

## Rallies in South Africa call for new government

BY GREG McCARTAN

Tens of thousands rallied and marched across South Africa June 15-16 to press demands for an interim government.

African National Congress (ANC) spokesman Patrick Lekota said the protests were "a very huge success," with 60,000 marching in the mining town of Welkom, 20,000 in the administrative capital of Pretoria, and 10,000 in Johannesburg.

Nearly 50 localities held rallies that included calls on the government to end its complicity in violent attacks on Black townships, the release of political prisoners, and job security for all.

Lekota said, in a phone interview from Johannesburg, an interim government was an essential part of the struggle for a nonracial, democratic South Africa.

"The National Party which is now governing the country cannot both be a participant in the negotiating process and at the same time guide that process," he said. "Our demonstrations are part of the pressure on the government to concede to the demands and show the groundswell of support that exists."

At a rally of 30,000 in Soweto, ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela said, "There can be no compromise whatsoever" on the liberation movement's call for an interim government. Such a body would supervise election of a constituent assembly and the formulation of a new constitution.

"If the government does not listen to us then we will use our power — mass action," Mandela said. "There can be no compromise on that."

The actions came on the fifteenth anniversary of the Soweto uprising. Some 600 anti-apartheid protesters were killed by police during several months of demonstrations in 1976. The uprising was sparked by the murder of a Black youth by security forces.

On June 17 the South African parliament passed legislation repealing the Population Registration Act, used since 1950 to racially classify every person in the country as either "white", "Black", "Coloured", or "Asian". Whites number 13 percent of South Africa's population.

But wording in the legislation left existing racial classifications intact, except for babies born after June 17. This will remain in force until a new constitution is adopted, the gov-

### An announcement to our readers . . .

The next issue of the *Militant* will be printed on July 9, 1991. Suspending publication for two weeks will make it possible for *Militant* staff members to help prepare for and attend the 36th Constitutional Convention of the Socialist Workers Party, scheduled for Chicago June 26-June 30.

The next issue of the paper will feature firsthand coverage from a three-person reporting team in South Africa. *Militant* editor Greg McCartan, Young Socialist Alliance leader Derek Bracey, and Ruth Haswell from Britain will be reporting on the historic National Conference of the African National Congress, slated for July 2-6 in Durban. The meeting is the first national conference held since the ANC was banned in 1960. Following the event the reporting team will spend an additional week gathering interviews and covering protest actions.

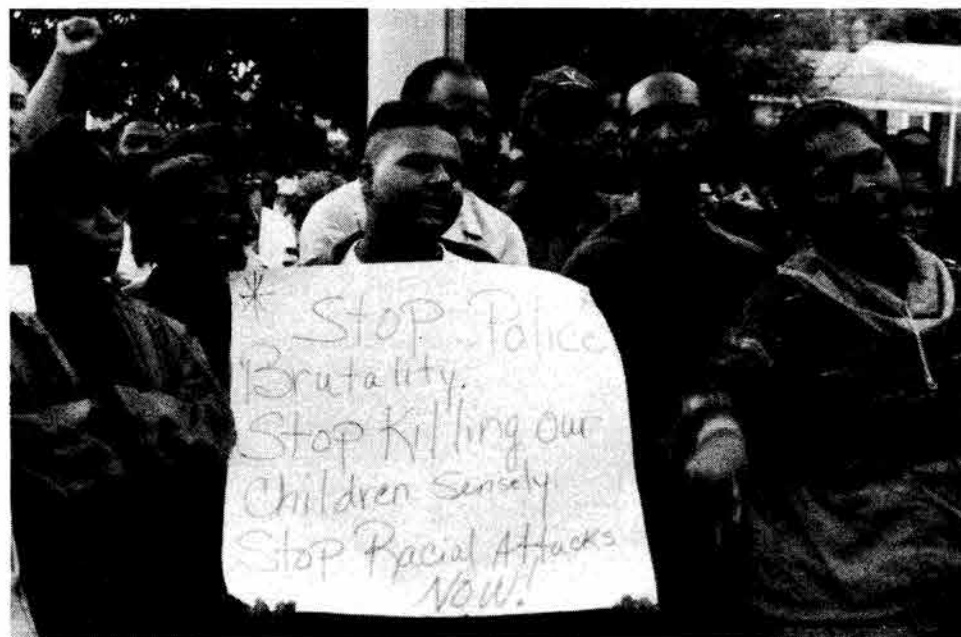
The coming issue of the *Militant* will also include coverage from the Second Conference of the Political Parties and Movements of the São Paulo Forum, held in Mexico City June 12-15. The conference was attended by representatives of more than 60 political organizations from 22 countries throughout the Americas and elsewhere.

ernment said.

Because the repeal of the Population Registration Act would nullify the basis on which the parliament was elected — Blacks are denied the vote and the right to run for office — measures were also introduced to maintain the current political setup.

The move was welcomed in Washington, because it fulfills the fourth of five conditions it placed on Pretoria when it was forced to adopt sanctions against the apartheid regime in 1986.

U.S. sanctions bar the export of military  
Continued on Page 3



June 13 protest against cop killings of two Black youth in Hillside, New Jersey. Hundreds have joined marches demanding justice. See story on page 3.

## Los Angeles judge says evidence of cop racism allowed in King trial

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — Acknowledging that racism was a key factor in the police beating of Rodney King, the presiding judge in the case ruled that evidence can be introduced showing the racial bigotry of the cops who assaulted him.

Four city cops have been indicted in the savage assault on King, a young construction worker who is Black. In pretrial proceedings, their lawyers have tried to bar introduction of recorded police statements which include racist slurs.

One transcript of a typed computer message by one of the cops the night of the beating describes it as "right out of 'Gorillas in the Mist.'"

"To say that those comments aren't racially biased is like sticking your head in the sand," declared Judge Bernard Kamins. He added that he believes that "race could be part of the motive" in the beating.

A prosecution lawyer argued that the "gorilla" reference showed "motive and also bias . . . against Rodney King because he is Black."

A lawyer for the cops argued that they were "within their rights" when they used force against King and that the only issue to be decided is whether they used that "right" appropriately or "excessively."

Judge Kamins also said that if the cops' lawyers try to dredge up King's past in an effort to discredit him, he will permit the prosecution to introduce evidence of past performance by the four cops. At least two of them have been involved in previous brutality cases.

In addition to the "gorilla" slur, it has been established that the police officials were lying when they asserted that there is no evidence

racial epithets were shouted during the brutalization of King.

King's lawyer, Steven Lerman, had charged early on that at least one such epithet

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## UN council refuses to lift sanctions on Iraq

BY SETH GALINSKY

The United Nations Security Council is refusing to lift economic sanctions against Iraq. This decision came June 11, after its first formal review of the measures in two months.

Cuba, Yemen, China, Ecuador, and the Soviet Union have suggested easing the sanctions. The U.S., British, and French governments have warned that they will veto any such move. No formal vote was taken at the meeting.

According to Philip Arnold, spokesperson for the U.S. mission to the United Nations, "President Bush and this administration's position is that in so far as possible the sanctions should not be lifted while [Iraqi President Saddam] Hussein is in power." In a phone interview, when asked about the impact of the sanctions on the Iraqi people, Arnold changed the subject.

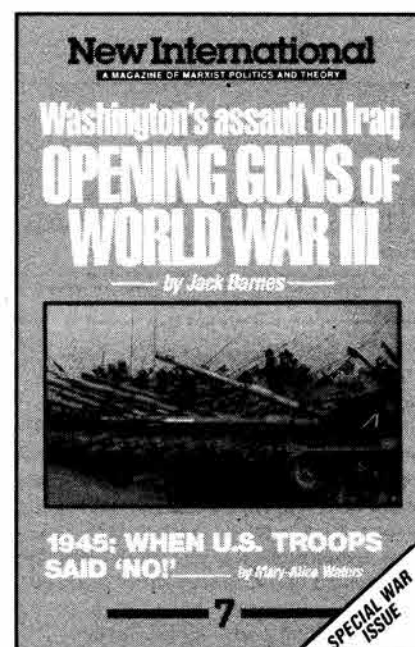
"It's very hard to say" when the sanctions could be lifted, Arnold stated. He claimed that medical supplies have been "flowing into Iraq . . . but we haven't been paying for it, of course."

According to the Security Council resolution adopted after the signing of the ceasefire with Iraq, the sanctions must be reviewed every 60 days. But "if the Security Council doesn't do anything, then the sanctions stay," Arnold said in the interview.

While restrictions on trade in food and medicines have been formally lifted, little of these basic necessities make it into Iraq. The UN sanctions monitoring committee earlier denied an Iraqi request to export \$1 billion of oil to purchase food and medicine. The United States, Britain, and Switzerland have refused to unfreeze Iraqi assets worth another

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# 'Out Now': tool in fight against next wars

Reprinted below is the foreword to the new edition of the Pathfinder book *Out Now! A Participant's Account of the Movement in the United States against the Vietnam War*. Written by Fred Halstead, the 759-page book is available for \$29.95 from the Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12 or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Reprinted by permission. Copyright Pathfinder, 1991.

In the pages that follow, Fred Halstead tells the story of the movement in the United States against the Vietnam War.

Over the course of a decade, beginning in 1965, this movement organized repeated mass mobilizations calling for immediate U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam. Tens of millions, including many GIs, were won to support the demand "Out Now!" The movement grew as Washington escalated the war and the Vietnamese people refused to submit.

The U.S. government unleashed more bombs against Indochina than had been dropped in all previous wars combined. Close to 60,000 U.S. troops died in the conflict. Millions of inhabitants of Vietnam,

Cambodia, and Laos were killed.

Unable to crush the Vietnamese workers and peasants in their struggle for national liberation and against imperialist exploitation and faced with a broad social radicalization at home, U.S. imperialism suffered its first defeat in war. Washington was forced to end its slaughter of the peoples of Indochina.

Fred Halstead was an active participant and leader of the international movement against the U.S. war in Vietnam. His account shows that this movement drew strength in the United States from the social upheavals of the 1960s — above all the fight for Black rights. The massive struggle to smash legal and de facto segregation predisposed millions to oppose Washington's aggression in Indochina.

This was particularly true among Black soldiers and sailors, as can be seen in Halstead's account of how discussions among GIs at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, on Malcolm X, the revolutionary leader assassinated in 1965, gave birth to GIs United against the War in Vietnam. *Out Now!* portrays how the antiwar movement was able to get a hearing from U.S. troops of all skin

colors and nationalities and help win over many of them to oppose the war.

The antiwar movement affected tens of millions of people around the world. It cleared away many reactionary obstacles standing in its path. It showed that masses of people can act effectively against an imperialist war.

The pages that follow give a rich historical and personal account of this movement and of the individuals and organizations that helped lead the struggle against the war. It records the contrasting political perspectives of those who led the movement and their debates on policy.

As we enter the 1990s U.S. imperialism has carried out another bloody war of conquest — this time in the Middle East, against the peoples of Iraq. Up to 150,000 soldiers and civilians in Iraq were killed in the U.S.-led slaughter. Tens if not hundreds of thousands were condemned to death from malnutrition and disease resulting from the effects of Washington's bombing and its embargo against Iraq. Millions were made refugees.

For Washington, this was a war for oil, to protect imperialist interests in the Mideast, and to gain a stronger hand against its capitalist rivals. It heralded a new march by the

imperialist powers toward wars to defend their decaying social system.

The strength of U.S. imperialism relative to its main capitalist rivals has declined in recent decades. Washington will be forced to use its trump card — its massive military power — in an attempt to counter this trend and to gain an edge over its German, Japanese, and French competitors.

Washington's war against the peoples of Iraq and the new wars it will launch are an extension of a more than decade-long employer assault on the living standards, rights, and organizations of workers and farmers at home. Capitalism's continued slide toward a world depression and social crisis will call forth growing resistance from working people worldwide, which will become intertwined with the fight against imperialism and its wars.

A new generation of youth, working people, and GIs have become politically conscious since the Vietnam War and the movement against it ended. This generation will find the history and politics recounted in this book an irreplaceable tool in combating these new wars and the social system that breeds them.

Kate Kaku  
June 1, 1991

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## Opposing war, employer attacks highlight of Australia campaign

BY LYNN SCOTT

SYDNEY, Australia — "What's happened to us is going to happen to more workers in the future — just look at what's going on in New Zealand," a worker on the picket line at Vista Products told Communist League candidate Ron Poulsen.

Members of the Printing and Kindred Industries Union (PKIU) have been picketing Vista, in Sydney West, since being locked out 13 weeks ago. The workers have refused to accept pay cuts, longer hours, and the gutting of union representation.

Poulsen, who ran for the Ashfield seat in the New South Wales state elections, said that the visit to the picket line had been the highlight of the campaign. Speaking at the May 25 election-night meeting to wrap up the Communist League campaign, he said, "The Vista workers point the way forward — how to fight attacks as the ruling class unleashes a deepening offensive against working people. These attacks are part of the capitalist crisis, they're part of the war abroad."

During the U.S.-led war against Iraq, Australian imperialism rapidly took its position behind Washington. Poulsen explained, "It was a hollow military victory for the imperialists. Their attempts to impose a new imperialist world order in the Middle East have failed."

The Australian government has recently sent the frigate *Darwin* back to the Arab-Persian Gulf. "There is still a need for public action to call for Australian forces to get out of the Middle East," Poulsen said.

"The employers' drive against the working class puts the unions in the forefront of political battles. Workers will have their chance to defeat the warmongers," he said. "What is needed is an independent party of the working class. And we need a communist voice to lead the workers in the

direction of taking political power."

Chairing the election-night meeting, Manuele Lasalo explained that, as with the first election campaign of the Communist League, this campaign had been a valuable experience. "We used the campaign as a vehicle with which to get a hearing for our ideas and engage in discussions with workers and youth," he said.

Supporters collected 40 signatures from community tables to place Poulsen on the ballot.

"Not everyone who signed agreed with our entire platform, but they supported our democratic right to be heard," Lasalo explained. Leaflets were distributed while campaigning with the *Militant* newspaper on community tables and at factory gates in Sydney.

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Militant  
Australia socialist candidate Ron Poulsen

# Newark protesters march against police killing of youths

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN  
AND JUDY STRANAHAN

HILLSIDE, New Jersey — With chants of "No justice, no peace," an angry crowd gathered here June 13 to protest the killing of two Black youth by Newark and Hillside cops.

"They killed her. They killed my daughter. They shot her up and killed her, and I want to know why," Sharon Mayse told 300 demonstrators at the city's municipal building.

The two were killed when police opened fire on a van-load of Black youth, June 9, on an overpass here.

Hundreds of people have joined several protest marches demanding the suspension and prosecution of the seven Newark and Hillside cops involved in what protesters are calling the "Hillside Massacre."

The cops killed 16-year-old Tasha Mayse, who was five months pregnant, and 20-year-old Lamont Russell Jones. Four other Newark youth were wounded by gunfire: a 13-year-old girl and 17-year-old boy who remain hospitalized and a 17-year-old boy and 14-year-old girl, who were treated and released. A seventh Newark teenager in the van escaped injury. The names of the injured youth were not released.

About 400 people joined a protest march on Newark City Hall and police headquarters June 12. The crowd included the mothers of two other Black youth who have been murdered by New Jersey police.

"We need to organize," Thelma Pannell told the crowd. Her son, Phillip Pannell Jr., was shot in the back by Teaneck police last year when his arms were raised over his head. "We can't continue to have this type of violence," she said.

Venus Hannah, whose 19-year-old son Santana Hannah was murdered by police in his jail cell last summer in Plainfield, told the crowd she understood the pain felt by Sharon Mayse, the mother of Tasha. "It hurts," she said.

Both the Pannell and Hannah families have organized numerous protest marches demanding justice for their murdered children. However, all of the police involved in the killings remain on the local police forces.

Attorneys representing the cops in the Hillside case are standing by their claim that the van was stolen and that the driver led police in a high speed chase until the van collided with a Hillside patrol car. The police said radio transmission informed officers that the van occupants had automatic weapons.

## 'Just opened fire'

Charman Harvey, a Newark attorney representing the 14-year-old girl injured in the shooting, told the Newark *Star-Ledger* that her client maintains that the van came to a stop, locked bumper-to-bumper with the police car. Officers "just opened fire a few seconds later." Police ordered the occupants

of the van to get out but quickly fired a second volley, she said.

More than 40 bullets were fired into the van, most toward the passenger compartment. No weapons were recovered by police from the van. Harvey says that it is questionable where a "starter pistol" police say they found in the van came from.

"It is a shame. It is a tragedy. But there was no murder, no brutality," said Anthony Fusco, Jr., one of the attorneys representing the police.

Tony Morrison, long-time companion of Tasha Mayse's mother and an organizer of the protests, in an interview said, "The brutality of all this is just incredible. When the police finally stopped firing and the wounded kids were lying in the street, cops kicked them in the stomach. The police wanted to send a message — don't steal a car or else."

The Hill Manor apartment building where Tasha Mayse lived is in mourning for the popular teenager. A memorial in the security booth at the entrance reads, "Tasha Mayse — you will be missed dearly." A plaque covered with red velvet and lace displays a snapshot of the youth. Contributions for the girl's family are accepted at the booth and the latest newspaper articles about the shooting are taped to its glass walls.

Outside the building Tasha's young cousins and friends discuss her murder and the protest.

The Mayse apartment is a busy place as neighbors visit and people call with condolences and offers to help with details for upcoming protests such as renting buses, printing flyers, and other tasks.

Morrison explained why the protests are focused on the mayors of Newark and Hillside. "If you want to go for the beast, you go for the head," he said.

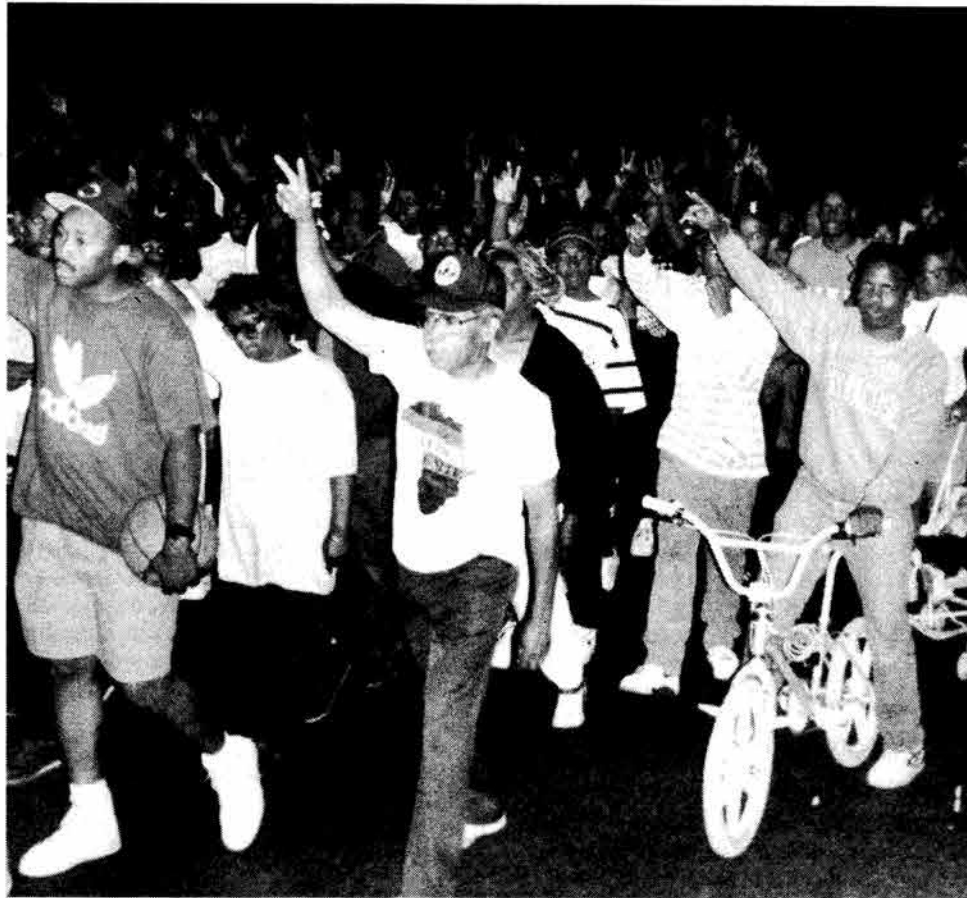
"We got a letter from an aide of the mayor of Newark expressing his condolences and saying there would be an investigation," said Morrison. "I believe the demonstration forced that letter. They didn't do it on their own."

