is now using two immigration laws — one a reactionary McCarthy-era statute recently scrapped by Congress, the other a supposedly liberal substitute for it.

Two of the Los Angeles Eight now find themselves in the situation of being the last to be prosecuted under the old law, and the first under the new one.

Meanwhile, the government informed two of the eight that it intends to deny their applications for permanent residency, which they are entitled to under an immigration "amnesty" statute.

The eight — seven Palestinians and a Kenyan married to one of them — were singled out for deportation because of their solidarity with the Palestinian liberation struggle. The government has falsely branded them "terrorists."

Important victories scored

Although the eight have won a series of important legal victories since their arrest in January 1987, the government has doggedly continued efforts to deport them.

The terrorism charge against them is based on the assertion, which they deny, that they are members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and have raised funds for it. The PFLP is an affiliate of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Initially, the eight were indicted under the now defunct 1952 McCarran-Walter Act, which allowed the government to deport or exclude immigrants on the basis of their beliefs.

At that point the government charged that the PFLP advocated the doctrines of "worldwide communism." But the eight won a landmark victory for the democratic rights of immigrants when a federal judge ruled that the ideological provisions of the McCarran Act were unconstitutional.

The government had not anticipated this legal setback. Nor did they anticipate the significant public support won by the eight. They had been arrested 11 months before the eruption of the Palestinian *intifada*, and the government apparently assumed that prevailing pro-Israel, anti-Arab bias would permit easy prosecution.

Yet an encouraging number of organizations and individuals have come to the defense of the eight, including a number of prominent Jewish individuals.

Government presses case

Yet the government has persisted. Six of the eight are here on visitor or student visas. They were recharged on a series of technicalities — overstaying their visitor's permit, working part-time while on a student visa, etc.

The other two of the eight, Khader Hamide and Michel Shehadeh, presented a thornier problem since they are legal permanent U.S. residents.

After the court knocked down the advocacy of communism charges, the government turned to the assertion that the PFLP advocated the destruction of property.

When that didn't fly, they decided to go with the "terrorist" charge.

Meanwhile, last year, Congress decided to get rid of the McCarran Act which was becoming an international embarrassment. Under its provisions, a number of noted figures — writers, artists, and politicians — were barred from entering the country and these cases were widely publicized.

In March of this year, the McCarran Act officially expired and a new statute went into effect that supposedly eliminated its malodorous antiliberties provisions.

But the new statute permits the deportation or exclusion of communists. And, in an added twist, it specifically cites the PLO and its affiliates and others accused of "terrorism." The government claims that those who were indicted under the McCarran Act before it expired can still be prosecuted and is pro-

ceeding with the case against Hamide and Shehadeh under both the old law and the new one.

A group of immigrant rights and civil liberties lawyers filed a lawsuit in late May challenging the government's continued prosecution.

According to Ahmed Nassef, organizer for the committee that is defending the eight, their lawyers are now preparing a legal challenge to this double-barreled prosecution.

The committee needs funds to defray the cost of this new stage of the fight. Contributions should be sent to the Committee for Justice to Stop the McCarran-Walter Act Deportations, P.O. Box 4631, Los Angeles, CA 90051.

Striking Pittsburgh grocery workers win massive support

BY LORRAINE STARKSKY

PITTSBURGH — In a massive show of solidarity for striking members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 23, more than 3,000 unionists and supporters marched through downtown Pittsburgh May 4. Nearly 6,000 Local 23 members work at 30 Giant Eagle grocery stores in western Pennsylvania and one in West Virginia. They walked out April 22 after rejecting the company's final contract offer.

The stakes are high in this battle. Giant Eagle, Pittsburgh's largest supermarket chain, is the last remaining union-organized grocery chain in the city.

Giant Eagle has refused to budge on its practice of keeping workers on part-time status despite the fact that they consistently work more than 40 hours a week. The union members are outraged by this ploy — which keeps the company from paying health coverage and other benefits to workers, many of whom have held part-time status for years.

In 1983, Giant Eagle forced multiple pay tiers and significant wage concessions on the union after a 19-day strike. Now, the company wants to close the gap between the tiers and eliminate some tiers. Both steps would be to the detriment of the workers.

Giant Eagle's final offer included an annual 45-cent-an-hour wage increase over the next three years, a small increase in company-paid pension contributions, and no cuts in the present level of health benefits.

Since 1983, Giant Eagle has closed union stores and reopened them as "independently owned" franchises. Local 23 tried to get an assurance during current contract negotiations that Giant Eagle would not close any more stores, but the company refuses to discuss this.

On the first day of the strike large numbers of pickets turned out at each store, essentially forcing a halt to business. Giant Eagle kept the stores open by staffing them with management, supervisory personnel, and a handful of workers who crossed the picket lines. In response to the pickets, the company placed full-page ads in the morning and afternoon newspapers saying it would hire "replacement workers."