Following Tasha Mayse's funeral on June 15, a protest rally was held on the steps of Newark City Hall.

A hand-written flyer circulated for the protest stated, "Police chase 7 kids. Shot 6, killed 2, 'Hillside Massacre,' No Justice, No Peace."

At the June 13 protest Salaam Ismail, president of the United Youth Council of Elizabeth, New Jersey, said, "We're here to tell you tonight that we are not going to take it anymore." He pointed to other cases of police brutality and killings over the past year in Newark, Perth Amboy, Teaneck, and Plainfield.

"We cannot listen to county prosecutors. They say they are going to get to the truth of the matter," Santana Hannah's father Al Han-



Militant/Judy Stranahan

June 13 protest in Hillside, New Jersey, marches past site where two Black youth were killed by cops.

nah told the crowd, referring to statements made by Union County Prosecutor Edmund Tucker. "When they say that they are lying," Hannah said.

One woman, Carmella Bowers, stepped forward from the crowd and related the story of how her son, Richard Koontz, Jr., 22-year-old airline worker and college student, was shot in the face and killed by a cop in Newark in 1985. "We need to get together and we need to stop what's happening to Black people," Bowers said.

The gathering marched nearly a mile to the North Broad Street overpass of Route 22 where the shooting occurred. "It's unfair for the cops to shoot people. They didn't deserve it. It's scary because it could happen to you at any time," one high school student said during the march. Many of the participants were in their early teens.

## 'Could happen to anyone'

A large percentage of marchers came by chartered bus or car from the Hill Manor apartments. "It was just senseless. I knew her. She was just your basic teenager, a nice girl," said Lisa, a mother of two children and Mayse's neighbor. "I'm here because this could happen to anyone. It could happen to my family, too."

Two of Tasha's friends, Shona, 17, and Michele, 18, attended Central High School with her. They also live at Hill Manor. Shona described how the Newark cops came to her door because they thought that was where Tasha had lived. "When they found out they had the wrong apartment they said I should go tell Tasha's mother she was dead and to call the Hillside cops. That's how the family learned about it," said Shona.

Both Shona and Michele were saddened by the loss of their friend. "She was fun, smart, and could act silly, too. I'm really

going to miss her," Michele said.

Many other marchers said they did not know the family, but had read about the shooting in the local newspaper.

One man said he joined the protest because "with media attention, people in authority tend to act." An older man from Hillside termed the incident "a great injustice." He explained, "We want justice. We're not going to let this one get by us. We intend to be out here until something is done about it."

In interviews before the protest, Tasha's two grandmothers, Gerthena Parker and Mattye Sanders, said Tasha had been an "A" student and had received two college scholarships. They said she liked to sew and draw. Tasha won two trophies for singing.

Tasha's mother said, "I don't know what happened except for what I read in the newspapers. The police have been very uncooperative, and nobody has said they are sorry for what happened."

The family had gotten the "runaround" from police, she said, and at first it was difficult to find out where the body was taken. According to the family, they did not learn what happened until 12 hours after the shooting.

## Rallies, marches in South Africa demand interim government

Continued from front page

hardware, computer technology, and nuclear items and prohibit the import of food and agricultural products, iron, steel, coal, gold coins, sugar, and oil and petroleum products.

Bush administration officials said they would move rapidly to lift the sanctions once they believe that the remaining stipulation — that political prisoners be released — is fulfilled.

The announcement brought a measure of protest from the Congressional Black Caucus who said they want to see the sanctions continue until a new constitution is adopted in South Africa.

While welcoming the repeal of the draconian law, the ANC said in a statement that "As long as such blatantly racist practices continue the Population Registration Act will have been removed in name only."

In a diplomatic visit to the United States, Inkatha Freedom Party head Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi denounced Mandela's call for mass actions and the fight for an interim government.

Inkatha has long collaborated with the Pretoria regime and focused its political fire on the ANC.

In a report from Atlanta on the Reuter news service, Buthelezi is quoted as saying that the ANC "always pursues things that are impossible."

Trying to shift the blame for recent violence in the country onto the liberation organization, Buthelezi said marches and rallies "stir the pot" and "exacerbates the problem of violence."

## Changes announced in the 'Militant' staff

BY JAMES HARRIS

With this issue, *Militant* circulation director Roni McCann takes on the additional responsibilities of the paper's business manager.

Doug Jenness, the current business manager, is leaving to become part of the trade union and political life of Newark, New Jersey, and to help lead the work of building the communist movement there.

McCann, 31, has been a staff member of the *Militant* since June 1989. Before moving to New York McCann was the organizer of the Socialist Workers Party branch in Los Angeles. She was also a refinery worker and member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union. She became the *Militant's* circulation director in January 1990, an assignment which will now be combined with that of business manager.

Doug Jenness, 49, has been a writer and editor for the socialist press for more than two decades. He served several stints as the *Militant* editor, most recently from 1986 to



Roni McCann and Doug Jenness

1990. From 1984 to 1986 Jenness was the editor of *Intercontinental Press*, an international biweekly magazine that merged with the *Militant*.

In addition to numerous feature articles, Jenness also wrote the popular "Learning

About Socialism" column every week. In his column, he used the accumulated lessons of the workers movement to take up the broad range of questions and political issues that confront working-class fighters today.

Militant/Selva Nebbia

# Cuban union leader says U.S. tour showed life, struggles of working class

BY ERNIE MAILHOT  
AND SETH GALINSKY

*"This is a society where there are very pronounced inequalities. There is a huge abyss between the poor and those who are born into the immense wealth that arises from exploitation of thousands and thousands of workers."*

Joaquín Bernal Camero, Cuban trade union leader, on his impressions of the United States after a six-city, four-week tour.

Two Cuban trade union leaders, Joaquín Bernal Camero and Luis Guillermo Abreu Mejías, were able to tour the United States and meet with union officials, workers on the job, students, and elected officials in April and May. This is the first time in more than three decades that Cuban labor leaders have been allowed by the U.S. State Department to speak to audiences in the United States.

Bernal is a member of the National Secretariat of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions (CTC) and a former tobacco worker. Abreu is general secretary of the National Union of Workers in Education, Sciences, and Sports.

The tour was initiated by the U.S.-Cuba Labor Delegation Tour Committee in Boston. The committee had four co-chairs: Ed Clark, manager of the New England Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU); Celia Wcislo, president of Service Employees International Union Local 285; James Green, faculty chairperson of the labor studies program at the University of Massachusetts at Boston; and Elaine Bernard, executive director of the Harvard University trade union program.

## Met U.S. workers and students

The Cuban union officials toured Greico Bros., a garment plant in Lawrence, Massachusetts, organized by ACTWU. They attended a membership meeting of Local 201 of the International Union of Electronic Workers, which organizes workers at General Electric in Lynn, Massachusetts. They also spoke to a meeting at Boston's Arlington Street Church.

In Detroit they visited factories organized by the United Auto Workers and spoke to high school and university classes.

## Lawyers fight court orders to divulge information on clients

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Linda Backiel was freed from Bucks County Prison in Pennsylvania June 10. Backiel, an attorney, was jailed for six months after refusing to provide information on a client to a grand jury.

Her release was ordered by Federal Judge Charles Weiner, who had intended to keep Backiel in jail until she testified or the grand jury was disbanded June 19. Backiel, however, maintained her stand and refused to become "a witness for the prosecution."

The grand jury had been examining accusations against Elizabeth Duke, a political activist who had jumped bail in October 1985. Duke was awaiting trial on charges of possessing explosives and illegal firearms.

Backiel did not represent Duke, but spoke with her on the telephone before she fled. Prosecutors maintain Duke also left a note with Backiel explaining her reasons for jumping bail.

When Backiel refused to testify before the grand jury about the matter, she argued that testifying would undermine the confidentiality between an attorney and defendant, as well as her ability to obtain the trust of her clients.

A similar case is currently pending in New York, where Lynne Stewart, a defense lawyer, was indicted in April on criminal contempt charges for refusing to disclose the source and amount of legal

Bernal attended a meeting of United Mine Workers of America Local 1980 in Carmichaels, Pennsylvania. He met with several congressional aides with whom he raised the need for the normalization of relations between the United States and Cuba. He also spoke at a 5,000-strong Malcolm X celebration in Washington, D.C. Abreu spoke before a meeting of the Western Alabama Farmers Association in Epps, Alabama.

The results of the tour demonstrate the opportunities for getting out the truth about the Cuban revolution and winning working people and others to demand that the U.S. government end the blockade of Cuba.

## Great inequality in United States

In an interview during his New York City tour stop, Bernal gave his impressions of what he had learned about the United States.

"There is great inequality in the United States," he noted. "There are many people who have everything. They even have things they don't need. Then there are many people, the majority, who don't have everything they need. A large part of the population is living in poverty."

"I saw that many workers don't have adequate health care," Bernal continued. "It really struck me that in a nation as powerful as this one, where there is so much wealth, where it is the workers themselves who create that wealth, there is not adequate health care for all its citizens and all working people."

"I was also struck by the workers' vacation system," he said. "U.S. workers don't have a guaranteed paid annual vacation. After years of working, many get only two weeks. When workers in the United States change from one employer to another they have to start all over again. I believe this is truly brutal. It is a totally inhumane system of exploitation."

"I saw some factories where the work is very intensive and the noise and discomfort for the workers has grown, even at General Motors. I visited one assembly line that seemed like a scene out of Charlie Chaplin's movie *Modern Times*."

Detroit made a special impression on Bernal. "Detroit is a city that is deteriorating and getting worse by the day," he said.

"It has these enormous abandoned buildings. Yet there are thousands of peo-

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Cuban union leader Joaquín Bernal Camero speaks with participant in Washington, D.C., Malcolm X event.

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## Workers advance in Cuba

In the course of their tour, the Cuban trade unionists explained the advances that have been made in their country since the Cuban people threw off the yoke of U.S. imperialist domination and charted a course of building socialism. They contrasted the conditions workers in the United States face because of the workings of capitalism — massive layoffs, inadequate safety, lack of health care — with the gains won by workers in Cuba.

Health care is free for everyone in Cuba, the unionists explained, in spite of the U.S. economic blockade and legacy of underdevelopment on the island. Cuban workers are guaranteed one month paid vacation a year, no matter how many times a worker may have changed jobs.

"Our workers have a high political level and a high spirit of struggle," Bernal said in the interview.

He pointed to Cuba's principled opposition to the U.S. war against the people of Iraq. Cuban workers backed their government's position. "They knew that this was not a war to benefit workers anywhere in the world — not in the United States, not in Iraq, nowhere. It was a war like other imperialist wars."

During their discussions with U.S. workers and students, the Cuban union leaders did not try to paint Cuba as a society where everything is perfect.

## USSR trade cut

In the past year and a half, Cuba has faced serious economic difficulties as a result of the reduction of trade and the canceling of trade agreements with some of its main trading partners. Some 85 percent of trade until recently was with Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Imports of raw materials such as caustic soda, which is key to Cuba's sugar and soap industry, have been severely reduced. In many cases Cuba did not receive shipments of essential materials during the first four months of 1991. The Soviet Union has also reduced oil shipments that had previously been agreed to.

## 'Relative unemployment'

Bernal said that the situation in trade with Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, coming on top of the 30-year U.S. economic blockade, has resulted in the shutting down of some factories.

"The workers left without work because their factory closed have received very fair treatment," Bernal stated.

Where possible, he said, "these workers have been placed in other jobs without lowering their wages. Where it wasn't possible, these workers have been guaranteed 60 percent of their wages as long as the situation continues."

According to Bernal, Cuba has "a relative unemployment rate" of 3 percent. He said that some young people, when they join the labor force, are not able to find jobs where they want or in the field they want right away.

The Cuban trade union movement is also looking for jobs for many of the Cuban troops

who have returned from Angola. The last of the Cuban troops that had been there defending Angola against attacks by the South African army and the U.S.-backed mercenaries of UNITA returned to Cuba May 25. The Cuban presence in Angola was also decisive in leading to an agreement winning independence for the former South African colony of Namibia.

Those Cuban volunteers in Angola who were working before they entered the army have their old jobs guaranteed, Bernal said. But others had not had a job before serving. "We have been looking for work for all of them," he added.

The participation of workers is key in a program to increase agricultural production to meet Cuba's food needs in the face of the challenges posed by what Cubans call the "special period."

Volunteer workers have been going to the countryside to work on special agricultural brigades. More than 100,000 residents of the capital city of Havana have participated over the last year.

In spite of all the difficulties, human needs come first, Bernal said. Health care remains a priority and is guaranteed free of cost for all.

## Unions' role in correcting errors

Not all the problems are caused by the reduction in trade with the Soviet Union and the needs of the special period, Bernal noted.

In 1986 the rectification process, or correction of errors, began in Cuba. Rectification sought to begin to overcome problems of political demobilization, demoralization, and bureaucracy that had arisen as a result of methods of functioning and planning copied in large part from the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries.

"The unions have participated extensively in rectification," Bernal said. "We were responsible for introducing some of the vices that had to be corrected."

"Workers at our union meetings have made innumerable observations about bureaucratic defects, excessive centralization, and incorrect leadership methods in the factories, enterprises, and ministries. Workers have denounced some privileges that existed at workplaces and have been critical about all of the defects."

Bernal was confident that the Cuban revolution would overcome the difficulties and meet the challenges it faces.

"We are convinced that we are sincerely struggling for the well-being of the people," he said. "We know that we have the possibility to succeed because we live in a society that belongs to us; where exploiters and capitalists and multinationals don't exist; where the police belong to the workers; where the army belongs to the workers, where the government is ours. The government, the land, the air, the streets, all of this is ours."

Bernal hopes that the trade union tour will open the door to workers and unionists from the United States visiting Cuba and more Cuban workers and unionists visiting the United States.

He appealed for unionists to visit the island of Cuba. "Come see our achievements and our flaws. Come see how we work and how we struggle to resolve our shortcomings."

# Labor officials back framed-up Iowa unionist's parole appeal

BY PETER THIERJUNG

A campaign by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee to win parole for Mark Curtis, an imprisoned union and political activist, is beginning to show results.

Supporters are mapping out plans in local areas to get out the facts on Curtis' fight for justice and to systematically approach key individuals in the labor movement to involve them and their unions in the campaign for his release.

They are also approaching well-known defenders of democratic and human rights; prominent individuals and political activists; leaders of Black, Hispanic, and women's organizations; religious figures; and farm activists.

The defense committee's goal is to collect 200 letters in the next two months from leading individuals and organizations motivating the parole board to release Curtis. John Studer, coordinator of the defense committee, said that the end of August has now been targeted to meet the goal, giving supporters more time to maximize the potential of this effort to win wide support.

Curtis is a union and political activist who was framed on rape and burglary charges by the Des Moines, Iowa, police in 1988. He is now serving the third year of a 25-year jail term in the Iowa state prison in Fort Madison. The Mark Curtis Defense Committee, based in Des Moines, has waged an international defense effort on his behalf since the first day of the frame-up.

"I am personally convinced that Curtis was absolutely framed-up," said Denis Stefano, president-elect of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Local 8-234, in an interview. "This is just like Nelson Mandela's case, or Joe Doherty's, who are active fighters and were framed because the government didn't want them to be heard."

"I don't believe the parole board is there to dish out justice, but if it legitimately does its job they would release Curtis," he said. "Curtis has a lot of support and we have to keep trying, using every angle to press for his release."

## Support from oil workers' union

Stefano explained that defense committee supporters set up a literature table at the District 8 OCAW council meeting held in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, June 7-9. They discussed the case with several local union officials who agreed to write letters supporting parole for Curtis. A few invited the defense committee supporters to their next local meetings to discuss the campaign.

The District 8 council executive board also voted to send a letter signed by the district's officers. District 8 covers OCAW locals in New Jersey, New York, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

Support has been won in other regions of the OCAW as well, including at a recent District 4 council meeting in Houston and from William Taylor, president of Local 7-507 in Argo, Illinois.

"Mr. Curtis had never been arrested for any criminal activity prior to this conviction, which was a highly controversial case," Taylor wrote in his letter to the parole board. "The prison authorities have acknowledged that Mr. Curtis has an excellent work record and his personal conduct during his incarceration



Mark Curtis Defense Committee leader Priscilla Schenk (standing) with members of Local 9 of the Mexican National Teachers Union. Curtis supporters toured Mexico in May. Unionists around the world are backing Curtis' parole fight.

ation has been exemplary.

"He has already served more time than many others for the same type of crime," he continued. "He is not a threat to the community and, therefore, he could pick up his life and become a productive citizen once again. I don't feel any further purpose can be served by his continued incarceration. I, like many of his supporters, feel that in the interest of justice and the integrity of all humanity, you fair-minded people should release Mr. Curtis."

Jim Armstrong, president of United Auto Workers Local 270 in Des Moines, sent a letter supporting Curtis' parole bid. "Mark Curtis should be released," he said in an interview. "It serves no purpose to keep him in prison any longer. He's someone who should not have been there in the first place."

The union official said his local would send a representative to any future parole hearings. He "encouraged everybody to read the evidence of what's happened to see if justice was done and reach your own conclusions."

## Iowa labor backing

Armstrong is one of a growing number of labor officials in Iowa who support the parole effort. Maurice Williams, a member of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 50N and a defense committee activist in Des Moines, said the parole campaign has picked up steam there ever since the May 11 Midwest Labor Jam in Fort Madison.

Williams was a speaker at the labor celebration and met many unionists interested in helping Curtis. Some introduced or referred him to other labor officials who could also be enlisted in the parole campaign.

Since then, the activist has made an organized effort to follow up offers of support by participants. He explained that he has discussed the campaign with officials of several unions. Two organizers of the labor jam, Jill

New Jersey. The 55,000 workers covered by the contract are located primarily in New York's garment district and generate most of the work done in garment shops in the Northeast region.

Contract settlements were reached May 13 for the 35,000 workers in the dress, suit, coat, and rainwear segments of the industry. Contract negotiations with the women's outerwear industry in the Northeast involve about 60 percent of the union's 175,000 members. They are concentrated in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New England.

The ILGWU bargains with 47 employer associations representing more than 2,000 firms.

# Ladies' garment union signs contracts for 90,000 workers

BY DON MACKLE

Contract agreements covering garment workers in the Northeast have been reached by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) and employer associations.

The agreements call for annual wage hikes of 49 cents an hour for some shops and 4 percent for others. Further specifics on the contracts have yet to be reported.

The announcement of an agreement between the employers and ILGWU Local 23-25, representing blouse, skirt, and sportswear workers, was made just prior to the May 31 contract deadline. Local 23-25 bargains with nine employer associations in New York and



## 30,000 turn out for Seoul funeral of student activist killed in May

More than 30,000 students and workers marched through Seoul, South Korea, for the June 12 funeral of 25-year-old Kim Kwi Jong, killed during a police attack on a student demonstration in May.

An honor guard of 500 students, wearing T-shirts with her portrait, was accompanied by dancers, drummers, and buses carrying the woman's family. Mourners have memorialized Kim, a student activist, by naming her the "Flower of Democracy."

"We will overcome our sorrow and anger with struggle" and "Put Roh Tae Woo in prison," referring to South Korea's president, were slogans on banners. Pedestrians lined the streets, some joining in songs and cheers.

The march marked the seventh week of turmoil in South Korea. Initially dismissed as an annual spring protest period, the big-business media is now expressing concern over the depth of the antigovernment demonstrations. "The relentless unrest has created President Roh Tae Woo's most serious political crisis since he took office in 1988," an Associated Press report said.

## U.S. to fund UNITA forces in Angola despite peace accord

The U.S. House of Representatives voted June 11 to continue covert aid to the counterrevolutionary forces of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) despite a peace accord between the Angolan government and UNITA ending 16 years of combat.

According to Bush administration officials, the \$20 million allocated for 1992 can be used to sustain and feed the 50,000 troops of UNITA. They assert that the funds will not be used for military purposes, but will help the transition to "civilian life" and "in supporting the democratic process."

## Volcano forces U.S. troops out

Thousands of U.S. troops and their dependents were evacuated from Clark Air Base in the Philippines in the wake of the volcanic eruption of Mount Pinatubo. On June 12, some 200 remaining troops, who guarded the installation and its stockpile of nuclear weapons, were ordered out when the volcano began spewing hot ash. The military brass decided to leave the nuclear weapons behind.

Meanwhile, roads from the base were jammed by Filipinos fleeing the area. The nearby city of Angeles, which has not been evacuated, has 300,000 residents.

The government in Manila has asked for assurances from Washington that the weapons are safe. U.S. officials have not replied. The nuclear weapons are reportedly stored in underground bomb-proof bunkers. The bunkers were not, however, designed for volcanic eruptions.

## Germany posts trade deficit

For the first time in a decade, Germany posted a trade deficit of \$790 million in April, down from a surplus of \$1.6 billion in March. "Unification has transformed the world's mightiest exporter into a net importer," the June 11 *Wall Street Journal* said. Growing demand for goods in east and west Germany since reunification has surpassed the country's productive capacity.

The demand is fed by the Bonn government pumping huge sums of borrowed money for unemployment benefits and needed services into east Germany, where decades of Stalinist bureaucratic mismanagement have left the economy in ruins.

Bonn's subsidies are not, however, salvaging the economy in the east. "So far, despite huge transfers of public money to the east, the complete opposite of the necessary redistribution has taken place," one leader of the Social Democratic Party noted with dismay. "All jobs and profits are being redistributed from east to west and not in the opposite direction." The "economic and social" divisions between east and west are "deeper than we could have imagined in our worst nightmares," he said.

Baxter of UFCW Local 617 and Larry Ross of United Steelworkers of America Local 67, jointly signed a letter to the Iowa parole board.

Leonard Sturgeon, president of the United Paperworkers International Union Local 280 in Keokuk, Iowa, also sent a letter. "I write to appeal to you to release Mark Curtis from prison," he wrote. "Mr. Curtis was convicted in a highly controversial case. . . . The prison authorities have acknowledged that his conduct in prison has been exemplary, therefore, I do not feel that Mr. Curtis poses any threat to the community, and ask that he be released in order to resume his life as a productive citizen."

Messages supporting parole are also beginning to arrive at the defense committee's Des Moines office from other parts of the United States and the world.

"We have been aware of the terrible violations of the civil rights of Mark Curtis for several years," wrote James Weldon, business manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 728 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. "As an organization, we don't concur with Mark's political views but this is a free country and he is certainly entitled to them. In this instance, his labor views obviously have put him away."

"How long will he remain in jail?" Weldon continued. "He has suffered physical abuse, loss of reputation, loss of dignity, loss of freedom, and his losses continue to mount. In the name of all that is fair, we request that he be released from jail immediately."

George Morris, president of USWA Local 13836 in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, wrote: "As one particularly concerned with issues regarding union members, I appeal to you to act favorably on his [Curtis'] petition for parole. . . . Your most responsible action would be to release Mark Curtis so that he could resume a life as a productive citizen."

The president of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, Puso Leonard Tladj, faxed a message for the parole board from Budapest, Hungary.

"We would like to express our concern over the imprisonment of Mark Curtis," Tladj said. "Even if Mark was guilty of the charges made against him, traditions of the American judiciary has made the world believe and has it that justice will always be tempered with mercy, exactly where clemency and parole comes in. . . . In keeping with this reputation if nothing at all, we request through your good offices the FREEDOM of this American citizen."

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 or defense committee literature, write to the address above or call (515) 246-1695. Funds are also needed to help meet the costs of this effort. Tax deductible contributions should be made out to Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc.

# Supporters make final push to meet local goals

BY RONI McCANN

The momentum *Militant* supporters gained during the recent eight-day sales blitz really gave the last weeks of the circulation effort a big boost. Just prior to the final three-day target effort June 13-15, we signed up 356 new subscribers to the *Militant*. Sales of the Marxist magazine *New International* are over the top by 124.

The final tally of new readers won since April 27 in 11 countries around the world will appear in the *Militant* printed on July 9.

## Already Over the Top

Ed Fruit from Baltimore called in to report the good news: "We've made our sales goals!" *Militant* supporters in Newark are over the top as well — selling more than 93 *Militant* subscriptions in the last three weeks. During the first four weeks of the drive they had sold 17 subscriptions.

In Manchester and Sheffield, England, supporters have reached their sales targets and are pushing ahead to go over even more.

## Alabama socialist: 'Working people should condemn antiabortion bill'

BY PAT HUNT

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — "The anti-abortion bill recently passed by the Alabama State House of Representatives deserves the condemnation of all working people and all those who genuinely support women's rights," said John Hawkins, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Birmingham mayor in a press statement at the end of May.

"According to the framers of this legislation the aim of the bill is to ban all abortions except in cases of incest, rape, or endangerment of a woman's health," the socialist candidate said. "This, they openly declare, would make 98 percent of abortions performed in the state illegal.

"If this bill were to become law it would represent a giant step backward to the days of back-alley abortions, when each year thousands of women in Alabama and across the country lost their lives trying to exercise their right to choose when and if to bear children."

Similar legislation, Hawkins noted, was passed by the Louisiana House of Representatives May 13. The candidate is an underground miner and member of the United Mine Workers of America.

"The intention of the proponents of these bills," said Hawkins, "is to overturn the 1973 *Row v. Wade* U.S. Supreme Court decision.

## Selling the press to unionists

Union	%Sold	Militant (Goal)	Sold	New Int'l (Goal)	Sold
<b>UNITED STATES</b>					
ACTUWU	57%	46	26	30	3
IAM	45%	143	65	87	15
ILGWU	43%	30	13	10	1
IUE	83%	42	35	25	10
OCAW	50%	50	25	55	16
UAW	62%	87	54	32	15
UFCW	73%	93	68	35	9
UMWA	185%	33	61	19	10
USWA	79%	90	71	50	25
UTU	91%	65	59	50	12
<b>TOTAL SHOULD BE</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>					
MTFU	67%	6	4	6	1
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>BRITAIN</b>					
AEU	13%	15	2	11	2
NUM	39%	18	7	15	4
RMT	78%	32	25	22	4
TGWU	50%	8	4	3	2
<b>TOTAL SHOULD BE</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>CANADA</b>					
ACTUWU	43%	7	3	2	2
CAW	56%	9	5	10	2
IAM	36%	14	5	8	2
USWA	13%	16	2	11	5
<b>TOTAL SHOULD BE</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>					
NZEW	50%	4	2	3	0
NZMWU	70%	10	7	5	0
FTWU	20%	10	2	3	0
UFCW	71%	7	5	3	0
<b>TOTAL SHOULD BE</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>SWEDEN</b>					
FOOD	0%	6	0	0	0
METAL	60%	5	3	3	0
TRANSPORT	0%	1	0	1	0
<b>TOTAL SHOULD BE</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>

Phoenix supporters are over their *Militant* subscription goal by 1. In Sydney, Australia, supporters are at 160 percent of their goal.

## Unionists Report

Almost one-third of the *Militant* subscriptions sold in the United States are to members of 10 industrial unions. This week supporters won 97 new readers among garment workers, meat-packers, miners, and other unionists, including 11 steelworkers in Illinois and Utah and 11 oil refinery workers. Supporters in Manchester, England, report that 63 percent of new readers there are members of industrial unions.

United Transportation Union member Jane Harris reports that UTU members in the New York/New Jersey area went over their sales goal of 20 by 2. Most of the subscriptions were sold the week of the welcome-home parade for Washington's troops in the Mideast.

"On the day of the parade in New York City," said Harris, "we transported people to

That decision, which legalized abortion, opened the way for women to take a measure of control over their own bodies. In so doing it eliminated one of the main arguments put forward by companies, universities, and other institutions to justify discrimination against women.

"Since that decision, millions of women in the United States — already being drawn into the labor force in unprecedented numbers — have taken advantage of new opportunities for employment in formerly all-male occupations. Often the sole providers for their families, women have found that these new opportunities to work at higher-paying jobs have meant a decided increase in their families' standard of living," he said.

"Moreover, this has strengthened the labor movement — breaking down divisions on the job and opening the way for women to play active and leading roles in the struggle of all working people to defend our unions and our rights.

"While opponents of abortion rights cry crocodile tears for so-called unborn children," said Hawkins, "they propose nothing to eliminate the abject poverty in which millions of children live in Alabama today.

The mine worker said that these are the same forces, in and out of the legislature, that argue for deeper cuts in education and other social services, seek to undermine civil rights legislation, oppose child care (which would free more women for work outside the home), stall a meaningful increase in the minimum wage, keep unemployment compensation in the state at below subsistence levels, block repeal of antilabor legislation, and applaud U.S. imperialist military actions abroad, like the recent slaughter of the Iraqi people and the continued military interference in that country's affairs still going on.

"Those who defend a woman's right to abortion are a majority of the population in the United States and in Alabama," he said.

"They must make their voices heard publicly and visibly in massive numbers, actively drawing upon the support of all who defend this right — especially the labor movement.

"I and my supporters will continue to place defense of women's right to abortion at the center of this campaign."



Militant/Robert Kopec  
Socialist mayoral candidate and United Mine Workers member John Hawkins.

and from the event all day. At the end of our shift one of my coworkers who knew I had opposed the war asked what I thought.

"I told her I didn't think there was anything to celebrate, given the death and destruction working people like us in Iraq have had to suffer from the brutal war." A big discussion broke out among crew members and as a result three readers renewed their subscriptions, two bought introductory subscriptions, and one bought a copy of *New International*.

One worker, a woman who is Black, said she thought of the *Militant* as a paper with news on struggles that didn't necessarily affect her life. "I showed her the recent copy of the paper with an article on why the labor movement should defend affirmative action," said Harris. "I said that without the civil rights struggle that affirmative action came out of, we wouldn't even be having this discussion and we have a stake in defending our gains."

At Fieldcrest Cannon's Decorative Bedding mill in Eden, North Carolina, 12 workers bought introductory subscriptions to the *Militant*, reports Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union member Tony Prince. "Some new subscribers had opposed the war on Iraq all along, others had supported it but are now having second thoughts, and many bought the paper for its coverage on other struggles around the world."

## From Our Mail Bag

Gerardo Sánchez Corona from the Twin Cities in Minnesota, wrote in about their successful target sales week. Young Socialist Alliance members and other supporters sold 40 subscriptions to the *Militant*, three to *Perspectiva Mundial*, and five copies of *New International*. "We've been reading and discussing the 'Opening Guns of World War III' article in the *New International*, which has been really helpful," said Sánchez. "We found that many people are now questioning why the war was fought and it has resulted in more subscribers and members of the YSA."

## Get Your Last Subs In!

*Militant* supporters in France are closing in on their goals. In one day they sold six copies of *New International* at one political event. They sent a letter out to their readers and one renewed already.

One supporter who works at the Renault auto factory has won two new readers to *L'Internationaliste* and one renewal, along with a reader to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Supporters are using the days before the final deadline to sign up more new subscribers. All subscriptions sent into the *Militant* by midnight, June 21, will be counted.

## Sales Drive Scoreboard

Areas	The Militant			Perspectiva Mundial		New Int'l*		L'inter*		Total	
	Goal	Sold	%	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
<b>UNITED STATES</b>											
Twin Cities, Minn. **	115	104	90%	15	13	60	54	2	0	192	171
Price, Utah **	50	45	90%	9	10	25	19	2	0	86	74
Austin, Minn. **	50	44	88%	10	12	30	30	2	1	92	87
Salt Lake City	105	90	86%	18	20	50	59	2	0	175	169
Seattle **	89	73	82%	33	24	75	76	3	0	200	173
Charleston, WV	60	48	80%	5	2	30	35	2	1	97	86
Omaha, Neb.	65	48	74%	10	13	18	19	2	0	95	80
Newark, NJ	110	81	74%	40	25	140	82	10	6	300	194
Miami	67	49	73%	25	10	45	50	15	3	152	112
Birmingham, Ala.	85	62	73%	8	2	43	41	2	0	138	105
St. Louis	100	71	71%	5	2	48	39	2	2	155	114
Greensboro, NC	50	34	68%	10	6	34	27	2	0	96	67
Baltimore	66	44	67%	10	8	31	39	3	0	110	91
Phoenix **	30	19	63%	10	7	30	27	1	0	71	53
Des Moines, Iowa	98	60	61%	15	15	35	38	2	0	150	113
Morgantown, WV	65	39	60%	5	1	40	41	2	0	112	81
Chicago	130	77	59%	30	23	70	73	5	0	235	173
Boston	100	58	58%	25	16	50	48	10	5	185	127
Washington, DC	80	46	58%	13	14	50	55	2	1	145	116
Philadelphia	60	34	57%	21	4	56	50	2	0	139	88
Los Angeles	150	75	50%	80	41	124	134	3	2	357	252
Houston	65	32	49%	20	5	35	45	2	0	122	82
Atlanta **	70	33	47%	10	3	60	60	2	0	142	96
New York **	200	94	47%	75	51	200	139	15	3	490	287
Detroit	80	37	46%	8	6	40	35	2	1	130	79
San Francisco **	150	67	45%	70	29	150	137	5	1	375	234
Pittsburgh	75	31	41%	3	4	40	44	2	1	120	80
Cleveland **	85	30	35%	10	5	50	39	2	0	147	74
Albany, N.Y.	15	4	27%	2	0	10	5	0	0	27	9
Ft. Madison, Iowa	5	1	20%	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1
Louisville, KY	3	0	0%	0	0	4	0	0	0	7	0
<b>U.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>2,473</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>1,673</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4,847</b>	<b>3,468</b>
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>											
	10	16	160%	3	5	22	23	0	0	35	44
<b>BRITAIN</b>											
Sheffield	50	52	132%	3	4	75	88	2	1	130	145
Manchester	50	54	108%	5	0	45	58	2	0	102	112
London	100	76	76%	15	4	90	92	5	0	210	172
Other Britain	2	3	150%	1	0	0	1	0	0	3	4
<b>BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>433</b>
<b>CANADA</b>											
Vancouver **	65	49	75%	15	11	60	60	5	2	145	122
Montreal **	70	36	51%	15	21	75	70	35	20	195	147
Toronto	80	26	33%	30	10	50	59	5	0	165	95
<b>CANADA TOTAL</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>364</b>
<b>FRANCE</b>											
	5	2	40%	5	3	5	6	15	6	30	17
<b>ICELAND</b>											
	30	14	47%	1	0	12	11	1	0	44	25
<b>MEXICO</b>											
	-	-	-	15	6	-	-	-	-	15	6
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>											
Auckland **	45	35	78%	3	1	45	37	1	1	94	74
Wellington	53	39	74%	1	1	30	16	1	0	85	56
Christchurch	43	26	60%	1	2	30	23	1	0	75	51
Other	6	7	117%	1	0	1	3	0	0	8	10
<b>N. Z. TOTAL</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>191</b>
<b>PUERTO RICO</b>											
	2	0	0%	10	2	1	0	1	0	14	2
<b>SWEDEN **</b>											
	35	22	63%	20	8	20	35	3	2	78	67
<b>TOTAL SHOULD BE</b>	<b>3,120</b>	<b>1,988</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>2,243</b>	<b>2,127</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>6,204</b>	<b>4,635</b>
<b>DRIVE GOALS</b>	<b>3,225</b>	<b>2,730</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>1,950</b>	<b>1,963</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>6,100</b>	<b>5,429</b>

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

\*\* Raised *New International* Goal

# Workers at Giant Eagle end six-week strike

BY SANDI SHERMAN

PITTSBURGH — A six-week strike against the Giant Eagle food chain ended here as workers ratified a new contract June 2. The strikers, members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 23, voted by an 11-to-1 margin to accept the pact.

Issues in the strike included the food chain's definition of part-time workers, which would have left 2 out of every 5 workers without health benefits. The union members also struck over a multitier wage structure that kept more than half of Giant Eagle's work force earning \$4.30 an hour or less. The average wage rate at Giant Eagle was \$5.62.

The union also wanted an increase in pension benefits, dental coverage, and weekend and premium pay. It called for a guarantee that the food chain would cease closing its stores only to open them as nonunion franchises.

In an effort to narrow the wage gap, the union had argued for wage increases that would benefit lower-tier workers more. The

final pact gives top-tier workers \$1.15 an hour in increases over the 3-year contract; middle-tier, \$1.50; and third-tier, \$1.20. Top-tier workers also got a \$1,000 signing bonus.

Part-time employees who work 2,000 hours a year will receive full-time medical benefits. Dental coverage was increased by \$800 and made available to more workers.

Gains were made in pension, vacations for high seniority employees, unpaid leave, a minimum workweek, and Sunday and holiday shift premiums. The company promised not to close any stores for six months.

Multitier wages and benefits and the use of parttime workers remain. These were the two biggest issues emphasized by strikers on the picket line.

Carl Huber, president of UFCW Local 23, told the strikers at a June 2 ratification meeting, "This contract does not make us happy. We did not get everything we wanted. But it's a much better contract than when we started and if we continue striking, we do not believe you will get more, or enough more to be worth it."

Meat and deli workers agreed by a vote of 360-to-93; cashiers, baggers, and clerks voted 1,126-to-132.

## Support for strike

When the strike began, Giant Eagle hired 700 "replacement workers." Over the course of the walkout, 1,250 union members crossed the picket line. Local 23 has 5,900 members.

What the company didn't anticipate, however, was the overwhelming support the strikers would get from the community.

At a Militant Labor Forum June 1, Gary Best, a Local 23 strike coordinator, noted, "The company capitulated this week because of the support our members received from the shopping public in Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia."

Independent surveys showed Giant Eagle's customers plummeted by more than 65 percent as a result of the strike. Best said that working people identified with the strike because the strikers were the sons and daugh-

ters of coal miners and steelworkers. "I see a new willingness for working men and women to come together," he commented.

Some strikers thought more could have been won given the overwhelming solidarity displayed by those who refused to shop at Giant Eagle. The large vote for the contract indicated that most did not see a way to fight for more, however.

Solidarity activities during the strike included a march and rally of 3,000 strikers and supporters, a customer picket day at a number of stores, and a march on the company's corporate headquarters that drew 1,000 strikers and supporters. In Morgantown, West Virginia, 70 members of the United Mine Workers union joined the picket line at the end of a district convention.

Referring to a 1983 strike that ended with the union granting deep concessions, on a rank-and-file member of the Local 23 bargaining committee said, "I crawled back in '83. I'm walking back today."

## Unionists at GE hold events to press for better contract

BY RUSSELL DAVIS

LYNN, Massachusetts — Negotiations are under way nationwide between General Electric (GE) and 14 unions that represent 64,000 workers. The contract expires June 30.