On the second day of the strike Judge Eugene Strassburger III, long considered a "friend of labor," issued an injunction limiting pickets to 20 per store. Giant Eagle sent

letters to all Local 23 members telling them that they had the right to cross the picket lines and urging them to withdraw from the union. Enclosed with the letter was a union withdrawal form.

During the first week of the strike, the company was forced to admit that customer traffic fell by 80 percent. Giant Eagle began to run bargain ads to entice customers.

The company's hard-nosed stance galvanized the formation of a labor-sponsored coalition in support of Local 23. One of the first activities of this coalition was issuing the call for the May 4 demonstration in Pittsburgh.

The march drew participation from a wide range of unions such as the Communications Workers of America, Teamsters, Fire Fighters, United Electrical Workers, National Association of Letter Carriers, transit workers, building trades locals, Pittsburgh Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, 1199 Hospital Workers, Service Employees' International Union, and others.

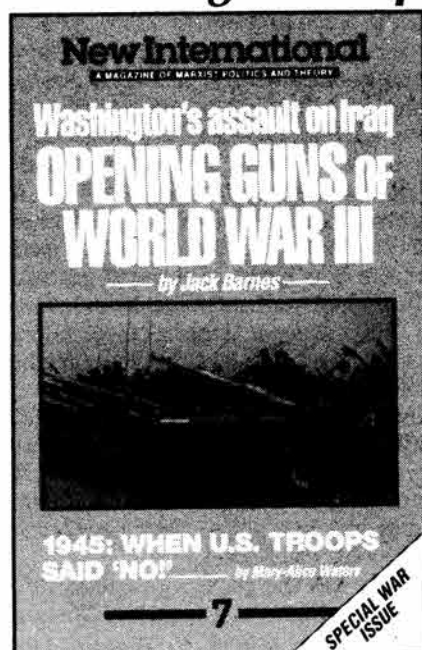
Several union representatives offered encouragement and solidarity at a rally following the march. The United Mine Workers District 5 representative said, "We're not only behind you, we're beside you."

A speaker from one of the rail unions said, "We tried to strike [on April 17], but Congress prevented us. The only time Congress ever did anything in one day was when they ended our strike." The vice president of 1199 Cannersburg Hospital Workers, also on strike, stated, "There's no better place to spend our first month strike anniversary than here at your rally."

Sal Sabatucci, a 17-year member of UFCW Local 23, explained that "half of our members make minimum wage. Forty percent don't have any medical benefits. Forty-eight percent of the workers are women." Carl Huber, Local 23 president, ended the rally by declaring, "We're going to last one more day than the company does!"

Since the rally, Giant Eagle has severed health, hospitalization, disability, and life insurance benefits of the strikers. In another move meant to demoralize Local 23, the company asserted that 900 members are back to work. The union responded by organizing community participation on the picket lines May 10.

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.

Join us in circulating *New International* no. 7, a special issue on the war that provides working-class answers to the political questions being discussed and debated by fighters today. Why Washington's "victory" in Iraq is turning into a political fiasco... The roots of the Palestinian struggle for national

self-determination and the imperialists' inability to suppress it... The political character of the Saddam Hussein regime and its failure to organize a fight against the U.S.-led invasion... Why the war against Iraq sounded the opening guns of World War III... How the working class can prevail in the decisive battles to come, wresting the war-making powers out of the exploiters' hands.

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Defend quotas, abortion rights

The labor movement, women's rights groups, and civil rights organizations need to protest the drive by the U.S. rulers to gut affirmative action and to further undermine a woman's right to choose abortion.

Affirmative action, enforced by quotas, is one of the key ways the labor movement can break down the divisions between working people. Championing the interests of that section of the working class that suffers race or sex discrimination, from schooling to employment, is essential in uniting the ranks of labor to fight against the employer-government offensive at home and their wars abroad.

Discrimination along race and sex lines is an institutional part of capitalist society. The employers will never police themselves — voluntarily complying with affirmative action orders — when it comes to equality in hiring practices and in the workplace.

That is why the employers and their bipartisan government in Washington are champing at the bit to outlaw affirmative action quotas. They know that quotas are essential in overcoming the past consequences of racism and sexism. Defending affirmative action today is even more vital as the economic and social crisis deepens and capitalist

exploitation becomes more fierce.

As the world capitalist economic crisis deepens, the employers must drive to lower workers' standard of living, break the unions, and push back democratic rights — all to boost their sagging profits and put them in a better position vis-à-vis their competitors.

A failure to respond to the attacks on abortion rights and affirmative action will only encourage the bosses and their government to make bolder moves that limit the rights working people have fought for and won.

The antilabor, anti-Black, and anti-woman offensive can be pushed back. In fact, because they fear a response, the capitalist rulers are careful in how far they push and probe.

One clear step needed is a state-by-state response to the myriad of antiabortion legislation before state governments.