The International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) represents 40,000 of the GE workers. The remaining are organized by the United Electrical Workers, United Auto Workers, Machinists, Steelworkers, and other unions.

Leading up to the deadline, the unions have organized a series of "local-to-local" meetings across the country where rank-and-file union members meet with workers in other locations. Some 1,500 workers turned out for a day-long meeting in Erie, Pennsylvania in April.

At the GE plant here of 5,000, nearly 1,000 workers rallied May 28 and IUE Local 201 has organized "T-shirt Days" when workers in the plant all wear blue union T-shirts. The union is also reaching out to the local community and labor movement for support.

GE is one of the world's largest and most profitable corporations with factories in more than 30 countries. In 1990 it had sales of \$58 billion and profits of \$4 billion.

The rally and the "local-to-local" meetings are a response to the company taking a hard line in the talks, saying it has to maintain its "competitiveness" in a declining world economy. Management is expected to target medical coverage and seeks to minimize any wage increase.

While there were no cuts in wages, except in GE's Motor Division, the last two contracts included a series of give-backs on medical coverage, lump-sum wage increases, and two-tier wage scales. The result has been a steady decline in the living standards of GE workers.

The unionized workforce at GE has been hit hard with layoffs and plant closings. Currently only one-third of GE's 200,000 workers in the United States are unionized.

Many unionists point to the company's profits as a reason why workers should receive pay increases, no cutbacks, improved "job security," and better pensions.

The IUE's membership is scheduled to vote July 10 on any final contract offer made by the company.

*Russell Davis works at the GE Lynn River-works plant and is a member of IUE Local 201.*

## Regime aids anti-ANC attacks

A former South African Defense Force major revealed that the military has aided vigilante attacks against anti-apartheid forces.

Nico Basson told the media that he had run a secret operation in Namibia aimed at discrediting the fight of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) to free that

country from South African colonial rule.

Since returning to South Africa, Basson has been told by contacts in the military of a similar campaign against the African National Congress and its supporters, the *New York Times* reported.

ANC spokespeople have pointed to collusion between government security forces and the Inkatha Freedom Party as the source of numerous attacks on Black townships and anti-apartheid rallies in recent months. The government has denied any involvement.

Inkatha is a political organization based in Natal Province that claims to represent Zulus. Its central leader, Mangosuthu Gatsha Buthelezi, has a long history of collaboration with the regime.

Some 10,000 people have died since late 1984 in violence associated with attacks by Inkatha supporters, many times with backing from government security forces.

Basson said secret military operations include helping Inkatha organize cells in Black townships and providing it with AK-47 assault rifles.

South Africa's Military Intelligence Institute and Specialized Communications Operations, two army units that were in charge of the operations in Namibia against SWAPO, are now directing the campaign against the ANC, Basson said.

An earlier attempt by a judge to investigate the Civil Cooperation Bureau, a clandestine government organization put together to harass opponents of apartheid, failed when its records disappeared.

## Employment figures are up after a seven-month decline

The number of nonfarm payroll jobs rose in May after seven consecutive months of substantial decline.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported a net increase of 59,000 jobs. There had been a decline of more than 250,000 jobs in both February and March.

The number of manufacturing jobs, which had fallen every month for more than a year, rose by 19,000 in May. Total factory payrolls rose for the second straight month with the recall of laid-off auto workers. Service industry jobs increased by 15,000, and health-care jobs rose by 30,000.

At the same time, the nation's unemployment rate climbed from 6.6 percent to 6.9 percent in May. The jobless rate for Blacks has moved up steadily for three months, reaching an official rate of 13 percent.

## YOUNG SOCIALISTS IN ACTION



Militant/Jean Dawson  
New members of the Young Socialist Alliance in Oregon and Washington State. From left, Aimee, Kirk, Francesca, Jennifer, and Julian.

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 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.

A dozen new members have joined the Young Socialist Alliance in Oregon and Washington since the start of this year.

"I was part of a peace coalition in Portland," explained Aimee, a 20-year-old student and bakery worker who recently joined.

"I wanted to do more and get involved in issues like women's rights and the fight against apartheid," Aimee said.

"The war against Iraq made me see I had to do something to stop it and change society," she added. "Things don't have to be the way they are today. We can change them."

Francesca, 19, said: "My goal is revolution, to overthrow capitalism. I know there are many more people who think like I do. I want to contact them and encourage them to be part of the fight against imperialism." Francesca works at a pizza parlor in Seattle.

"Until I found the YSA, I was frustrated because I couldn't find any group going in the right direction," said Kirk, a 22-year-old musician and deli manager. "The YSA

doesn't stop at U.S. borders. It puts the interests of all humanity first."

Julian, a 29-year-old cook, first met the YSA through his participation in an anti-war coalition in Portland. "I saw that the only way to be effective was to be in the YSA," he explained. "You can't do it all on your own. You've got to work together with others who think like you do."

Juan had been active in independence protests in his native Puerto Rico. While living in New York City he bought Pathfinder books containing the speeches and writings of Che Guevara, Fidel Castro, and other revolutionary leaders. "They were my inspiration," he said.

Juan is now a grounds maintenance worker employed at a U.S. naval installation outside Seattle. He ran into the YSA at an antiwar protest early this year, started coming to meetings, and recently joined. "I share its ideas," he explained. "The YSAers are militant people, fighting for social justice, against racism, and supporting union workers' struggles."

A young Black GI joined during a weekend conference on "Washington's Assault on Iraq: The Opening Guns of World War III." "I had doubts about the government's motives for the war against Iraq, as well as the invasion of Grenada and other stuff that went on in the past," he said. "But I felt alone and that no one agreed with me."

"Then I met Juan and he introduced me to the YSA in Seattle. Now I'm going to keep coming to meetings and reading to educate myself more."

Che Guevara, Malcolm X, and Fidel Castro are "educational, inspiring, and motivational," said Jennifer, a 20-year-old preschool worker from Portland. "I strongly encourage other young people to get involved with the YSA."

*This week's column was contributed by Harvey McArthur from Seattle, Washington.*

# National struggles sharpen in Yugoslavia

BY GEORGE BUCHANAN

Deepening demands for independence by the peoples of Croatia and Slovenia are hastening the breakup of Yugoslavia.

Nervous about the destabilizing impact of these developments, the imperialist rulers in Europe and North America are openly discussing the possibility of military intervention into the country (see article below).

Slovenia and Croatia are the two most economically developed republics of Yugoslavia, a country which has dramatic contrasts in the standard of living between its various regions. Per capita income in Slovenia is ten times that of the poorest parts of the south, where horse-drawn transport is still common.

Yugoslavia is divided into six republics — Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Macedonia. With a total Yugoslav population of 24 million, the two largest republics are Serbia with 9.3 million inhabitants and Croatia with 4.6 million.

The Stalinist rulers of Serbia — whose capital city, Belgrade, is also the federal capital — have opposed other republics' demands for independence. They have insisted that if republics do break away, boundaries should first be redrawn so all Serb-populated regions are brought within one state. Such border shifts would dismember Croatia, where about 550,000 Serbs live.

With the open encouragement of the Serbian government, the main Serbian enclave within Croatia (the region of Krajina), announced its secession from Croatia in March. Outside of Krajina, in a number of villages and towns that have Serb majorities, provocative attacks against Croatian police forces have occurred over the past 10 months, including ambushes and roadblocks. Several policemen, as well as Serbs, have been killed in these incidents.

The Yugoslav national army is led by a Serbian-dominated officer corps closely tied to the Serbian regime. It has intervened in a number of these incidents against the Croatian police. On one such occasion last August, when Croatian police were advancing by helicopter to bypass Serbian roadblocks, they were turned back by jet fighters of the Yugoslav air force.

## 'State of emergency' bid fails

A giant crisis has also emerged over the country's presidential seat. In March, Borisav Jovic, the Serbian chairman of Yugoslavia's federal presidency at the time, resigned following an unsuccessful attempt to persuade the eight-person body to declare a state of emergency, a move that would have allowed an army takeover.

The following day Serbia's president, Slobodan Milosevic, declared that he no longer recognized the supreme authority of the federal executive body.

The crisis deepened May 15 when Serbia led a move to block Croatia's representative from becoming chair of the presidency. He was scheduled to take over from Jovic. Since that date Yugoslavia has technically had no head of state. The chairmanship, a post which incorporates that of commander-in-chief of Yugoslavia's armed forces, had been previously rotated in one-year terms between representatives of the six republics.

This action prompted the Croatian government to declare independence May 29. In a referendum ten days earlier, Croatians had voted overwhelmingly for independence within a Yugoslavia reconstituted as a loose confederation of independent countries. A wide majority of voters had already backed a similar proposal last December in Slovenia, which was set to declare its independence by June 26.

The Serbian regime's demand for a state of emergency came in the midst of a sharp political crisis inside Serbia itself, where tens of thousands of opponents of the regime had been demonstrating in the streets of Belgrade for basic democratic rights.

On March 9 a demonstration of 30,000, directed against the regime's iron control of the state television and radio station, which protesters dubbed the "Bastille", was suppressed by police. Despite the repression, the demonstrations grew in size. Within days the government was forced to back down, firing the top editors of Belgrade television, releasing jailed demonstrators, and dismissing the interior minister.

Behind this explosion of opposition lie years of economic and political crisis in Yugoslavia, similar to the crisis of bureaucratic rule which led to the overthrow of several Stalinist regimes in Eastern Europe in 1989.

In January 1990 Yugoslavia's Stalinist party, the League of Communists, which had ruled the country since 1945, disintegrated. The Serbian section, led by Milosevic, had for some years been on a drive to incite Serbian nationalism as a means to increase the political power of the Serbian Stalinist caste vis-à-vis the other republics. Until that point this campaign had centered on the alleged oppression of Serbs in the autonomous Serbian province of Kosovo, where 77 percent of the population are ethnic Albanians.

Following this breakup, elections in Slovenia and Croatia in April of 1990, brought new governments led by nationalist parties to power in those provinces.

## Economic stagnation

Yugoslavia has been stagnating economically for some time. Industrial production fell by 18.2 percent in 1990, and 20 percent of the work force is officially unemployed. Inflation, which has soared to over 1000 percent at times, is projected to exceed 100 percent in 1991. One-fourth of the country's 28,000 firms were considered insolvent at the end of January.

Serbia is in a particularly deep economic crisis, with some 800 major firms facing collapse. Many state-owned firms cannot afford raw materials; production lines are grinding to a halt; and at state-owned industries — which employ 85 percent of workers — paychecks have been arriving two or three months late.

The province of Kosovo is an economic disaster area, with officially recognized unemployment at 35 percent of the work force. Ethnic Albanian leaders estimate unemployment to be 70 percent in some areas.

Faced with the sharpening crisis, Serbia's ruling party has tried everything to cling to power, from promoting Serbian nationalism to changing the party's name from Communist Party to the Serbian Socialist Party.

In December 1990, just prior to the Serbian elections, the Stalinist-run parliament there secretly voted to take \$1.3 billion in an illegal withdrawal from the Yugoslav National Bank. These funds, representing more than one-half of the funds the national central bank was to have made available to all Yugoslav banks in 1991, were used to raise pensions, increase benefits to farmers, and boost subsidies to state-run enterprises. The Socialist Party was re-elected.

## Regrowth of nationalism

Yugoslavia contains a complex array of peoples of different national origins, religions, languages, and even alphabets. Prior to being occupied by Germany and other Axis powers during World War II Serbia had dominated the country since



Yugoslavia's formation in 1918.

Workers and peasants, led by the National Liberation Army (Partisans) headed by Josip Tito, waged a massive resistance to the Nazi occupiers and their local backers. A widespread deep-going revolutionary upheaval brought about the creation of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In 1945-46 capitalists and landlords who had formerly ruled the country were expropriated and a nationalized economy set up.

The unity among working people which had made this triumph possible overcame many of the divisions fostered by local capitalists and imperialism based on recognition of the equal rights of nationalities. In the next decades substantial economic progress was made and big steps were taken to overcome regional imbalances. For example, while the more developed republics of Croatia, Slovenia, and Serbia experienced a 9- or 10-fold increase in industrial output from 1939-1970, Macedonia saw a 31-fold increase, and Mon-

tenegro an almost 50-fold increase in the same period.

But instead of mobilizing working people to build on the initial conquests of the revolution, the Stalinists in power relied increasingly on capitalist methods and market mechanisms in running the nationalized economy. As in other workers states, political repression and denial of rights drove working people out of political activity. The reinforcement of a privileged bureaucratic layer based on the government apparatus resulted in growing economic stagnation.

Economic difficulties, including chronic inflation and unemployment, have grown since the 1960s, culminating in the deep crisis which now exists.

In response to this repression, the economic crisis, and the Serbian regime's attempts to impose its domination over the whole federation, the nationalities have pressed their demands for sovereignty, to the point where the federation can only be held together under threats of force and violence.

# NATO rapid deployment force to be used outside member countries

BY PETER THIERJUNG

A plan to restructure the military operations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is set to be approved at a Rome summit meeting in November.

The formation of a "rapid reaction" force is at the center of the plan for NATO. The force would be composed of a mobile unit of about 5,000 troops capable of responding to a crisis within 72 hours and a corps of 50,000 to 70,000 that can be deployed within a week's time.

While use of its forces outside the boundaries of the alliance is currently prohibited by NATO's treaty, the Rome summit is expected to find a way around the formality.

Troops for two divisions of the force will come from Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Britain, Italy, Greece, Spain, and possibly Turkey. Two divisions will be provided by Britain, and Washington will contribute a fifth division. Asserting its military superiority, the United States will provide crucial air transport and logistics support, effectively giving it veto power over the NATO force's deployment.

The reorganization would cut current NATO troop strength of 1.5 million troops by about 50 percent, including the 320,000 U.S. troops stationed in Europe.

Growing instability in Central and Eastern Europe, western parts of the Soviet Union, and in Yugoslavia is now a major concern of NATO imperialist powers.

In a May statement of principles, NATO defense ministers said, "The security in Europe has much improved, although risks and uncertainties remain. The Soviet Union is undergoing a delicate process of reform, but it retains substantial residual forces. There is, moreover, the potential for crises in Central and Eastern Europe, which could jeopardize stability."

Being more explicit, the June 10 issue of

*Time* said, "If the heart of Europe seems secure for the moment, there are still potential threats out on the flanks — from a Yugoslav civil war next door to NATO member Italy, for example."

Despite their agreement on the political aims and necessity of a rapid reaction force, sharpening imperialist rivalries among the alliance's major imperialist powers surfaced over implementation and organization.

France, a formal member of NATO that has refused to participate in its military command since 1966, initially raised that the alliance should be phased out altogether and replaced by an all-European force that could be deployed anywhere in the world. France and Germany even came to an agreement to place such a force under the control of the European Community.

French officials complained that NATO military operations had become "a little bit of a [U.S.] dictatorship." Germany, which will soon have the strongest and best organized military force in Europe and is the dominant economic power on the continent, has also sought to assert its weight.

Washington, however, sent a "stiff letter" to NATO capitals protesting the French-German agreement and insisted that NATO remain the principal means of consultation and decision-making in military matters. U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Colin Powell opposed the creation of an independent European force, fearing that some day European leaders would demand U.S. participation in military actions not under U.S. control.

U.S. ruling circles also see NATO as crucial to Washington's continued economic and political leverage in Europe; or as one U.S. diplomat put it, NATO allows Washington to "tell the Europeans what we want on a whole lot of issues — trade, agriculture, the Gulf, you name it."

## THE BALKAN WARS (1912-13)

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# Oil meeting registers shift by Iranian regime

## Rafsanjani gov't pushes for political, economic ties with imperialist powers

BY SAMAD SHARIF

The government of President Hashemi Rafsanjani is reorienting Iran's foreign policy to accelerate that country's reintegration into trade and political relations with imperialist powers and Middle East regimes that had broken ties with Tehran.

This was brought home recently in an international gathering hosted by the Iranian government in the industrial city of Isfahan. Two hundred and fifty oil company executives, government officials, industry analysts, and journalists from more than 20 countries, including the United States, participated in the "Conference on Oil and Gas in the 1990s: Prospects for Cooperation."

Rafsanjani and other senior officials of the Islamic Republic called for "vastly increased economic and political cooperation with the West and for closer ties with Iran's Persian Gulf neighbors," according to *New York Times* correspondent Youssef Ibrahim.

In a message on the first day of the conference, Rafsanjani stated, "The concluding years of the 20th century are marked by world events that have replaced the previous bipolar system by a new order. If this order is to persist, cooperation should replace confrontation."

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, echoing similar views, told the participants that "From a global perspective, a new order is gradually superseding in which economic considerations overshadow political priorities." Elaine Sciolino wrote in the *New York Times* June 2 that if the "conference participants had closed their eyes, they might have thought they were listening to the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi."

In 1979, the U.S.-backed shah was overthrown by a massive revolution in Iran. The

capitalist regime that replaced the monarch, under pressure to adopt measures in the interests of workers and peasants, came into sharp conflict with Washington.

Iranian government officials at the Isfahan conference took the stance that in the aftermath of the U.S.-led war against Iraq, Tehran has many common interests with the Arab monarchies and sheikdoms allied with Washington in the war. This registers a reversal in the attitude of the Islamic Republic government toward those monarchies, labeled pro-U.S. and reactionary in the past.

Iran's oil minister, Gholamreza Agazadeh, reiterated the Iranian government's new stance and supported Saudi Arabia's position calling for cooperation between oil-producing countries and imperialist powers to insure the flow of oil at stable prices. Agazadeh was a leading "hawk" in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) fight for higher oil prices.

### 'Marriage of convenience'

Similarly, a reversal of attitude toward the U.S. government was voiced by a senior presidential adviser and member of Iran's National Security Council, Mohammad Javad Larjani. In an interview with the *New York Times* May 26, he proposed a "marriage of convenience," but without formal ties, between Iran and the United States. In the "security of the Persian Gulf, there is a convergence of interests with the United States," he said.

At the Isfahan conference the usual slogan of "Death to America" was absent. No country was criticized except Iraq. No representative of Baghdad was present.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer was one of the featured speakers. Diplomatic ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia were reestablished in April. Those ties were cut in 1987 during the Iran-Iraq war after Saudi police attacked a demonstration during the Islamic pilgrimage ceremonies. More than 400 people, mostly Iranians, were killed.

Those yearly demonstrations attracted Muslims from around the world on pilgrimage to Mecca. They were organized by Iranian activists around the slogans "Death to America" and "Death to Israel." This year, for the first time in four years, Saudi authorities have agreed to accept 110,000 pilgrims from Iran based on assurances from Tehran that no disruptions will take place.

On another front, an agreement has been reached for Iranian experts to assist the Kuwaiti regime in putting out 60 of the oil-well fires set by the retreating Iraqi army. For this the two governments have signed a \$100 million contract.

Tehran's relations with the other governments in the Arab-Persian Gulf are improving. These regimes reportedly prefer to include Iran in their security arrangements, rather than have non-Gulf regimes like Egypt and Syria station troops on their soil.

Tehran has also strengthened its ties with Syria and neighboring Turkey. Rafsanjani has made special trips to both countries. Iran has also re-established diplomatic ties with Egypt.

### Trade, investment, and loans

Germany, Japan, Italy, Britain, and France are Iran's major trading partners, accounting for 40 percent of the country's foreign purchases in 1990. They reported an average increase in sales in 1990 of more than 50 percent compared to 1989. Germany is the leading exporter to Iran, having replaced the United States after the shah's overthrow in 1979. In the first eight months of 1990 German imports to Iran totaled \$1.5 billion, and Iranian exports to Germany were \$556 million. Japan, the second biggest supplier, increased its sales last year to Iran by 70 percent, registering the largest increase of exports. Tehran is seeking foreign investment as well as loans. Negotiations with several European and Japanese companies on investing in the country's oil and gas production — Iran has the world's largest gas reserves after the Soviet Union — are reported to be in their final stages. The World Bank has re-established links with Iran and has extended a \$250 million loan for earthquake relief in the northern provinces.