Instead of wasting energy on lobbying efforts and trying to cultivate "friends of labor" in Congress, in the vain hope of shoring up an eroding dues base in the unions, the labor movement needs to chart a political course of advancing the interests of all working people — in particular those in the front lines of employer and government assault.

Solidarity with Korea protests

The wanton brutality of the South Korean police in killing Kang Kyung Dae, a 20-year-old student, unleashed years of pent-up popular anger and hatred for the U.S.-backed South Korean regime.

The May 24 *New York Times* called the current protests in South Korea a "violent annual show" and the *Wall Street Journal* dismissed protesters as "hard core radicals." But this presentation passed on as fact is at variance with reality.

Today, hundreds of thousands of Koreans in the South are aiming their fire squarely at President Roh Tae Woo's regime, which despite democratic pretenses, has been an obstacle to conquering greater democratic rights, social justice, and the reunification of Korea.

Roh, the progeny of the previous military regime, became president of South Korea in 1987. He promised greater democratic rights, economic stability, and a departure from the abuses of the military. South Korea, with U.S. imperialism's help, was to become the miracle of Asia — an example of what capitalism could produce for working people in that part of the world.

But the reality has not matched Roh's rhetoric or Washington's predictions. A 20 percent annual inflation rate, the slowdown of the economy, land prices skyrocketing due to speculation, environmental disasters, a government permeated by corruption, low wages and union busting, and crackdowns on democratic rights are evidence that capitalism in its decline is incapable of bringing development to semicolonial countries.

Today, the South Korean regime maintains more than 600,000 troops under arms, including an elite "internal

security" unit, and a police force of tens of thousands. This armed might is backed by the 43,000 U.S. troops.

The main function of this armed might is not, as claimed by Washington and Seoul, to counter an invasion from the North. Its aim is to deter, and crush if necessary, any popular challenge to the regime.

Repressive laws such as the National Security Law — despite cosmetic changes a few weeks ago — provide the legal cover for the regime's repression. Despite the regime's denials, there are today 1,200 political activists jailed in South Korea; 200 of them are long-term prisoners. The authorities have released a few since 1987, but more have been imprisoned since then.

Supporters of the struggle in South Korea have an important obligation to get out the truth and counter the lies and scant information in the big-business media. Attending solidarity meetings and picket lines that have been organized in the United States and other countries is one way to get out the facts.

The *Militant's* coverage of the Korean struggle for self-determination is an important contribution to any effort to get out the truth. Supporters of the *Militant* will want to make a special effort to reach out to the Korean community, unionists, students, and others with this and future issues providing coverage on the struggle in Korea.

Ultimately, the major obstacle to the self-determination of the Korean people is Washington's full support for the Roh regime and the 43,000 U.S. troops and nuclear weapons stationed in South Korea. Working people everywhere should demand: U.S. out of Korea now!

Lift the embargo against Iraq!

Continued from front page

Not satisfied with the death and destruction that has already been caused, and oblivious to the 70,000 refugees from southern Iraq in addition to the Kurds in the north, Washington and its allies are pushing for onerous war reparations that would bleed the Iraqi people for years to come.

Workers, unionists, farmers, and young people should demand the opposite: Lift the embargo and open the U.S. borders to all war refugees. That would be an elementary act of solidarity with fellow workers and farmers in Iraq.

The embargo and its widening results is part and parcel of the web of lies and misinformation by Bush and his warrior chiefs since August 1990:

- Last fall, at the time Washington said it was trying to avoid war with Iraq, a bipartisan majority was preparing a massive aerial bombardment and armored invasion.
- They claimed their aim was to "liberate" Kuwait. But their real goal all along had nothing to do with freedom and democratic rights, as the recent kangaroo court proceedings in Kuwait prove. What they were really after was a protectorate in Baghdad, a more reliable, subservient regime beholden to U.S. imperialism. They wanted to set back the struggles of working people in the region as a whole and win greater control of the Gulf oil reserves.
- They conducted a slaughter during the invasion, gunning down those trying to flee on the road to Basra, in the infamous "turkey shoot." The soldiers weren't withdrawing, they were "retreating," Pentagon officials said, as if this somehow justified shooting defenseless people in the back, just like the Los Angeles police who beat Rodney King claimed they did it because he was "resisting" arrest.
- Bush said that the war was not against the Iraqi people, but against Saddam Hussein. He tried to sound as if he had the health and welfare of the Iraqi people at heart.

The road to Basra, the 150,000 dead during the shooting war, and the mounting toll in Iraq show that this too, like the rest of his high-sounding moral phrases, was a lie.

The embargo is a continuing act of war. It is aimed at the workers and peasants of Iraq who suffer the most from the lack of food, medicine, electricity for essential services, and seed and fertilizers for agriculture.

The U.S. rulers want us to look at the Kurds, Shiites, and the Iraqi people as a whole as less than human. They refer to Kurdish refugees as "overburdened ants" or "squirrels." In dehumanizing Iraqi workers and peasants they try to take away our humanity at the same time.