As part of financing the country's five-year development plan, the Iranian government is seeking \$17.7 billion in direct foreign financ-

ing and \$10 billion in foreign investment. This quest for aid is being well-received in international finance and banking institutions because Iran has good credit and because of its renewed willingness to deal with key international organizations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

According to Mohammad Adeli, head of the Central Bank of Iran, 70 percent of the borrowing needs for this year are already covered, largely through credit lines from several French banks.

### Response from Washington

In contrast to the European and Japanese governments, the U.S. response to overtures from Iran has been cool. The remarks of President Rafsanjani and other officials about a "new order" did not receive a positive public response from Washington.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler commented, "If Iran wants to re-emerge as a full member of the community of nations [it] must take action to end its support for international terrorism and hostage-taking." This mainly refers to the influence Tehran reportedly has on groups in Lebanon that have taken six U.S. citizens hostage. The hostages are used as a justification by Washington not to release some \$10 billion of Iranian assets in this country that were frozen in 1979. However, the U.S. government lifted its ban on the purchase of oil from Iran earlier this year. Coastal Corp. in Houston and Mobil Oil have already contracted to buy substantial quantities of Iranian oil.

Oil revenues for the Iranian year starting March 21 are projected to be \$20 billion. During the U.S. war drive against the peoples of Iraq, Tehran's oil revenues rose by \$4 billion, due to increased production and a temporary rise in prices. Iran remained formally neutral in that war.

The Rafsanjani administration is reluctant to inform Iranians of what it has been telling the outside world. The government-controlled *Kayhan* daily, the weekly edition of the Tehran daily *Kayhan*, reported on the Isfahan conference in its June 5 issue. The weekly omitted the opening part of Rafsanjani's message to the conference where he spoke of "a new order" and called for "cooperation" rather than "confrontation." Articles in Farsi, the dominant language in Iran, gave the impression that the president was defending semicolonial countries against "greedy" and "unjust" exploitation by the industrialized countries.

In contrast, the English section of the same issue of the paper, which carries a summary of the events for non-Farsi readers, prominently reported Rafsanjani's message on "a new order," and the statement that "cooperation should replace confrontation."

Prior to the Isfahan conference Rafsanjani addressed Tehran's Friday prayer meeting, where major policy pronouncements are often made. He did not discuss the new approach of the government and downplayed the need for foreign aid.

Officials of the Islamic Republic are not



Iran's President Hashemi Rafsanjani. At conference he hailed "new order" and said "cooperation should replace confrontation."

certain of the reaction of working people to the new course. On the last day of Ramadan in April, hundreds of thousands demonstrated in the Iranian cities in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle, as they have done since 1979. They chanted the traditional slogans "Death to America" and "Death to Israel." This year funds were also raised during the demonstrations for refugees from Iraq.

The reluctance of top officials to discuss their course stems from the fact that they were able to take power and hold it based on the promise to the toilers that they were the most consistent anti-imperialist fighters. The Islamic society that they were building, they argued, would be superior to that of the capitalist West or countries calling themselves socialist, as in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

In his Friday prayer meeting address, Rafsanjani thanked all those who have been helping with the relief effort for war refugees from Iraq. He singled out Germany as being in the forefront of the relief effort. German troops were dispatched to Iran as part of the relief operation.

According to Rafsanjani, Iran spends \$15 million a day in refugee relief, which so far has amounted to \$600-\$700 million. He listed refugee aid, the need for reconstruction projects in the aftermath of Iraq's eight-year war against Iran, and the replenishing of military hardware as reasons why working peoples' expectations for improved conditions after the war could not be met.

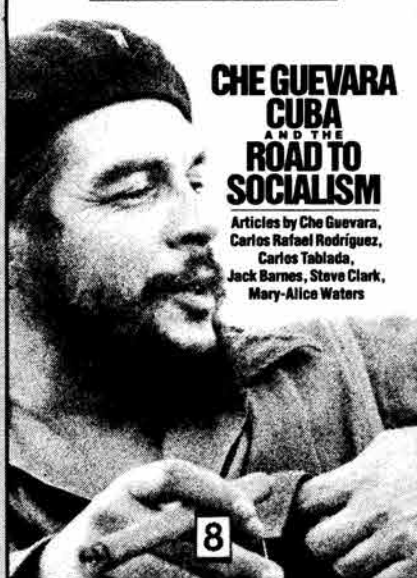
Rafsanjani also lashed out at those who are "sowing doubts in the minds of the working people" that "the revolution has lost its color." The U.S. government, he argued, is trying to create a schism between the people

Continued on Page 12

NEW

New International

A MAGAZINE OF MARXIST POLITICS AND THEORY



New International no. 8

## CHE GUEVARA, CUBA, AND THE ROAD TO SOCIALISM

Articles by Ernesto Che Guevara, Carlos Rafael Rodríguez, Carlos Tablada, Mary-Alice Waters, Steve Clark, Jack Barnes

An exchange of views on the lasting place of Che Guevara's perspective for the building of socialism, which relied on initiative and leadership by working people rather than on bureaucratic methods of planning and management. Includes two articles contributed by Guevara in 1963-64 to a debate on the course of the Cuban revolution. \$10.00

Order from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12 or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please add \$3 postage and handling.

## Garment strikers in Massachusetts say no to 12 percent wage cut

BY DAVE FERGUSON

LAWRENCE, Massachusetts — "Twelve percent is too much" is a common refrain among 360 garment workers on strike at the Greico Bros. factory here.

A manufacturer of men's suits, the company is demanding a 12 percent pay cut with a subsequent three-year freeze on wages from members of Local 187 of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU). Management originally sought a 30 percent cut.

Voting to reject the 12 percent proposal by a 170-to-168 margin the workers went out on strike June 3. Although seven people crossed the picket line the first day of the strike, two weeks later only one is scabbing.

An informal network of translators keeps communication among the unionists flowing in Spanish, Chinese, English, and other lan-

guages. Spirits are kept high with singing and chanting. Strikers bring guitars and other musical instruments to the picket line. Passing motorists frequently honk their horns in support.

Union officials have made a counteroffer of a 6 percent wage cut, to be renegotiated after one year. A federal mediator is meeting with company and union representatives.

Workers at Greico have been paid between \$8 and \$9 an hour on average. Since union strike benefits are only \$50 a week, many workers face immediate hardship, especially single women with children and workers with large families.

Pickers express a determination to keep the company shut down until it withdraws the steep takeback demands.

Dave Ferguson is a member of ACTWU Local 1 in Boston.

# UN rejects lifting sanctions against Iraq

Continued from front page  
\$1 billion.

Oil production in Iraq has increased to 700,000 barrels a day, according to the Middle East Economic Survey. This is a fraction of the 3.14 million barrels a day produced before the start of the war.

## Appalling impact of the war

*Time* magazine, in a June 10 article titled "Watching Children Starve to Death," presents an appalling picture of the continuing impact of the U.S.-war and economic embargo against the Iraqi people.

*Time* correspondent Nina Burleigh accompanied a delegation sponsored by the Arab-American Medical Association that toured hospitals in Iraq at the end of May.

In Baghdad's Qadissiya hospital, Burleigh reports, 10 children are admitted each day with "marasmus—an advanced state of malnutrition that causes the child's face and body to become as shriveled and haggard as those of a wizened old man. Other children have grotesquely swollen bellies—a symptom of the starvation syndrome known as kwashiorkor."

According to *Time*, some hospitals in Iraq were damaged or destroyed by U.S. and allied bombing. Three hospitals in Baghdad and two in the southern city of Basra were hit. The only hospital in the country that performed kidney transplants and advanced heart surgery was completely destroyed.

Further damage occurred to some hospitals during the heavy fighting between Shiite rebels and Iraqi government troops in March.

The biggest problem, however, is not from the physical damage to health facilities, Burleigh notes, but from the continued lack of electricity. Incubators, refrigerators to store blood and medicine, operating rooms, and intensive-care units all depend on a stable source of power.

The growing medical catastrophe is affecting the whole country.

In the northern Kurdish city of Erbil, all premature infants are dying, Burleigh says. There are no working incubators.

## Mothers have stopped lactating

"In hospitals where children lie dying of malnutrition, mothers hovering over cribs hold out a hand when they see a foreign

visitor and beg, 'Haleeb, haleeb,' (milk, milk)," the *Time* reporter writes.

Burleigh's eyewitness account confirms a May 15 report by Prince Sadrudin Aga Khan, who is in charge of UN activities in the Arab-Persian Gulf. He noted at the time that many mothers were "so poorly nourished they have stopped lactating."

"We're seeing a pre-famine and pre-epidemic situation in the south," says David Holdridge, a director of Catholic Relief. "We don't see the crisis point yet, but we're concerned if there's no change in two to three months, we'll be seeing widespread cholera, typhoid, and dysentery."

According to UN officials, many individuals are subsisting on about 1,100 calories a day. An internal UNICEF report on a late May inspection tour of Iraq said that most rural areas in the south had no electricity or safe water "at all."

Destruction of much of Iraq's physical infrastructure continues to hamper attempts to rebuild the country. Iraq's housing and construction minister told *New York Times* correspondent Alan Cowell that allied bombing had destroyed or damaged "78 fixed-span bridges, 26 pontoon bridges, 18 railway bridges" along with "public buildings, homes, all telephone exchanges, as well as refineries and power stations."

## 'Where is the humanity in all this?'

The continued sanctions, the prohibition on the sale of Iraqi oil, and the freezing of Iraq's foreign assets have forced the price of food to skyrocket. Iraq traditionally imports three-quarters of its overall food requirements including 2.3 million tons of wheat annually, all of which are jeopardized by the continuing sanctions.

Prices of many products such as meat, have doubled or more since August 1990. Basic foods are rationed.

"Where is the humanity in all this? Where are the American human rights?" asked Mustafa Fayek, reconstruction manager of a power plant in Baghdad.

"The war is over. We are meeting the allies' demands," he told the *New York Times*. "So why make our children starve and die in hospitals with no medicine?"

Meanwhile, 4,000 U.S. and allied troops have withdrawn from southern Turkey and

the U.S.-controlled enclave in northern Iraq in the past three weeks, according to an Associated Press report.

One of the largest decreases has been in the U.S. forces, who now number 9,200, down from 11,500 in late May. There are still some 3,700 British troops and 2,100 French troops there.

Kurds in Dohuk and Zakho, within the U.S.-enclave, have been holding almost daily demonstrations. They are worried about the return of Iraqi army and police units after a U.S. withdrawal.

Cmdr. John Woodhouse, a spokesperson for U.S. Incirlik base in Turkey, denied that a mass withdrawal had begun. "Western aid officials," AP stated, "said the pull-out had already begun but that the allies were exiting quietly in an attempt to avoid upsetting the Kurds."

## Greenpeace report on the war

The full extent about the death and destruction wreaked during the U.S.-led war against Iraq will never be known. A detailed report released last month by the environmental organization Greenpeace highlights some of the available facts.

Greenpeace estimates that 100,000-120,000 Iraqi soldiers died since the start of the conflict in August 1990, half of them during the final 100-hour massacre — while fleeing Kuwait toward Basra in February.

One high-ranking allied military official in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, described an attack



Iraqi child suffering from advanced state of malnutrition. Baghdad hospital admits 10 such cases each day.

on an Iraqi Republican Guard division during the "100 hours." Ten thousand members of the guard were probably killed.

"No prisoners were known to have been taken," he said, "and no soldiers were seen fleeing the battlefield."

Some 2,000 Iraqi soldiers alone died in a two hour U.S. attack March 1 — three days after the beginning of a provisional cease-fire. The fighting began after a massive Iraqi convoy attempted to head across the Euphrates River. "I guess they were just trying to get away," one U.S. soldier said.

The environmental organization summarizes the impact on those who survived the war, including Pakistani, Palestinian, Filipino, Chinese, and Egyptian immigrants. "Over two million foreign workers have returned to their countries of origin from Iraq and Kuwait — herded through 'transit camps' to countries with long-standing economic problems and severe unemployment," Greenpeace states.

"The intangible human losses — quite simply — cannot be counted," the report concludes.

## Court decision against farm workers union a blow to labor movement

BY BRUCE VALDE

LOS ANGELES — In a blow against the labor movement, the California Supreme Court let stand a \$1.7 million damage award against the United Farm Workers of America.

The money was awarded to Maggio, Inc., a major Imperial Valley lettuce grower for "damages" stemming from a bitterly fought 1979 farm workers strike.

With accumulated interest, the penalty against the union now comes to \$2.4 million.

Maggio won the award in 1986 when a judge held that the union had created a "climate of violence" which prevented the company from recruiting enough scabs to fully harvest its crops.

During the strike, one unionist was killed and others wounded by gunfire while on the picket line.

The decision against the union was upheld by an appeals court and left standing with the May 16 refusal of the top court to review it.

Dianna Lyons, a UFW attorney, assailed the award as a blow against the right to strike. She said the union would appeal it to the U.S. Supreme Court.

# Kuwaiti regime sentences 8 to death

BY SETH GALINSKY

Kuwait's martial law court has sentenced at least 8 people to die by public hanging.

In a June 15 hearing the court ordered the death penalty for six journalists, including one Kuwaiti woman, accused of working for *Al Nida*, a newspaper Iraqi forces published during their occupation of Kuwait. Ten employees of the paper were sentenced to 10 years in prison and eight were acquitted.

An estimated 440 people have been charged with collaborating with the Iraqi occupation. Most are Palestinians, Iraqis, Yemenis, Sudanese, Egyptians, or so-called "stateless" persons. Less than 30 percent of the people who live in Kuwait are allowed to be citizens.

On the first day of the trials, May 19, the government provided no evidence or witnesses and did not allow government-appointed defense attorneys to meet with defendants. After an international uproar over the crass denial of all semblance of democratic rights, the Kuwaiti government began to allow the accused to present their own witnesses and their attorneys to cross-examine prosecution witnesses.

But the June 15 proceedings showed that the changes are cosmetic.

The *New York Times* noted that "little evidence" was presented against Usama Sehail Abdalla Hussein, a Jordanian. Accused of working for *Al Nida*, his name does

not appear on a list of the paper's employees. A witness testified that Hussein had opposed the Iraqi occupation and had participated in actions against it. To no avail. Hussein was sentenced to death.

The kangaroo courts are just one tool of the ruling monarchy to punish those it exploits. Cable News Network reported June 17 that the government plans to deport all of the 170,000 Palestinians still living in Kuwait. The Palestinians have been "tainted" by contact with the Palestine Liberation Organization, the regime said.

## Vietnam government objects to U.S. demands for normalizing relations

The government of Vietnam has objected to conditions Washington has set for normalizing relations. The conditions are linked to a settlement of the fighting in Cambodia and the formation of a new government there that would give the Khmer Rouge veto power.

Headed by Pol Pot, the Khmer Rouge ruled Cambodia from 1975-78 and was responsible for killing at least a million people. Their rule came to an end when Cambodian resistance fighters and Vietnamese troops toppled the regime. Vietnam withdrew its soldiers from Cambodia in 1989.

Khmer Rouge troops, joined by military forces of two other former regimes, have waged a more than decade-long fight to overthrow the new Cambodian government now led by Prime Minister Hun Sen. Washington, aided by Beijing, has backed the counterrevolutionary effort, which has been unsuccessful.

The Bush administration now proposes the Cambodian government and the three counterrevolutionary armies demobilize their forces and disband them. If it gets its way, the administration says it will then

consider establishing full diplomatic relations with Vietnam, lifting its trade embargo, and granting economic benefits.

The information on Washington's plan for normalizing relations with Vietnam was made public by Bobby Muller, executive director of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation. Muller visited Vietnam in May and was given a copy of the U.S. proposals, as well as a letter to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker from Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, objecting to the U.S. terms.

Thach said in his letter that "the United States is more interested in resolving the internal affairs of Cambodia than in normalizing bilateral [U.S.-Vietnam] relations and has allowed the bilateral relations to be held hostage to a veto right of the Khmer Rouge."

A memorandum by the Cambodian foreign ministry to the U.S. State Department also objected to Washington's conditions. "Cambodians will resolutely not accept themselves being used as a card in the negotiations on the relations between other countries," the memorandum said.



Emir of Kuwait, in foreground.

# Police still hound victim Rodney King

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — Rodney King, the police brutality victim, feared for his life when he was subjected to a second confrontation with the cops, a Los Angeles police report states.

Two vice-squad cops claim they followed King May 28 when he parked his car in a carport after picking up a man the police describe as a male prostitute.

When the cops approached his car, King sped away. Seconds later, he flagged down another squad car.

The two cops who followed King into the carport claim that as he fled he tried to run one of them down.

According to police reports obtained by the *Los Angeles Times*, King told the squad car cops he flagged down, and who arrested him: "Those guys have guns. . . I thought it was the big chance for the police to kill me. . . I get paranoid. You know how they are."

The district attorney has asked the state attorney general to decide if a charge of assault with a deadly weapon — his car — should be pressed against King.

Prosecutors said it would be improper for them to file felony charges against King when they are prosecuting four cops in his March 3 beating.

An amateur's videotaping of that assault triggered a public outcry and the demand for the ouster of Police Chief Daryl Gates.

In the wake of King's second arrest, his attorney, Steven Lerman, charged that the Los Angeles cops and other police agencies have subjected his client to around-the-clock surveillance. He described the second arrest as a "setup," designed to smear King.

When taken into custody King also stated he felt he had been set up, the police report said.

Meanwhile, it was announced that a "people's grand jury" has been established to put the spotlight on the many abuses committed by the city police and by the county sheriff's department.

After compiling evidence, the body will hear testimony from police victims and others at a June 29 public hearing in the Black community.

This will be headed up by Maxine Waters, a member of Congress from this area, and Ramsey Clark, the former attorney general.

Carol Watson, local president of the National Lawyers Guild and a specialist in police brutality cases, said she and others have been compiling evidence of police abuses for years and felt that with the developments around the King beating it was timely to put this evidence in the public record.

As reported by the *Times*, initiators of the mock grand jury said they had no confidence in the Christopher Commission. Headed by Warren Christopher, a veteran politico, the commission was appointed by Mayor



Militant/Lisa Ahlberg

Los Angeles protest following police beating of Rodney King. Cops have tailed King since outcry over that beating, his attorney says.

Thomas Bradley to probe misconduct in the wake of the angry protest against the brutalization of King.

In an earlier development, the police disclosed May 23 that they were conducting an

"expanded" criminal investigation of Mayor Bradley's office. This came after a press report that a Bradley aide had used city offices and facilities to promote the campaign of a local candidate favored by the mayor.

The police said they had been probing such charges since before the King beating.

Meanwhile, Chief Gates denied that the police are blackmailing members of the city council. The charge was made after all members of the council except one opposed moves to oust Gates.

Several years ago, it was disclosed that the cops were maintaining a secret file on public officials and on groups and individuals deemed to be critical of the police.

The police say they no longer engage in such practices.

A rally was held in front of police headquarters June 1 to support a petition campaign to qualify a ballot referendum for the recall of Gates.

The recall drive is being promoted by various civil liberties and civil rights groups and a number of politicians.

About 200 people attended the Saturday rally.

## Socialists address Minnesota farmers

BY CANDACE WAGNER

AUSTIN, Minnesota — Over coffee and eggs 20 farmers and farm youth spoke with Sylvia Giesbrecht, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Austin School Board, at a 6:30 a.m. breakfast business meeting of Future Farmers of America alumnae.