The brutalization of the Iraqi people weakens the ability of the labor movement around the world to stand up and fight. We have the same enemy. The ruling rich who back the embargo against the Iraqi people are the same ones who push for cutbacks in education and health care here at home.

The war and embargo against the Iraqi people are not aberrations of a sick mind in the White House. They are extensions of the anti-working-class domestic policy of the capitalist rulers in the United States, Britain, Canada, and around the world.

As the Harvard report shows, the truth is beginning to come out. But it is not enough for the truth to be true, as Fidel Castro once said. It must be told.

You can help get out the truth by distributing the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *L'Internationale*, the just published *New International* no. 7 with the article "Washington's Assault on Iraq: Opening Guns of World War III," and Pathfinder books such as *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!* *Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*.

We need to join together to demand:
Lift the embargo!
All foreign troops out of Iraq!
Open the U.S. borders to all the refugees!

Visit with veteran communist farm activist

BY DOUG JENNESS

SACRED HEART, Minnesota — A couple of hours west of the Twin Cities the soil is moist and black on farm after rain. On former prairies planted fields are beginning to turn green and lilacs are in full bloom in nearly every farmyard.

As peaceful and prosperous as this area appears, it has for decades been the scene of many battles by working farm families. Through a succession of organizations they have joined together to fight for enough income to make ends meet and to prevent their farms from being foreclosed. And as long as farmers continue to be squeezed by mounting production costs and insufficient income for the milk, corn, wheat, soy beans, and other products they produce, more struggles will occur here.

John Enestvedt, who lives on a small farm near Sacred Heart, has been an active participant and leader in the battles here for most of his life. He will be 85 on May 30.

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

John has been a socialist since the 1920s and was a delegate to the founding convention of the Socialist Workers Party in 1938.

During a recent trip to Minnesota, Kate Kaku and I were able to visit John. Kaku is the wife of Mark Curtis, the framed-up unionist and political activist who is serving a 25-year prison term in Iowa, and she is a leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Charlie Scheer, a long-time SWP activist in Minnesota and a retired rail worker, drove us from the Twin Cities.

Although we were interested in discussing what John knew about the current condition of farmers in the area, our discussion, over a pot of coffee, immediately turned to Washington's intervention in the Arab-Persian Gulf. We discussed both the gains the U.S. imperialists made during the war, especially in relation to their rivals in Japan and Germany, and the mounting difficulties Washington is confronting in attempting to achieve its political goals.

John wanted to talk about the mounting conflicts between the imperialist countries and noted the growing likelihood of the imperialists using arms to advance their interests against each other. Although his eyes had been bothering him, he had been working through the front-page article in the May 17 *Militant* headlined, "Japan sends 6 warships to Gulf; first deployment since WWII."

John was particularly concerned about the problems working people are having in Iraq as a result of the devastation created by the bombing attacks and the 10-month-long economic blockade. As a long-time opponent of imperialist wars, he recognizes the stakes working farmers and wage workers around the world have in opposing Washington's military occupation and economic blockade of Iraq. The only beneficiaries of Washington's assault against Iraq are the same employers, bankers, and food trusts that are attempting to force workers and farmers in this country to give up more of our income and to work harder under more hazardous conditions.

We continued talking as John gave us a tour of his farmyard and orchard. He and his wife, Edythe, no longer farm. They've sold most of their land to help meet bills that skimpy Social Security checks don't cover. Most of the remainder is rented to a neighbor.

John is the grandson of Norwegian immigrants who homesteaded this area in the 1860s. John's father and uncle were active in the Non-Partisan League, which was a predecessor of the Farmer-Labor Party in Minnesota.

In 1932 John became part of the Farmers' Holiday Association, which launched a farmers' "strike." The idea was to force processors and distributors to give farmers a better deal by collectively keeping produce off the market. Pitched battles occurred as cops and national guardsmen tried to herd scabs through farmers' lines. In an interview in the March 25, 1983 *Militant*, John recalled, "Here in Renville County we kept all milk and eggs from getting to market. We completely shut down the creameries."

In 1934 a series of successful Teamsters strikes in Minneapolis profoundly influenced John, who got to know the communist leaders of that struggle. This experience effectively demonstrated the strength that workers and farmers can have when they ally in a united fight (See *Teamster Rebellion*, Farrell Dobbs, Pathfinder).

In the 1960s John was the publicity director for the National Farmers Organization in this part of Minnesota. The NFO organized "holding actions" to try to force meat-packing companies to sign satisfactory minimum prices for livestock.

In 1977 the veteran farm activist became a supporter of the American Agriculture Movement and participated in foreclosure protests into his late 70s.

We brought John a copy of newly released *New International* no. 8, and while we were there he wrote a message on the importance of this magazine for revolutionary-minded workers and farmers. The message was presented at a rally to raise funds for *New International* held in St. Paul a few days later.

As we left, John expressed his solidarity with Mark Curtis and his current fight to win parole.

Railworkers discuss contract fight, one-day strike

BY TAMAR ROSENFELD

SAN FRANCISCO — A wider interest among working people about conditions on the railroads is one result of the mid-April one-day strike that brought freight transported by rail to a screeching halt across the U.S. The assault on the rail unions and the outcome of the work stoppage has also deepened discussions among railworkers about how we can effectively stand up to the employers and their government in the years ahead. One such lively discussion was at a Militant Labor Forum here during a program called "Issues Facing Railworkers."

UNION TALK

Two switchmen and a welder who work in the Union Pacific and Santa Fe yards near San Francisco spoke to an audience of 50. Brian Lewis, local chairman of the United Transportation Union (UTU) Local 1730, discussed the history of rail unions. "In 1926, the Railway Labor Act came into being. This allowed Congress to pass laws to order us back to work," he explained.

Utilizing these laws, Congress rushed through a measure declaring the national rail strike "illegal" after only 19 hours on April 17. Not wanting to embarrass their "friends" in Congress or to organize any kind of a fight that would have challenged the rail companies and the bipartisan stand in Washington, the top union officialdom immediately ordered the strikers back to work.

The last national rail contract was signed in 1985. It expired three years ago and rail bosses have been pushing for massive concessions ever since. Last year, President Bush set up a Presidential Emergency Board (PEB) to mediate negotiations between the two sides. In January of this year, the PEB made recommendations that were deemed unacceptable by most union members.

John Grant, district chairperson of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Local 1002, explained the implications of the PEB package for the members. We are "mainly minorities and historically have made 60 percent less than other crafts. Over the life of the contract they're offering, well, shoving down our throats," Grant said, "we would get a 16 percent cut in pay. It would abolish seniority lines. It could force us to relocate."

Sandra Lee, a switchman and a member of UTU Local 1730, emphasized that rail workers are going through similar experiences to many other workers. In many cases the employers have been successful in breaking strikes by hiring scabs as "permanent replacement workers." As a result many unionists today don't view strikes "as a tactical use of union power to shut down production over a short period of time to advance a set of demands against the employer." Instead, many believe that going on strike means being quickly replaced by scabs and having to wage an enormous fight to simply get back on the job with the union intact.

"Many working people knew a conflict with the rail



Militant/Lisa Hickler

Railworker's rally in Wyoming in mid-April. Many working people knew conflict with rail bosses was coming and looked forward to extending solidarity with such a fight. Millions are looking for a strike battle to unfold that can take on the employers' tactics and shut down production.

bosses was coming to a head in mid-April and looked forward to and were ready to extend real solidarity with our fight. Millions of workers are itching for a real struggle to unfold — a real strike that shuts down production," said Lee. The 19-hour strike "showed our willingness to fight."

Brian Lewis said, "The UTU has a lot of friends. Our members give a lot of money to buy a lot of lunches for Congressmen." But, Grant pointed out, "Only one Democrat in the Bay Area voted in our favor. Everyone else voted to intervene in our collective bargaining contract."

Lee held that "the government in Washington acts in a bipartisan manner," backing the rail carriers. "Their aim is to make us pay for the international capitalist economic crisis. The employing class in the United States is in fierce competition with its rivals in Japan and Germany especially." They seek to resolve their falling rate of profit by squeezing more out of our lives. To do this they must go after our unions, living conditions, and democratic rights.

"Top rail officials sided with the government during the war" against Iraq, Lee said. They agreed to postpone any strike due to the beginning of the shooting war, joining in the government's patriotic, prowar campaign. In this way they not only dealt a blow to international working class solidarity — turning their backs on the working people in Iraq and Kuwait who became victims of the imperialists'

blockade, bombing, and invasion — but also helped promote the myth that workers and the employers have common "national" interests. Accepting the view that wars, takeback contracts, or assaults on democratic rights are sometimes needed to defend "our" company or "our" country disarms and demobilizes the struggles of working people.

Lee posed the question, "Is our union stronger for having held back our strike? With lightning speed, and declaring it in the 'national interest' Congress and Bush backed the rail bosses."

Now the Southern Pacific line is crying poverty in order to justify imposing a settlement on its work force that cuts even deeper into wages and work conditions. Lee pointed this out as a dangerous move, saying, "Any segment of workers whose wages are driven down drags down all our wages."

Half a dozen railworkers were in the audience, including a clerk, an engineer, switchmen and brakemen. All contributed to the discussion, fleshing out the picture of how dangerous conditions are since the last round of concessions were imposed — concessions that include smaller crews and no cabooses.

Tamar Rosenfeld works on the Santa Fe Railroad and is a member of UTU Local 1730 in Richmond, California that was on strike April 17.

LETTERS

Rodney King

I am a man of color raised in Harlem but am presently incarcerated in Nebraska, a state that houses a 2 percent minority population but a 41 percent minority prison population.