"The war waged against the workers and farmers of Iraq is just one side of a two-sided war," Giesbrecht said. "The other side of this war is waged against working people in the United States. Funds for education are being cut as part of a campaign to push back gains we have won in struggle. The ruling rich are driven to make us pay for their economic crisis."

Giesbrecht put forward the need for an alliance of the union movement and working farmers to fight against union-busting, farm foreclosures, attacks on democratic rights, and war.

After speaking, the candidate had a lengthy discussion with a member of the United Auto Workers who raises sheep. "I guess someone had to stop Saddam Hussein," he said. But as the discussion unfolded, he voiced concern that, given the devastation of Iraq, "maybe we didn't have any business being there in the first place."

"How do we resolve the problems we have?" he asked Giesbrecht. "Where in this world is there a country that's any different?" The socialist candidate pointed to the gains made by workers and farmers in Cuba in their revolution.

## Cop racism evidence allowed in King trial

Continued from front page

can be heard in the now famous bystander's videotaping of the incident. Police Commander Rick Dinse responded that he had listened carefully, and repeatedly, to the tape — after the sound had been "enhanced" by the FBI — and could hear only "unintelligible remarks" where Lerman heard slurs.

But in early May, a local TV station replayed the videotape, this time independently audio-enhanced. There, the TV audience could hear a voice shouting, "Nigger, hands behind your back!"

Asked about the discrepancy between the two tapes, Dinse responded, "I can't explain that at all."

Meanwhile, attorney Lerman said that King intended to testify at the trial despite the severe physical and psychological trauma he has suffered as a result of the beating.

"He wants to see these officers punished," Lerman said, "so this doesn't happen to anyone else."

Gale Shangold, also an SWP candidate for school board, addressed a meeting of 20 Austin high school students in the Future Farmers of America. After listening with interest to the candidate, one student asked, "What does war have to do with the Austin School Board?"

Shangold described the world economic crisis of capitalism and why the war in the Mideast was an attempt by Washington to stabilize this deepening crisis through a massive military assault against the people of Iraq.

At home, "their economic crisis drives them, under the guise of a 'budget crisis,' to cut funding for education and other social services," she said.

These speaking engagements were part of a whirlwind final week of campaigning before the May 21 election. On May 14, Shangold and Giesbrecht took part in an hour-long television call-in show with the other candidates.

One question, called in late in the show, was, "What would have been done to the students at Ellis Middle School who held a walkout in January protesting the war?"

While the question flustered another candidate, Giesbrecht said, "100,000 to 200,000 Iraqis died in that war. These students should be applauded for the leadership role they exhibited and their sense of human solidarity."

Both candidates campaigned inside the gate of the big Hormel packinghouse and to workers at Quality Pork, where Shangold works. United Food and Commercial Workers Local 9 organizes both plants.

The candidates got a good response from old friends and from those hearing about the socialist campaign for the first time. Several bought copies of the *Militant* newspaper to learn more about the campaign's proposals. Shangold and a campaign supporter asked for support for the socialist campaign at the monthly union meeting of Local 9.

Austin high school students listened with interest to candidate Giesbrecht and supporters during their lunch break the day before the election. While most students felt that the war in the Mideast was right, many wanted to talk and a number voiced strong opposition.

One young woman, who said that the war was "stupid," argued, "This country is going to the dogs. My father was falsely charged with arson and they searched our house without even having a warrant." Her friend pitched in to buy a copy of the *Militant*.

The final week of the campaign culminated in a Militant Labor Forum titled

"Education is a Right." Socialist candidate Shangold spoke on the platform with Bill Bachelder, a student at Austin Community College who is in a fight against cutbacks in the community college system. John Priebe, a student at the University of Minnesota — Waseca Campus, also spoke. Priebe has been part of a fight of students, farmers, and others to stop the closing of the Waseca Campus, an agricultural college vital to southern Minnesota working farmers.

The program ended with a lively discussion of the role of both the Democratic and Republican parties in leading the drive for cutbacks in education, in support for war in the Mideast, and assaults on democratic rights.

## Cleveland candidates defend busing, desegregation

BY SUSAN HOPE

CLEVELAND — Socialist candidates for Cleveland Board of Education have sounded an alert on the attempted overturn of court-ordered desegregation. A sweeping, citywide busing plan here, which began in 1978, is the target of stepped-up bipartisan attacks.

Socialist Workers Party candidates Dean Athans and Jon Hillson and their supporters have distributed hundreds of leaflets at recent activities, including a Summit on Education, a community hearing on proposed budget cutbacks, a union-sponsored rally demanding health care for working people, an abortion rights protest, and at area plant gates.

The candidates spoke with hundreds of people about busing, Supreme Court attacks on abortion, congressional blows against affirmative-action quotas, and the mounting horror in Iraq as a result of the U.S. bombing and slaughter earlier this year. Both candidates are members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

"The budget-cutting attack on public education," their campaign statement says, "is part of a broader offensive against the rights, wages, and standard of living won by working people in decades of struggle, in our unions and in the Black and Latino communities."

Hundreds of participants in the Education Summit, a city-sponsored gathering to assess public education performance, received the statement. Many of them were interested in finding candidates who publicly state they support busing and desegregation.

While a recent poll showed a majority of the city's Black community continues to

support desegregation, along with a minority of whites, virtually no voice has been raised in defense of the desegregation court order.

The summit capped a month-long front-page series in the *Plain Dealer* that blamed the "crisis of public education" on the court order.

"Far from being the problem, busing has advanced equality in the schools," the socialist candidates state, "improving the quality of education for all students." An overturn of the order, based on recent Supreme Court rulings, would be a blow to the "solidarity working people need to wage a united fightback in defense of public education and equality."

On June 6, Ohio Gov. George Voinovich announced plans to put the Cleveland Board of Education in receivership to drive forward the dismantling of desegregation. Two legislators, one a Democrat, the other a Republican, immediately stated they would co-sponsor the required legislation.

On June 9, the *Plain Dealer* called for a "return to neighborhood schools," stating that "busing to achieve integration within the Cleveland public school system is an idea that has outlived its usefulness."

"We protest this latest attack on desegregation," SWP candidate Dean Athans stated, "and oppose any effort to void the right of working people to vote for the candidates of their choice on the board of education."

Supporters of the SWP campaign are moving ahead with plans for an ambitious July petitioning campaign to win places for their candidates on the fall ballot.

# Conference shows gov't shift in Iran

Continued from Page 9

and the government of Iran. He said if necessary he would divulge names of those involved.

The speech at the Friday prayer meeting, an event that attracts supporters and functionaries of the regime, amounted to a warning to those within the regime who oppose the current course to remain silent. It is feared that if a widespread public discussion of the shift toward overt accommodation with imperialism broke out, many working people and those who continue to follow the course now being discarded would express opposition.

## Meeting with expatriates criticized

Already some dissenting voices have been raised. One of these is Hojatolislam Ahmad Khomeini, the son of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who ruled Iran from 1979 until his death in 1989. Ahmad Khomeini denounced a meeting between Mohammad Adeli of the Central Bank, Dr. Mohsen Nourbakhsh, minister of finance, and 450 Iranian expatriate investors and professionals in May in New York.

The officials complimented the exiles on their business achievements in the United States and informed them that all legal obstacles to foreign investment in Iran have been removed. They were invited to invest in Iran and were assured that they could enter and leave the country at will. The May 29 *Kayhan Hava* quoted Khomeini as saying that "holding meetings with fugitive capitalists turns the country into the Iran of the shah's era," and that this violated the legacy of his father.

Some criticisms were also voiced in the Majles (Parliament), which is dominated by the so-called "radical" faction. This is a heterogeneous, mainly petty-bourgeois faction that tends to oppose the government's "pro-Western" orientation, but offers no program of its own.

This year the Majles passed a bill qualifying some workers for cash assistance toward their rent, which is extremely high in the cities. The deputies also approved the extension of a law that, according to Islamic code, implements the death penalty by stoning the accused to death. The Council of Guardians, the body with veto power over the Majles, rejected both bills.

The foreign policy shift coincides with policies being implemented inside the country. Shares in many companies that came under government ownership after the revolution are being sold off to private capitalists. The Ministry of Industry announced that this year 10 times as many stocks in government-owned factories will be sold off to the private sector as last year.

The Government is also lifting price controls and is doing away with subsidies on basic necessities introduced during the Iran-Iraq war, when the rate of inflation averaged above 30 percent.

Inflation now lingers around 20 percent and unemployment is as high. In fighting back against the conditions of poverty, workers have waged some successful strikes at individual plants around the country, despite the regime's intolerance of such activity.

## "Cuba Will Never Adopt Capitalist Methods"

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## MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

The Militant Labor Forum is a weekly free-speech meeting for workers, farmers, youth, and others. All those seeking to advance the fight against injustice and exploitation should attend and participate in these discussions on issues of importance to working people.

At the Militant Labor Forum you can express your opinion, listen to the views of fellow fighters, and exchange ideas on how to best advance the interests of workers and farmers the world over.

### MASSACHUSETTS Boston

**The Stakes for Labor in the GE Contract Fight.** Speakers: Russell Davis, Socialist Workers Party, member International Union of Electronic Workers Local 201 at GE's Lynn, Massachusetts, plant. Sat., June 22, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

### MINNESOTA Austin

**Defend Abortion Rights!** Speakers to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 22, 7:30 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2.50. Tel: (507) 433-3461.

### NEBRASKA Omaha

**Right to Abortion Under Attack.** Speakers: Heather Williams, Burke High School student; Hilda Cuzco, Socialist Workers Party, member United Food and Commercial Workers; and others. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 22, 7 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (402) 553-0245.

### PENNSYLVANIA Pittsburgh

**Washington's Assault on Iraq: No Victory for U.S. Rulers.** Speaker: Jon Hillson, Socialist Workers Party, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 168C. Sat., June 22, 7 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

### WEST VIRGINIA Charleston

**The Deepening Crisis in the Soviet Union.** Speaker: Linda Joyce, Socialist Workers Party. Sat, June 22, 7:30 p.m. 1586 E Washington St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (304) 345-3040.

### BRITAIN London

**Imperialist Devastation in Iraq.** Speaker:

Marnie Anderson, eyewitness report and slide-show from trip to Iraq. Fri., June 21, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Tel: 71-401-2409.

### Manchester

**War and Depression: Is This the Future?** Speaker: representative, Communist League. Sat., June 21, 7:30 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Tel: 061-839 1766.

### Sheffield

**The Crisis Facing Working Farmers.** Speakers: Andy Welford, working farmer from Cleveland; representative, Communist League. Fri., June 21, 7:30 p.m. 2A Waverley House, 10 Joiner St. Donation: £1. Tel: 0742-729469.

### CANADA

#### Toronto

**Deepening Crisis of the Soviet Bureaucracy: A Problem for Washington; New Openings for Working People.** Speaker: John Steele, Communist League, member International Association of Machinists. Sat., June 22, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Tel: (416) 861-1399.

#### Vancouver

**Malcolm X Speaks.** Video. Sat., June 22, 7:30 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

## New York dairy farmers discuss price crisis

Continued from Page 16

capitalist enterprises, like Dairylee, Crowley, Sunnysdale, and H.P. Hood, that process the milk or make cheese, ice cream, and other milk products to sell to supermarkets and other retail stores.

Although the price paid to farmers is regulated by an extremely complex system of federal and state laws, in essence it is the big processors that dictate the price and conditions paid for raw milk.

The farmers gathered in Little Falls were looking for ways to fight back. One pointed to a recent demonstration of unionized state employees who held a demonstration of thousands in Albany, the state capital, as an example of what farmers should do.

Some farmers credit actions taken in 1986 — when thousands of farmers kept milk off the market — with winning emergency legislation that temporarily raised prices.

"We should all refuse to sell our milk until they pay us the price we need," one farmer said. "We should dump our milk." In 1986 some farmers dumped thousands of gallons of milk on the ground as part of the widespread protests.

"But look at us," replied another. "There's 430 farmers here in Herkimer county and look at how many of us are here tonight."

There was general agreement among the meeting participants that the government should pass legislation mandating that farmers receive a minimum price for milk, which would be more than the cost of production.



Militant/Jon Flanders

**Dairy farmers protest in Albany. Capitalist milk processors have kept price for milk up at supermarkets, while paying farmers 30 percent less for raw milk.**

Many of the farmers had been calling their congressmen and state representatives to try and convince them to introduce legislation that would force processing companies to pay a higher price.

At the meeting, after several hours of discussion, the farmers decided to join with other farmers around the country to go to

Washington, D.C., June 18 and 19. Those are the days that hearings have been scheduled in Congress to discuss upcoming farm bills. The farmers plan to hold a demonstration and lobby congressmen while they are there.

Bob Schwarz from New York contributed to this article.

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**You can't insult them** — North Carolina legislators declared they would not be swayed by letters from schoolchildren protesting education cuts. One senator said he threw out



Harry Ring

cards, saying, "I wish my daddy could get a hold of you" and, "You are all stupid."

**Excellent for some** — On a visit to South Africa, Margaret Thatcher, Britain's ex-prime minister and

longtime foe of anti-apartheid sanctions, saluted the "excellent arrangement" between white landowners, and Black farmworkers — who earn about £215 (\$355) a year, are denied a minimum wage, health and safety standards, jobless pay and other social benefits.

**Prices go up, but life gets cheaper** — Last year, federal regulators imposed a median (half over, half under) fine of \$890 on companies responsible for the death or serious injury of a worker. Adjusted for inflation, that's half the 1972 fine — which was nothing to brag about.

**They joined the free market** — The city of Washington, D.C., is demanding \$3 million assertedly

owed by the USSR for parking tickets. According to D.C. officials, the 250 vehicles used by the Soviet embassy average 100 tickets a day.

**Catching up with capitalism** — A group of Czech legislators on a U.S. visit have been checking out the functioning of various state legislative bodies. They professed amazement to learn that lobbyists win and dine lawmakers. In Czechoslovakia, said one, "this would be looked upon as some kind of bribe or corruption."

**Clearly a specialist in the field** — For years, Robert Gray worked for North Carolina's Department of Insurance, and was the state's chief insurance examiner. He then left for

a job with Interstate Casualty Insurance. When Interstate went bust, the state hired Gray to check out why. Now Gray and others have been indicted for swindling Interstate out of \$37 million.

**Neat getaway** — At New York's swank Southampton seaside, Dragon's Head, a king-size castle, sits on 6.5 acres of private beach front. Built by one of the Du Ponts, the asking price has run as high as \$12 million. The current owner, a reputed big-time swindler, will part with it for \$4 million. He's not readily available, but his agent can reach him.

**For the food voyeur** — "Your more discriminating customers get

enhanced appetite appeal, while you get an easy-to-prepare, upscale product that boosts margins without costing you the price of an open flame grill." — A pitch to restaurant operators for "SeaGrills," fish fillets with grill marks applied at the factory.

**No prejudice there** — Lenin is said to have observed that the capitalists will sell you the rope to hang them with. A current reminder of their nondiscriminatory approach to profit-taking is the news that an eight-page, 1842 manuscript by Karl Marx — described as rapping King Frederick IV of Prussia — is expected to fetch up to \$170,000 at a London auction.

## Event salutes political life of Duncan Williams

**“As workers fight, their eyes will open to what is going on in the world.”**

BY JIM GOTESKY AND MARGARET JAYKO

MARTINEZ, Ca. — Seventy-five friends, family members, coworkers, and members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party celebrated the political life and work of Duncan Williams at a meeting here June 2. It took place at the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) union Local 1-5 hall.

Williams, 42, was a 20-year member and supporter of the SWP and a member of OCAW Local 1-5. He died of a brain aneurysm May 22 while working as an operator at the Chevron Chemical plant in nearby Richmond. Local 1-5 Secretary-Treasurer Jim Payne welcomed participants, saying Williams had been an active member of the local.

SWP National Committee member Joel Britton, an oil worker in the Los Angeles area, explained that Williams joined the socialist movement as part of the young generation of the 1960s that revolted against the U.S. government's criminal war against the Vietnamese people.

In the heat of these struggles, Britton said, "Duncan grew from an antiwar fighter, to a revolutionist of action as a member of the Young Socialist Alliance, to being won to the consistent class-struggle outlook of the Socialist Workers Party that we know as communism."

Written greetings from SWP members John Studer and Nancy Brown recalled Williams' political activities as a student at Antioch College in Ohio. There, he was a leader of the Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam (SMC) and the Young Socialist Alliance.

As Williams drew socialist conclusions from his antiwar activities, he helped orient other young activists toward a working-class perspective in the fight against imperialist war.

In her greetings, Brown noted how Williams helped convince SMC activists to link up with workers on strike at General Elec-

tric's Evandale, Ohio, plant. The workers were striking during the war to defend their wages and working conditions.

Brown wrote that Williams had explained about the strikers, "They were fighting the same war machine that we were fighting against. And as these workers fight, their eyes will open to what is going on in the world."

### Putting the party first

When Williams joined the SWP in 1970, said Britton, he put building the party before anything else. "Duncan's legacy centers on the example he set for others. He made himself available to move from city-to-city to build the party, to learn more so that he could give more... so he could help the SWP become more of a national party and reflect geographically of the very diverse working class of this country."

Williams quit job after job, Britton recalled, when asked to work full time for the cause: for the SMC, National Peace Action Coalition, Political Rights Defense Fund, Héctor Marroquín Defense Committee, Pathfinder publishers, and the Socialist Workers 1980 presidential election campaign.

Williams helped bring into print, in permanent book-form, important political weapons for working-class fighters. As a member of the Pathfinder editorial staff, he helped produce the 14-volume series of the writings of Leon Trotsky, a central leader of the 1917 Russian Revolution. He also helped edit *The Balkan Wars (1912-13)*, Trotsky's war correspondence. Britton pointed out that this volume has great relevance today, shedding light on the new round of wars shaping up in Yugoslavia and other Balkan countries.

### Workers', farmers' struggles in Nebraska

In the early 1980s, Duncan left his full-time assignment in New York to help build a party branch in Lincoln, Nebraska. SWP National Committee member Joe Swanson told meeting participants that YSA members in Lincoln had made contact with some unionists like Swanson.

When Duncan arrived, Swanson was a radical rail worker who had been active in the United Transportation Union for 20 years. "It was the political education on revolutionary continuity back to Karl Marx and Frederick Engels that Duncan helped to organize and lead that won me and others to commu-

nist politics. Duncan helped guide the new branch on how to function in the class struggle," said Swanson.

Williams attended the founding conventions of some important farmers organizations, including the North American Farm Alliance. He wrote about them for the *Militant*, and strove to help build an alliance between militant workers and family farmers fighting foreclosures of their farms by the banks.

Working in Lincoln, Williams also helped the party participate in the meatpacking strikes — paving the way for the SWP's decision to build a national fraction in the United Food and Commercial Workers union.

Swanson described how Williams headed a sales and reporting team to an Iowa Beef Processing plant on strike some 120 miles from Lincoln. Swanson and Williams drove there every week, averaging sales of 30-50 *Militants* at the plant.

### West Virginia coalfields

Williams' first assignment when he arrived in Charleston in 1987, explained SWP member Toba Singer, was writing *Militant* articles on the frame-up trial of miners involved in a strike against the A.T. Massey coal company.

Williams introduced the *Militant* to the miners and their family members who also attended the trial; several became subscribers. And he helped organize *Militant* distributors to visit mining communities, thereby

aiding the Charleston branch and the entire party to strengthen knowledge of, and involvement with, the United Mine Workers union, said Singer.

"The opportunity to do politics together with union refinery workers was first and foremost on Duncan's mind when he hired on at Chevron," wrote longtime SWP leader Tom Leonard. Williams took advantage of that opportunity, said Britton, as part of the party's campaign against imperialism and its brutal war against the Iraqi people. Williams attended the meeting last December of SWP members and supporters in the OCAW that prepared these revolutionary unionists to carry out this campaign. Britton reported that Williams helped organize a discussion in his OCAW local on Washington's reactionary war aims, distributed the *Militant* to his coworkers, and participated in antiwar street protest.

Meeting participants donated \$960 to a fund to finance the publication of the Marxist magazine *New International*, including a special issue devoted to the war and what the war showed about world politics.

Poet and author Piri Thomas — who worked with Williams in defense of framed-up union activist Mark Curtis — read two poems, accompanied by flutist Richard Lesnick who is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 1781. Chevron oil worker Mike Baer and railroad worker and SWP member Tamar Rosenfeld chaired the meeting.

## — 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

### THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People  
June 27, 1966 Price 10c

[The following statement from Cuban Foreign Minister Raúl Roa was sent to UN Secretary General U Thant on June 11.]

On the instructions of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba, I venture earnestly to draw your attention to the statements which Mr. René Schick, President of Nicaragua, made at United Nations headquarters on June 8, 1966.

Mr. Schick stated the following, word for word, in reply to a question from a correspondent as to whether Nicaragua would be prepared to make its territory available once again for an armed invasion of Cuba: "Against Cuba, no; against the Government of Fidel Castro, any time, under any circumstances, for I consider it a grave menace to the Western Hemisphere."

This shameful offer by the President of Nicaragua confirms once again that the sole and true executor of the policy of subversion, aggression and intervention in this part of the world and, at the same time, the center of the international conspiracy against Cuba is the imperialist government of the United States, and that the agents of that policy are its puppet governments in Latin America.

### THE MILITANT

Official Weekly Organ of the Socialist Workers Party  
June 28, 1941

At 5:30 A.M. on June 22, Nazi Germany

launched a fateful attack on the Soviet Union. Hitler opened a new front in the East stretching from the Baltic to the Black Sea. In a drastic shift of policy he embarked upon a campaign to win the wheat and oil of Russia before coming to final grips with Britain.

In this column last week we said that a German-Soviet clash at this time was unlikely because we believed Stalin would make fresh concessions rather than risk Nazi attack.

We considered that Hitler would go the length of an attack on the Soviet Union only if his need of Russian wheat and oil were truly desperate and his attack on Britain stymied. All apparent evidence last week suggested this was not yet the case. But not enough evidence was in. Hitler's move across the Soviet borders proves that.

As we pointed out last week, there are certain concessions that Stalin could not make, because they "would lead to the same result as a war, eventual destruction of Stalinist power in the Soviet Union at the hands of the Nazis and the internal reaction which Hitler would surely sponsor once he got a foothold."

Thus, it now appears, nothing could satisfy Hitler short of a military defeat of the Red Army or its equivalent in surrender without war. He chose the path of military conquest in preference to a new, insecure deal with Stalin.

The very fact that [Hitler] would embark upon so vast a project, however, proves also that he needs the economic resources of the Soviet Union far more urgently than was generally realized. Hitler has not reversed his war strategy because of some sudden aberration. He has done so because his drive of conquest has made it unavoidable.



Militant/Seth Galinsky  
Putting final touches on inaugural issue of Spanish-language Marxist magazine, *Nueva Internacional*. From left: volunteer translator Juan Villagómez; staff member Selva Nebbia; editor Luis Madrid.

## Kuwait's kangaroo courts

The "liberation" of Kuwait. Restoration of its rightful rulers to power. An end to the rape of a people.

U.S. President George Bush claimed these were central goals of the U.S.-led war in the Arab-Persian Gulf.

But as every worker knows, words often have two meanings, depending on who says them and who they're talking to.

The kangaroo courts in Kuwait show the real face of imperialist justice and liberation. One man sentenced to 15 years in jail for wearing a T-shirt with a picture of Saddam Hussein. A 55-year-old Jordanian woman sentenced to death for failing to close the girls' high school she ran; just one of many facing public hanging. Routine torture and beatings of prisoners. Tens of thousands of Palestinians and other long-time residents of Kuwait facing imminent deportation.

The emir, the crown prince, and the sheiks of the corrupt Kuwaiti monarchy fled their oil-rich kingdom as soon as the Iraqi army invaded in August 1990. They didn't hold their ground and fight for national sovereignty. They headed as fast as they could for their resort and luxury hotels in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Europe.

Returned to power by the tanks, bombs, and bayonets of the U.S.-led alliance, the cowardly Sabah royal family harks back to another epoch. The trials they are now presiding over are meant to terrorize the more than 70 percent of Kuwait's population that is denied citizenship and basic human rights but does all the work and, unlike the Sabahs, suffered through the Iraqi occupation.

The real power behind the throne in Kuwait is not the monarchy with its oil fields, but U.S. imperialism. There are some 5,000 U.S. troops and advisers stationed there, along with 40,000 Saudi troops. With no real army of its own, the corrupt Kuwaiti monarchy wouldn't last a day without U.S. backing.

Working people around the world should be at the forefront of demanding an end to the witch-hunt in Kuwait, an end to the planned mass deportations, and freedom for those accused or convicted by the kangaroo courts.

While preparing for war, President Bush repeatedly claimed that the measures he was taking were not directed against the people of Iraq, but against their ruler Saddam Hussein. This was a bald-faced lie.

At least 170,000 Iraqi children face death as a result of the U.S.-led bombing raids and continued economic sanctions. Malnutrition is so widespread that many mothers have stopped lactating. Without an immediate end to the embargo and sanctions the Iraqi people face a cataclysm.

The harshest words in any language can only weakly describe the heartless cruelty imperialism has unleashed against the Iraqi people. Not content with what it has already wrought, Washington wants to maintain the embargo and place further restrictions on Iraq to punish its people.

The imperialist onslaught should be answered. Working people around the world should demand an end to the sanctions against Iraq.

## Keep South Africa sanctions

Working people worldwide must stand with their sisters and brothers in South Africa and demand that the sanctions on that country be maintained.

The revolutionary struggle in South Africa to overthrow apartheid has forced the Pretoria regime to make some important concessions but apartheid remains intact and a fight to overturn it is still needed.

Apartheid is more than just a set of laws on the books. It is the monstrously unequal social relations that dominate the entirety of South African society down to the smallest details of an individual's life.

In addition, many of the regime's concessions are purposely made to appear more far-reaching than they are. The recent decision to scrap the system of racial classifications is an example. It applies only to newborn South African citizens. Anyone who is already racially classified will remain so until a new constitution is written. The law does not effect the 39 million people now living in South Africa.

Another example is the decision that whites-only public schools can be integrated. The catch is that a 72 percent vote in favor of desegregation is required of the parents at the school.

While every apartheid law removed from the books is a victory for the workers and farmers of South Africa, providing more political space in which to deepen the struggle, removing the laws is not synonymous with ending apartheid — especially when qualifications and debilitating limitations are added by the apartheid regime.

Left to itself, the capitalist apartheid system and South African President F.W. de Klerk's reactionary regime will continue to recreate apartheid in fact, even while they dismantle aspects of it in law. Until the vast majority of those who suffer directly from apartheid's brutality have

their say and can place their stamp on the country's laws and social relations, this will be the case.

For real change in South Africa apartheid must be overturned root and branch. Affirmative action measures must be implemented on a massive scale to aid the vast majority of the population who are its victims. It must not only be legal for Blacks to own land, a massive land reform must be undertaken. Land must be freely redistributed to all those who wish to work it, backed up by cheap credit and other measures benefiting those who want to farm.

This will not be done by de Klerk and his apartheid National Party passing laws that it alone debates and discusses without the participation of the Black majority.

Blacks in South Africa are still denied the right to vote on — let alone debate and discuss on an equal basis — the laws and conditions that effect their lives. Black political prisoners still languish in jail for fighting against the repressive regime. Blacks are still subjected to police attacks and apartheid-inspired violence. Blacks still suffer from the extreme defacto segregation that exists throughout the country.

Sanctions have worked and are working. This is one of the reasons the apartheid regime is trying so hard to end them. Sanctions are the way that concrete international pressure can be brought to bear upon the capitalist rulers of South Africa.

The African National Congress calls for a maintenance of the sanctions. It is fighting for an interim government and a constituent assembly, the only road to a nonracial democratic South Africa.

Labor unions, civil rights organizations, student groups, and others should demand that the sanctions be maintained. We should act on the words of Nelson Mandela and "intensify the struggle to abolish apartheid."

## New weapon for fighters

The inaugural issue of the Spanish-language Marxist magazine *Nueva Internacional* has just come off the press. With its publication, a new and important weapon has been added to the arsenal of Marxist literature available for those whose first language is Spanish.

The 384-page issue features the article "The Opening Guns of World War III," as well as "1945: When U.S. Troops Said 'No!'" and "Lessons from the Iran-Iraq War."

These materials address the big questions confronted by working people today — the deepening worldwide capitalist economic crisis; the government-employer attacks on our democratic rights, unions, and livelihoods; and the march toward wars.

*Nueva Internacional* no. 1 presents an analysis of the assault by Washington and its allies against Iraq — from the economic sanctions to the massacre of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi workers and farmers in uniform — and the social and economic catastrophe now unfolding there.

The articles explain how rivalry and competition among the world's imperialist powers is sharpening today, leading to greater instability and conflict.

Arguing against false notions spread by the big-business media and capitalist politicians that working people share common interests with the employers and their government, the magazine explains why labor must chart an independent political course rooted in an international outlook and based

on the power of fighting and transformed unions.

*Nueva Internacional* provides a political framework to understand important events that have occurred in the world since the Mideast war: from Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union to developments in Washington, Bonn, and Tokyo. It is a guide to action for workers and others involved in struggles to defend their unions and their rights.

Special mention needs to be made of the dozen volunteers from across the United States who participated in the sizeable undertaking involved in translating from English into Spanish the articles for *Nueva Internacional*, which originally appeared in *New International* no. 7.

The editors of the French-language *Nouvelle Internationale* have announced that reprints of issues no. 1 and no. 2 have also just come off the press. The first contains "Communism and the Fight for a Popular Revolutionary Government: 1848 to Today" and "Their Trotsky and Ours: Communist Continuity Today." The second features the article "The Coming Revolution in South Africa" and "The Freedom Charter" of the African National Congress of South Africa.

*Nueva Internacional* and *Nouvelle Internationale* are magazines that deserve to be read, studied, and distributed as widely as possible. Copies can be ordered from Pathfinder, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014. *Nueva Internacional* costs \$13, *Nouvelle Internationale* No. 1 and 2 cost \$11 each. Enclose \$3 for shipping and handling, \$.50 each additional copy.

## What should the labor movement fight for?

BY DOUG JENNESS

Last week I described a discussion about the political perspectives of the Socialist Workers Party's 1991 local election campaigns.

The column concluded, "What's necessary is a series of proposals to unite and mobilize working people in a fight to protect ourselves against the consequences of devastating imperialist wars and the economic ravages of the capitalist crisis."

Campaigners for the SWP's candidates will find it useful to look at the *Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis* (Pathfinder, Second ed., April 1989, \$2.50). The measures proposed in this program are aimed at overcoming the divisions within the working class that are bred and reinforced by capitalism. The principal division is between employed and unemployed workers. The *Action Program* proposes a fight by the labor movement for a

## LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

shorter workweek with no loss in pay to create jobs.

Forging unity around demands that will strengthen our fighting capacity is especially important today as the Democratic and Republican parties step up their assault on affirmative action, make it harder for working-class women to exercise their right to safe abortions, and slash government-financed social programs that benefit working people.

As long as the employers can deny jobs, education, decent housing, medical care, and other social necessities to some workers because they are Black, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Asian, American-Indian, foreign-born, or female, they can keep our class divided and undermine our ability to protect the jobs, wages, and working conditions of all workers.

Special measures to bridge the gap between worse-off and better-off layers of workers are needed. The labor movement must oppose all attempts to sap affirmative action gains. It must champion the fight for mandatory quotas and other steps in hiring, job upgrading, and education.

The seniority system should be structured in such a way that when layoffs hit, the percentage of workers who are Black, Latino, and female is not reduced. Past gains in hiring and upgrading must not be permitted to erode during recessions.

Affirmative action is also needed to combat widening inequality in wages. One way workers have for many years fought to achieve this is to demand Congress substantially raise the minimum wage, which is currently a miserly \$4.25 an hour. Since what the bosses can get away with paying those of us who are worst-off sets the floor for paying the rest of us, this measure would help boost the wage level for all working people, particularly benefiting those who are lowest paid.

Related to this is the fight to increase government-funded social services, which constitute a "social wage" — that is, part of the wealth workers and farmers have created that we have retaken for our benefit. Winning programs that aid those most in need is also a form of affirmative action that helps to narrow the gap between lower-paid and higher-paid workers.

If a fight by the labor movement could pressure Congress into adopting a national health-care program guaranteeing everyone full medical care at no cost, it would benefit millions of unemployed, part-time, or nonunion workers, as well as working farm families. There are 37 million people in the United States not covered by private medical plans, including plans won by unions as part of their contracts.

Another way the employers attempt to divide workers in different countries is to try to get us to support "protectionist" drives. We are told that supporting export subsidies or tariffs on agricultural and industrial goods will help safeguard our jobs.

With a lot of backing from the labor officialdom, the employers contend that we have common — "American" — interests, that are sharply opposed to "Japanese," "French," or "Mexican" interests. But we don't have common interests with our exploiters; we do with exploited workers and farmers around the world.

Moreover, protectionist barriers imposed by imperialist governments are devastating to working people throughout the semicolonial world and reinforce the consequences of unequal trade and the huge foreign debt payments to imperialist bankers.

To help weld unity with working people in other countries, labor should call on Washington to lift all tariffs and non-tariff protectionist measures and cancel the Third World debt.

The imperialist protectionist propaganda goes hand in hand with and helps fuel the chauvinist campaigns the capitalist ruling families conduct as part of their drive to convince working people to support their wars, like the one they carried out against the Iraqi people.

The bipartisan butchery of even the meager social programs that exist and their relentless war drive underline the need for the labor movement to wage a political fight for our own domestic and foreign policies. The SWP candidates explain that to carry this out fighting workers need our own party based on the unions.

# Garment workers show boss 'We are the union'

BY DON MACKLE

NEWARK — Leading up to the May 31 deadline of the outerwear contract for members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, workers at Liz Claiborne Inc. organized a job action to show our opposition to company demands.

Claiborne is organized by ILGWU Local 145 in Passaic, New Jersey. Our contract is negotiated together with the some 60,000 union members covered by ILGWU Local 23-25. This includes the thousands of garment workers employed in New York City's Chinatown, the largest section of the union membership.

Despite big sections of the industry reaching an agree-

cause all overtime is voluntary, we couldn't be penalized for not working.

## Action wins support

The idea spread quickly during the 9 a.m. break. Some workers began discussing the overtime ban as they travelled throughout the plant. In an attempt to head off the job action, the company threatened one unionist with a written warning for talking to others.

But the discussions continued. Latino union members wanted to know if coworkers from India would go along with the plan. As we waited to punch out for lunch, a large group of Indians discussed the question. "Yes," one of them reported as we walked to the cafeteria. "The Indians will not work on Saturday."

As word of this spread it boosted morale and fueled more discussions.

After lunch we heard that eight workers on the third floor had agreed to work Saturday. Why? What happened? Workers started looking for excuses to get down to the third floor to find out. Phone calls were made to other warehouses to see if they were going along with the plan.

## Company pressure

The company countercampaign continued through the day with the plant manager and other supervisors pressing everyone to work Saturday. "No," replied one worker. "My union said don't work so I'm not working."

"No," said another, who originally signed up for the overtime. "I've changed my mind. I'm just going to enjoy the weekend at home." Another group said they would let the boss know for sure on Friday.

After work a call was put in to the union business agent. It was the first time we had been able to talk to him since the beginning of the week. Contract talks were going good, he said, but no details could be given out until they were reported back to the members of the manufacturers' association.

He had heard about the idea of not working on Saturday. This wasn't a good idea, he said. "God forbid these people should have to go out on strike," he added. "They should work to save all the money they can." He added that he had called

the shop steward at our plant to share this opinion with him.

On Friday morning I reported the business agent's comments to a coworker. "No," she said. "This guy is no good. We are the union. No one should work Saturday. It's a holiday and that's all we have to say." It was important to take action now to show the company we were willing to fight, she added.

## Friday overtime too

At the morning break, a group of Indian coworkers called me over to their table. "We Indians will go home at 3:30 p.m. today" — meaning they were turning down even more overtime — "and we will not work Saturday. Can you tell this to the Spanish brothers?"

This proposal got a good response and a consensus was quickly reached by large numbers of workers that Friday overtime should be refused as well.

Another attempt by the bosses to ask people to work Saturday simply resulted in more people having the opportunity to take their names off the overtime list. The company countercampaign was then dropped.

The long line of cars lined up to leave the parking lot at 3:30 p.m. Friday was a testimony to the willingness of union members to fight company attempts to force us to accept a three-year wage freeze. Only a handful of pickers or stockers worked overtime. Larger numbers from departments less involved in organizing the action came in.

The action was considered a success and has enriched discussions about how we can organize ourselves even better in the future. Many learned not to have preconceptions about which workers will or will not participate in actions to defend our wages, working conditions, and dignity.

A meeting took place a week later to announce the signing of a contract. It provides a 49-cent-an-hour raise for each of three years. The shop steward said, "I believe what we did had an impact on the company deciding to sign this contract." We showed the company and the union that we will stay together to fight for what we deserve.

Don Mackle is a member of ILGWU Local 145 and works at Liz Claiborne Inc.

## UNION TALK

ment with union officials, as of May 13 many employers were demanding a three-year wage freeze.

Liz Claiborne is considered one of the strongest companies in the industry. Its earnings hit a record \$205 million in 1990, an increase of some 22 percent over the previous year. Its first quarter of 1991 was reportedly its best ever. So accepting a three-year wage freeze was not a popular idea among union members at the plant.

With no contract signed and the May 31 date drawing near, discussions began about the possibility of having to strike.

The union had announced plans for a solidarity rally, which workers would leave work early to attend. But the day before the event was to occur officials cancelled it, saying negotiations appeared to be making progress.

Sentiment in the plant was growing, however, for some sort of action before the end of the month to show what we thought of the wage freeze proposal. On Thursday morning the idea began to circulate that we should refuse to work overtime the upcoming Saturday. We had heard that workers at another Claiborne warehouse were going to refuse overtime and it sounded like a good idea. Be-

## LETTERS

### Upset by 'U.S.-bashing'

For some time now, I have been upset with the "U.S.-bashing" theme of your reports on the war in Iraq/Kuwait.

The fact is, Iraq was really like a bully on the corner who steps out, cuffs a smaller boy on the ear and takes his lunch money. The U.S. was like a friend of the smaller boy, who, enraged, slaps the bully and takes back the lunch money.

Saddam Hussein wanted the oil-producing countries to raise oil prices in contravention to the prices agreed upon by OPEC. When the OPEC countries refused, then Saddam amassed three-fourths of his forces to "spank" Kuwait into submission; his troops raping, murdering and pillaging the innocent men, women and children.

I feel the story should be complete. One-sided reporting, to me, is an attempt at brainwashing.

A prisoner  
Crescent City, California

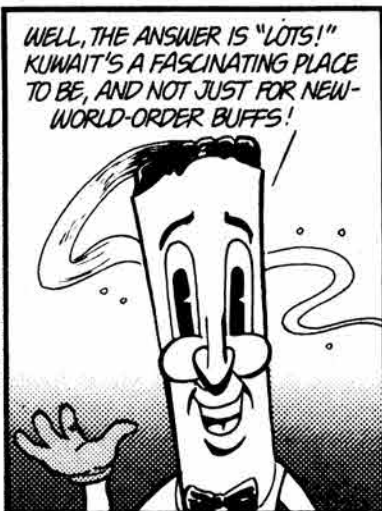
## Corrections

The June 14 *Militant* article headlined "Rebel forces take control of Ethiopian capital city," and the box that accompanied it, were unclear on the date of the incorporation of Eritrea into Ethiopia. Eritrea was forcibly incorporated into Ethiopia in 1952, but it was not formally annexed until 1962.