As a reader of your publication as well as others I learn day after day of the crimes committed against people of color by the underlings and other hidden hands of the Police Chiefs Gates of this country and I ask myself, when are we going to learn?

The total disregard for our lives and welfare is clear. We are the larger portion of the manual labor force that digs the ditches and lays the rails. We are the masons and the backbreakers who keep this country going in earnest. Yet when the public asks for the job of a "public servant" (Gates) we are told NO.

We had better decide whether we are going to continue laying down and accepting these crimes committed against our children, mothers, fathers, and friends or stand up in an overwhelming mass and demand unconditionally that it stop here and now.

In every one of our families and lives there is a Rodney King.

A prisoner
Lincoln, Nebraska

Discriminatory firing

Workers at Boeing Helicopters in Ridley Park, Pennsylvania, won a victory when a fired coworker recently got his job back.

Karl "Ike" Patrick was fired on

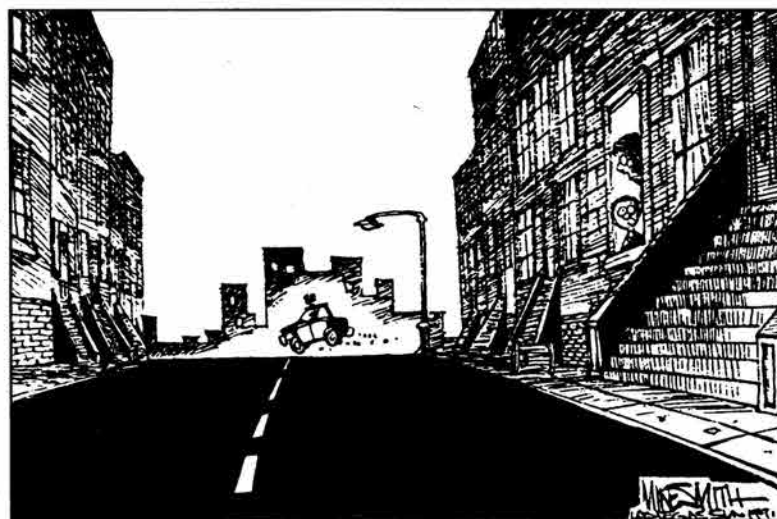
February 23 when the company claimed he swung at a security guard after being walked out of the plant following a dispute with a supervisor.

Most workers easily saw through this false charge. Many have had their own experiences with the guards, who often act in a provocative manner toward the workforce. Others bitterly noted that the tiny percentage of Black workers employed by Boeing suffer disproportionate firings.

Local 1069 of the United Auto Workers Union took up the fight for Patrick's job. The grievance went through the long, red tape process of hearings and appeals. Meanwhile, discussions continued on the shop floor about the need for action to defend our union brother's job.

As the final hearing drew closer, an anonymously reproduced company report on the firing circulated around the shop. In addition to the company's version of the incident, the report had scrawled across the bottom "Is this what the union represents — niggers." Not incidentally, coworkers found "KKK" scratched into a wooden table in the shop, and another coworker experienced harassment in the form of ropes with hangnooses left in a toolbox.

All this was calculated to sow division among coworkers and undermine the broad support that existed for Patrick. But it backfired. Some workers took the initiative by gathering signatures on a petition that explained Patrick was unjustly



"How many times have I told you, Billy? It's just too dangerous to go out and play because there's policemen out there."

fired and should be brought back to work.

A few days before the final arbitration hearing, a delegation of some 40 union members visited our union officials to deliver the petitions and express our support for Patrick. This action did not go unnoticed by the company. Within days we heard the news — Patrick won, but with no back pay. Many agreed that it was our action that helped tip the balance in this fight to regain his job.

We celebrated this victory by wearing hand-painted buttons saying "Welcome back, Ike" and putting up a large sign in the shop. The company responded by moving him to another department.

Although the company wanted Patrick's firing to serve as a warning of what the company can do to you, they didn't bargain for the lesson we

came away from this experience with — solidarity and action on our own behalf is what brings justice, not relying on the "neutral" arbitrators.

Maureen Coletta
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

New Zealand labor march

Several thousand people took to the streets of Christchurch April 30 as part of a national day of action against the Employment Contracts Bill, a piece of antiunion legislation scheduled to become law in mid-May. The protest was organized by the Council of Trade Unions.

The majority of marchers were workers who stopped work in order to participate. Hotel workers, nurses and other hospital workers, bus drivers, garment workers, journalists, engineering assembly workers, post

office and other public sector workers all marched under their union banners.

Many carried home-made placards with slogans such as "Say No to Bill, Yes to Unions"; "Hospital Workers Running Out of Patience"; and "No to Roundtable Ruth" (a reference to an employer organization, the Business Roundtable, and Minister of Finance Ruth Richardson).

University students, the Unemployed Rights Centre, the Coalition Against Benefit Cuts, and the Young Socialists also had banners on the march.

Similar actions took place April 30 in other South Island centres, including Invercargill, Timaru, Dunedin, and Nelson.

Kerry Taylor
Christchurch, New Zealand

Look forward to issues

The brothers here find it very comforting that there are some people out there who see how corrupt this system is. During the last few months, I've been receiving the *Militant* and we looked forward to every issue. Enlightenment is what we really need in this hellhole.

A prisoner
Crescent City, California

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

New York mayor uses 'fiscal crisis' to aim budget cuts at working people

BY FRED FELDMAN

NEW YORK — In a new escalation of attacks on working people here, Mayor David Dinkins announced he will impose \$1.5 billion in cuts of city jobs and social services.

The severe measures are being carried out under the guise of reducing and obtaining financing for a \$465 million deficit in this year's municipal budget. City officials expect a \$3.5 billion deficit for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

The city's fiscal crisis has hit as the state government is implementing \$4.5 billion in cuts in education and other areas in order to finance a \$6.5 billion deficit.

"I'm ordering city agencies to begin moving ahead with our plan to lay off over 20,000 full-time city employees," Dinkins said in a May 8 speech broadcast by local television stations.

The plan calls for elimination of programs aimed at reducing infant mortality, ending tuberculosis and other medical testing of school children (already halted this year by earlier cuts), a 19 percent cut in all health programs, closing of out-patient pharmacies at city hospitals, and a 10 percent cut in Board of Education funding.

But the mayor didn't stop there. He said funding for libraries would be cut by 44 percent, the parks department by 39 percent, the sanitation department by 22 percent, and mental health services by 25 percent. Ten homeless shelters are to be closed as well. The plan also calls for \$1 billion in tax increases.

A \$1.8 billion program to put thousands more cops on the streets will go ahead, Dinkins said.

Wants union concessions

In addition to preparing the ground for big new cuts in services — on top of the \$1 billion already being implemented — Dinkins is using the threatened layoffs and cutbacks to press municipal unions to accept \$700 million in takebacks. He indicated that the scope of the social service cuts would be reduced somewhat if the unions went along and other additional funds were obtained.

Getting the unions to accept takebacks without a fight will make it easier for the government to impose the entire austerity program on working people here.

"The fiscal challenge today is largely the direct result of a failing national economy," Dinkins said. He warned the unions "to think about the impact of these cuts not only on their members but on the sons and daughters they have and the grandsons and granddaughters of those members."

If the unions accept the takebacks and additional aid comes from the state, he said, "We will endeavor to restore prenatal care programs, drug treatment for pregnant mothers, and school clinics."

Describing a May 4 meeting with union officials and business and banking representatives, the mayor said that "all joined in a common bond, believing in our city and wanting to secure the best New York has to offer for all of our people."

While at times coming out in seeming opposition to the way the cuts would be enacted, most union officials have fallen in behind Dinkins and the demands of the bankers and bondholders he echoes.

Barry Feinstein, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 237, said Dinkins' address "was a great speech. Inspirational." Local 237 organizes 11,000 workers. "We'll do what we can in reviewing the budget," Feinstein said.

Executive director of District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Stanley Hill, also praised the speech. "I think he had real impact with people who watched him on television,"



Militant/Greg Rosenberg

New York student actions in April were among protests of state and city budget cuts. Mayor David Dinkins (right) proposes slashing \$1.5 billion from social services.



Militant/Judy Stranahan

Hill said. "We must make sure that the children grow up with health clinics, swimming pools, libraries — all the things I had when I was growing up."

James Carosella, president of AFSCME Local 299, which organizes employees of the Parks and Recreation Department and some other city workers, voiced disappointment. "He's going totally against the

entire platform that he won [the election] on," he said of Dinkins.

State cuts as well

New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, who is seeking to impose a wage freeze and layoffs on the state's workforce, has joined the effort to squeeze takebacks out of city workers.

Cuomo warned that the city would get no

state aid for its budget crunch unless the unions yield. He is also hinting that the state's Financial Control Board, set up in 1975, might take over regulation of city finances, as it is currently empowered to do if the city has a deficit of \$100 million or more when the fiscal year ends June 30.

While urging "cooperation, not control," Cuomo stressed that "you cannot have a control period without first admitting failure."

Felix Rohatyn, a banker who is chairman of the Municipal Assistance Corporation, had floated a plan to link union concessions to refunding \$1 billion of the city's debt over four years. MAC was set up in the fiscal crisis in the 1970s to guarantee the bonds the city issues to finance its debts.

Union officials had demanded that MAC provide cash before they would agree to sell concessions to the union membership — a reflection of their claim that the solution to the fiscal problems is for the billionaire owners of banks and corporations to "share the pain" with workers who are employed by the city or who need social services.

Rohatyn dropped the plan, however, when Standard & Poor's — one of the companies that rate city bond issues — stated that the city's credit rating would be damaged by the MAC plan. That would mean that bankers and other capitalists would demand higher interest rates before purchasing city bonds or might not buy them at all. Moody's, the other major rating firm, indicated skepticism, but left open the possibility of accepting Rohatyn's plan.

The rating firms are reported to want cuts in city employee health-care plans, Medicaid payments, and other services before they will reconsider proposals for MAC refunding of municipal debt.

Filipinos call for rejection of U.S. bases

BY MARGARET JAYKO AND GREG ROSENBERG

MANILA, Philippines — Opponents of a tentative treaty maintaining U.S. military bases here have called on the Philippine Senate to reject the pact.

The 1947 treaty granting Washington the right to maintain the bases in its former colony expires Sept. 16, 1991.

The sprawling Clark Air Base in Angeles and Subic Naval Base in Olongapo are Washington's largest military bases abroad. They played an important role in the Pentagon's ability to mobilize and maintain hundreds of thousands of heavily armed troops in Saudi Arabia used in Washington's brutal assault on Iraq.

Many public officials here, including President Corazon Aquino, have in the past professed opposition to allowing the U.S. government to continue to violate Philippine sovereignty by keeping the bases after the original treaty expires.

There is widespread popular opposition to the bases, which occupy vast areas of fertile land and fishing waters. A large and dehumanizing prostitution and drug trade flourishes in the neighborhood of the bases. There have been many street protests in the past several years demanding, "Bases out!" Some of these have been attacked by police.

Under intense political and economic pressure from Washington, however, Aquino and many other government officials now support a new lease on the bases. The negotiations with Washington have mainly stalled on the length of a lease and the amount of financial compensation paid to the Philippine government. U.S. negotiators are demanding a 10-year lease, with a \$320 million payment; Manila has pressed for a 7-year lease and \$825 million.

Aquino announces treaty

On May 18, in an attempt to speed up the negotiating process, Aquino called the chief players to Malacañang, the presidential pal-

ace, to come up with a draft treaty that Washington would accept, but that will make it appear the Philippine government had gained some concessions from its former colonial masters.

Three days later, Aquino announced an agreement had been reached on combining a mix of U.S. aid and compensation allocations that add up to the \$825 million figure. This is viewed here as a crude slight-of-hand which simply accepts Washington's monetary offer, adds in other U.S. aid programs, and calls it compensation for the bases.

The same day, U.S. embassy officials in Manila disclosed that U.S. Vice President Daniel Quayle would be stopping here May 23, possibly to initial the new pact. This visit was slated to be a "sidetrip" to Quayle's six-day tour of the Asia-Pacific region.

"I believe a resolution with the Philippine government will definitely be concluded, which will benefit the two countries as well as Asia and the Pacific," Quayle told reporters in Japan. "We are in the final hours of negotiating. The two final issues that remain are compensation and duration," he added.

Senate ratification necessary

Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus sought to tone down Aquino and Quayle's assurances that a good treaty is imminent. "It is not clear at all [if] there could be a final agreement" before the September deadline, Manglapus told the media the day after Aquino announced the agreement was in hand. Quayle, meanwhile, cancelled his treaty-signing visit here; he instead went to India to attend the funeral of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The Philippine Senate must ratify any treaty signed by Aquino. Senate President Sotero Laurel urged Aquino to consult the lawmakers before signing. Laurel criticized her for not involving the senators in the negotiations, warning she could face the prospect of the treaty being rejected.

"It goes without saying that the ratification of a treaty by the Senate depends to a large extent on prior understanding or consultation with the Senate," said Laurel. "The President can ignore the views of the Senate at her own peril," he added.

Senators have threatened to propose amendments and conditions for their approval of the pact if Aquino simply lays the completed treaty before the Senate for it to rubber-stamp.

Pro- and anti-base forces gear up

Roger Vallena, secretary-general of a group called the Pro-Base Secretariat, assured Aquino, "We will hold daily demonstrations and rallies before the Senate if we have to" in support of the new treaty. Bar and brothel owners in Angeles and Olongapo have organized pro-base street actions, charging that thousands of Filipinos will lose their livelihoods if the bases are closed.

On May 22, the Anti-Bases Coalition, Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition, and Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) held a news conference announcing plans for an educational campaign against the treaty.

Socorro Diokno, head of the Anti-Bases Coalition, said the draft treaty "fails to correct any of the undesirable provisions of the old [agreement]" and "has made the hosting of the U.S. military bases in the country more burdensome."

The League of Filipino Students has been one of the organizations involved in the fight against the bases. This struggle will be an important part of the discussion at their Eighth National Congress at the end of May.

Among those addressing the congress will be trade union leader Crispin Beltran, Kilusang Mayo Uno (May First Movement) national chairperson; BAYAN President Etta Rosales; and Steven Gan, of the Asian Students Association Secretariat. International guests will be attending from India, Japan, New Zealand, and the United States.