The box titled "Some facts on Ethiopia" stated that Italy invaded Ethiopia during World War II. It should have said that Italy invaded Ethiopia in the years leading up to World War II.

In the May 31 article headlined "Mark Curtis defense effort wins backing during Mexico tour," two editing errors appeared. The Mexican Union of Electrical Workers (SME) is not affiliated to the Mexican Workers Confederation. The SME's foreign relations secretary is Antonio Durán, not Antonia Durán.

## Doonesbury



## By Garry Trudeau

### New subscriber

As a new subscriber to your paper I want to tell you how much I enjoy it. I especially like the articles about continuing police abuse of poor citizens. This has been a serious problem for many years in America.

When I am through reading the *Militant* I leave it on the El or Subway where other folks can become informed on what the problems are and where the solutions lie.

Enclosed please find a donation to help with the costs of sending the newspaper to prisoners.

L.K.  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### Message to Mark Curtis

I am a Puerto Rican and Cuban brother and I want to let you know how much I appreciate your sending me the *Militant*. I also want to tell my brothers and sisters out in society to fight the power and to stay strong, because the system nowadays is getting really racist.

This is to a brother who is in the system and is really in the struggle, fighting for his freedom and fighting for his rights: Mark Curtis. I hope he makes it out into society.

A prisoner  
Attica, New York

### No taboos

I am writing so this very informative and looked-forward-to newspaper keeps coming my way.

The paper has really opened my eyes to things I was ignorant of. I praise your paper for its in-depth reports and coverage of subjects that other papers may feel it's taboo to touch on.

Keep up the fight and struggle for our rights.

A prisoner  
Graterford, Pennsylvania

### Prison wages

I am writing to request a subscription to the *Militant* and any other literature you may be able to send me.

I have no money to send you at this time, as my 45-cents-a-day "wages" are being withheld to pay a fine the judge hit me with. When this is paid off, I will be able to send you a contribution.

A prisoner  
Elmira, New York

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



Auth

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## El Paso garment workers press fight to end sweatshop conditions, low pay

BY BARRY FATLAND

EL PASO, Texas — Picket signs lean up against the old red brick factory housing Sonia's Fashions here, but there are no picketers. Banners hanging from the second-story window read, "HUNGER STRIKE FOR JUSTICE" and "RESPECT CIVIL LABOR RIGHTS."

Inside, garment workers are occupying the factory. A dozen people wearing union T-shirts, hats, and buttons are on duty. They are among some 200 garment workers, members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU), on strike at four shops here.

At Sonia's some workers wear red sashes indicating their participation in a hunger strike launched May 14. The walls of the factory are plastered with news clippings in English and Spanish about the strikes. A huge banner on one wall reads: "In Solidarity," with dozens of signatures of well-wishers.

Strikers say that six of them are on a hunger strike, having occupied the plant since April 29. Dozens of silent old sewing machines in a large adjoining room are testimony to the fact that the unionists' action has shut down production. Sonia's usually turns out tens of thousands of jeans each week.

Ana, a 26-year-old hunger striker, says she replaced other hunger strikers who had been advised by doctors to begin eating due to deteriorating health. She spoke proudly of two strikers who had lasted 24 days, including a woman in her sixties.

Sonia's is a subcontractor for the D.C.B. Apparel Group, Inc., owned by Andrés Díaz. The union went on strike when the boss reneged on a promise to pay a total of \$25,000 in back wages to the workers.

In the two days following the Sonia's plant occupation, workers at D.C.B.'s own shop, D.C.B.'s Apparel Conditioners Corp. (A.C.C.), and H&R Apparel went on strike. D.C.B.'s shop in Los Angeles was closed down in May after the ILGWU sponsored a protest there exposing the illegal conditions at the plant.

The strikers are protesting sweatshop conditions, including no air conditioning in the summer heat or heat during the winter. Restrooms and eating areas are not kept clean



Workers occupy Sonia's Fashions, one of four shops on strike.

Militant/Dick Geyer

and the factories are fire hazards.

Workers get minimum wage or less. Overtime is mandatory, often without overtime pay. Paydays vary, according to the bosses' whim. Often subcontractors don't pay the workers at all.

The State of Texas recently reported that more than \$85,000 is owed in back wages to garment workers in El Paso.

At the D.C.B. and A.C.C. shops, located across the street from each other, picketers march in the mid-morning heat. Strikers and ILGWU organizers say that 18 of the 70 workers from the two shops have crossed the picket lines. Production is down to about 15 percent of prestrike levels. The only cutter

who works for DCB in El Paso has agreed to stop cutting in solidarity with the strike.

The unionists maintain picket lines six days a week and keep a 24-hour watch on the factories to monitor the movement of materials and finished goods.

The fourth struck sweatshop, H & R Apparel, is in an old, one-story stucco structure. Out of 28 workers, 12 are on strike. Sixteen stayed on the job and four new operators were hired. Strikers say production has dropped drastically.

As the strikebreakers hurry out one by one, passing through the noisy picket line, the strikers call out to them in Spanish: "No Tengan miedo!" ("Don't be afraid!"); "Jun-

tos Venceremos!" ("Together we will win!"); and "¿Qué Queremos? Justicia. Cuando? Ahora!" ("What do we want? Justice. When do we want it? Now!").

Strikers report that as a result of their strikes other sweatshop bosses in the area have begun paying their workers regularly and on time.

The nearby union hall is bustling with activity on Friday and Saturday. Strikers and union organizers from Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York are busy with strike-related work.

Strikers receive \$95 a week in strike benefits and bags of basic food items from the food bank. The latter is organized by La Mujer Obrera (The Working Woman), an El Paso organization that has played a central role in fighting for justice for El Paso garment workers for some time now.

Carmen Domínguez, a leader of La Mujer Obrera, takes time for an interview despite being in the middle of the organization's move to new offices. Having been a sewing machine operator herself, working at the El Paso Farah plant for nearly four years, Domínguez knows the injustices faced by the strikers firsthand.

La Mujer Obrera was founded in 1981 and has more than 900 members, mostly Mexican women who are sewing machine operators. The organization offers weekly classes to inform workers of their rights and actively publicizes its activities at sweatshops throughout the garment district here.

Most of the strikers, as in much of the industry, are Mexican women who, in their majority, received temporary legal status in the United States under the amnesty program. A common tactic used by the garment bosses is threatening the workers with the loss of their papers and deportation to Mexico if they protest their working conditions in any way.

Domínguez said overcoming the employers' misinformation campaign and encouraging the workers to take an active role in fighting injustices on and off the job keep her organization very busy.

Sonia's workers came to La Mujer Obrera over a year ago with their back-pay problems. Some of them, together with some supporters, staged an eight-day hunger strike in downtown El Paso, helping to explain their plight to working people throughout the area.

La Mujer Obrera also sponsors a medical clinic several days a week and offers free legal advice on immigration matters. Helping to win the strikes is the organization's main priority now. Contributions and messages of support to aid the strikers can be sent to the ILGWU Strike Fund, 2120 Texas Ave., El Paso, Texas 79901. For an update call (915)534-2581.

Barry Fatland is a member of ILGWU Local 512 in Carson, California.

## New York farmers discuss milk price crisis

BY SETH GALINSKY

LITTLE FALLS, New York — William and Rose Foster and their two junior-high-school-age children, Billy and Melissa, are already up and at work by 5:00 a.m. Some days they are not done milking the cows or bailing hay until 10:00 at night. They work seven days a week.

Like other dairy farmers in upstate New York, they have been losing thousands of dollars a month since last winter in spite of the grueling hours. Recently the Fosters sold some of their land to pay rising debts.

Many dairy farmers depend entirely on family labor to run the farms. Others hire one worker year-round.

Dairy farmers are facing their worst crisis since 1986. According to New York State Commissioner of Agriculture Richard McGuire, 10 percent of the state's 12,000 dairy farmers could lose their farms this year. Many farmers say the figure is more in the 50 percent range. Some who are considering selling their farms say they will wait until the fall to make a decision, hoping the situation will improve this summer.

A farm leader in Washington County, near Albany, says that 30 of the county's 300 dairy farms are already scheduled for auction.

Large numbers of farmers have been driven off the land over the past decade. In Schoharie County, New York, there are now only 175 dairy farms left, down from 318 in 1982. And the crisis is not limited to this

state. Massachusetts now has 400 dairy farmers, half as many as ten years ago. One hundred dairy farmers are going out of business each month in Minnesota.

Some capitalist farmers have also been hard hit. According to farm leader Fred Shaw, one large farmer in Herkimer County laid off several workers and lowered the wages of the rest.

While the number of dairy farms has decreased, farmers have had to invest more money and work harder to stay above water. Many invest some \$400,000 in equipment on each farm, including automatic milking machines and tractors for harvesting hay and corn used as feed. Most of the family farmers own 60-100 cows.

Dairy farming is still labor-intensive. Cows must be milked three times a day. Many farmers say they spend more than four hours a day just milking the cows.

### Family dairy farmers organize

Some 30 dairy farmers, including the Fosters, attended a June 5 meeting near this town in upstate New York to discuss ways to organize to defend their rights. The meeting did not start until after 8:30 p.m. so that the farmers could finish up all their daily chores. The meeting was held in an auction barn where farmers come to buy and sell cows.

The meeting was not sponsored by any farm organization, although many of the participants are members of groups such as the

Empire State Family Milk Alliance, the National Farmers Union, and the National Farmers Organization.

Every farmer present complained they were losing money hand over fist. One farmer had obtained the copy of the bill that one processor, H.P. Hood, had given to a retail store. It showed that H.P. Hood is charging retailers \$2.41 for a gallon of milk. Dairy farmers are paid as little as \$.94 a gallon for milk that they say costs about a \$1.30 to produce.

"I say we should put this bill from H.P. Hood up on posters all over the place so that the consumers can see what these companies are doing," the farmer said. "The price these companies are paying to us has dropped 30 percent since last year. But the price to the consumer hasn't dropped not one penny."

The prices farmers get for their milk peaked in November 1990. At that time farmers received as much as \$18 for a hundredweight, about 11.6 gallons. But then prices sharply declined. Now farmers receive \$10.80 per hundredweight.

### 'Like being on a roller coaster'

Prices to the farmers have often fluctuated widely. "It's like we're on a roller coaster," said farmer William Bennet in an interview. "It just can't be that way for us to survive."

By law, farmers are not allowed to sell raw milk to the public. Instead, they sell it to

Continued on Page 12

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# British miners union wins big victory over slander campaign

## Court dismisses frame-up charges

BY PETE CLIFFORD  
AND MARK WEINSTEIN

SHEFFIELD, Britain — The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) won a big victory here June 19 against a slander campaign aimed at discrediting the union, its leadership, and the example it set through its 1984-85 strike.

Charges by the government against NUM President Arthur Scargill and General Secretary Peter Heathfield were dismissed by the judge hearing the case. The miners' leaders and the union had been accused of failure to account for funds donated during the 1984-85 coal strike.

All the charges have been dismissed with legal costs awarded to the NUM. "This court has put a lid on the issue," said Scargill after the hearing at Sheffield Magistrates Court. "Our position has been fully vindicated. My view is that the case should never have been brought in the first place."

### Example of 1984-85 strike

The NUM led miners out on strike in 1984 against the threat that up to 75 mines would be closed. Tens of thousands of miners mobilized daily on picket lines, in demonstrations, and at rallies. Women in the coalfield communities organized and solidarity was widespread among working people.

The strike became an example of how to respond to employer attacks in Britain and internationally. Recent revelations show that London and Washington responded by coordinating an international antistrike operation, including the use of spying and telephone tapping by both British and U.S. secret police.

Nine thousand miners were arrested, 300 jailed, 1,000 sacked, and two killed, as the government sought to break the miners' fight. It attempted to strangle the union by sequestering NUM funds. A receiver appointed by the government declared, "To all intents and purposes I am the NUM."

The union's leaders, forged from the rank-and-file leadership of three previous national strikes, defied this strike breaking. They organized a maze of accounts, transferring funds from bank to bank in several European countries, to protect the union's money.

After a year, during which the labor officialdom in Britain refused to organize solidarity action with the miners, the strike ended without achieving its demands. Over the last five years, 100 mines have

closed as the government has sharpened its attacks.

### Goal of witch-hunt

The court case was the latest episode in a 16-month-long witch-hunt and slander campaign against the NUM leaders.

This began on March 5, 1990, with a banner headline in the *Daily Mirror*: "Tell us about the money Arthur." Independent Television interrupted its normal program schedule that evening to broadcast a program called "Where Did The Money Go?" by journalist Roger Cook. The next days saw newspapers throughout the world seize on the story. Allegations centered on claims by a former NUM executive officer, Roger Windsor, that the union leaders had allocated funds raised during the strike for their own personal use.

From the outset the allegations were combined with a political offensive against the NUM. The March 5, 1990, edition of the *Daily Mirror* ran an editorial by its owner, media billionaire Robert Maxwell. He wrote, "The miners strike of 1984-85 was... the wrong strike, at the wrong time, with the wrong motive — the toppling of the government — and with the wrong leaders."

Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock called for a public inquiry into the union's affairs.

The union's national executive called its own inquiry, headed by lawyer Gavin Lightman.

Lightman reported back to the union leaders July 3, 1990, clearing the union and its leaders of any misappropriation of the union's funds. However, his report went on to criticize the union leaders for establishing a maze of accounts to avoid the government's sequester, who had been placed in charge of the union's funds during the strike.

Scargill responded sharply to Lightman's charge: "I confess that I am guilty — totally guilty — of defying sequestration and receivership and doing all in my power to thwart the court's attempts to stop the NUM operating."

Lightman's criticism of the union leaders opened a new round of attacks.

Deputy Prime Minister Geoffrey Howe announced in July that he hoped the union would be investigated. On Sept. 7, 1990, the Trade Union Certification Officer laid charges against the union. This government attack was combined with an investigation by the police Fraud Squad.

Earlier, on Lightman's prompting, a July 20, 1990, meeting of the NUM's national executive had taken place, with Scargill and Heathfield excluded. The executive proceeded to take legal action against the two union leaders. Lightman advised that this was necessary to avoid personal liability for the measures taken by the national officials.

Scargill responded by declaring that he was going to "fight like hell," declaring that for him the jury was to be the members of the NUM. He and Heathfield addressed more than 40 public meetings in the following months, attended in many cases by hundreds of miners and supporters of the union. This countercampaign culminated with a special delegate conference of the union on Oct. 10, 1990, which endorsed by a 4-1 margin the stand of Scargill and Heathfield.

The special delegate conference was the turning point. The campaign against the union's leaders had failed to gain sufficient ground inside the union to isolate Scargill.

Following the conference, legal action by Roger Windsor against Scargill and the Fraud Squad investigation were both dropped, but the government continued to pursue its court action.

The June 19 court victory came on the



G. M. Cookson

Miners rally in Mansfield, England, during 1984-85 strike by National Union of Mineworkers.

third day of the hearing against the miners' union and its leaders. They had pleaded not guilty to the nine charges filed under the 1974 Trade Union and Labour Relations Act. They had been charged with failure to keep proper accounts, to maintain a satisfactory system of control and accounting records, and to send the government-appointed Trade Union Certification Officer an accurate balance sheet of the accounts.

The maximum fine for each of the nine charges was £400 (about U.S. \$650). However, a successful conviction could have aided opponents of the NUM leaders in reopening the witch-hunt. It would have been a cue for strengthening government interference into union finances and other internal affairs.

At the court hearing here, prosecuting lawyer Roger Ter Haar explained that the government case rested on the Lightman report to the union, in particular the details of how the union leaders had established bank accounts to avoid sequestration of the union's and strikers' assets.

The court hearing focused on whether interviews and papers given to Lightman could be called in evidence by the prosecution.

The NUM lawyers argued that these papers and interviews were protected by legal privilege, confidential to the union, and inadmissible as evidence.

The solicitor acting for the NUM was Gareth Peirce, who had successfully represented the Birmingham 6 and Guildford 4, Irish men and women falsely framed up on murder charges. Their convictions were recently overturned.

The court magistrate ruled that the prosecution could not use the Lightman report or the submissions by the union leaders to it. He also refused an adjournment for a judicial review of his ruling by High Court judges, the only way the government could keep this specific case open. The magistrate's ruling deprived the prosecution of the core of its "evidence" and the magistrate dismissed the case.

After the court hearing the government

Trade Union Certification Officer reported they may still appeal to the High Court on the points of law involved. Even were this to proceed, though, the government cannot reopen this particular case.

### Miners fill courtroom

Throughout the court hearing, supporters of the union packed the public gallery. On the first day the union leaders were clapped into the court by 70 miners and their supporters.

"We had a delegation of 10 to show that we support Arthur," said Kevin Robinson, NUM Allerton Bywater president. Their union banner was outside the court, draped with a black ribbon to mark the death of a miner killed the previous week by a roof fall in the mine.

Nottinghamshire miners leader Harry Richardson, who had been present throughout the court hearing, said, "This was an attempt by the establishment to rush something through the courts as part of the 'Get Scargill' campaign. This is one victory in the battle of a big war, but it's very important we realize the story hasn't ended. They'll seek to carry on to attack our union as long as they can."

A major article in the June 21 *Financial Times* reported, "The country's best known militant union leader was back on the offensive against the enemy... Scargill will be a thorn in many sides for some time to come."

Following the court hearing the NUM announced it was suing Lightman and Penguin Books for breach of confidence. Without the union's agreement Lightman authorized Penguin to publish his report to the union. The same day the union's Yorkshire Area leaders condemned Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock for presenting awards for British "reporters of the year" to the *Daily Mirror* team that had initiated the witch-hunt.

Mark Weinstein is a member of the Maltby branch of the National Union of Mineworkers in the Yorkshire area.

## Documentary exposes lies against National Union of Mineworkers

"The Arthur Legend," produced by Ken Loach, for TV Channel 4 "Dispatches"

BY MARK WEINSTEIN

SHEFFIELD, Britain — A recent British TV documentary, "The Arthur Legend," throws light on a number of the issues involved in the year-long witch-hunt against

and U.S. government spying on the miners during their year-long strike in 1984-85. "The Arthur Legend" opened with the caption: "In 1984 Arthur Scargill led the most important strike in Britain since the war." Scargill is the NUM president.

The TV documentary refutes the central allegation made on "The Cook Report," a program in March 1990 that helped initiate the slander campaign that Scargill and Heathfield used monies donated by the Libyan government donated during the 1984-85 strike for their personal use.

The documentary shows that, contrary to a "Cook" allegation, Scargill had no mortgage to pay off and produces evidence to

Continued on back



National Union of Mineworkers President Arthur Scargill.

# Cops forced to pay miners for '84 attack

BY CLIVE TURNBULL

LONDON — Thirty-nine members of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) are to be paid £425,000 (\$680,000) compensation by the South Yorkshire police for assault, wrongful arrest, malicious prosecution, and false imprisonment.

They were among 95 NUM members arrested June 18, 1984, at the Orgreave coking plant in South Yorkshire, during the 1984-85 miners strike.

The Orgreave picket — aimed at stopping British Steel from transporting coke made from scab coal — was a major focus of the strike. Six thousand striking miners were confronted by 3,500 police, many in riot gear, on horses, or with dogs. Fifty-three miners suffered injuries, including broken arms, legs, and skull fractures on that day alone. Among them was NUM President Arthur Scargill.

The government feared a repeat of their defeat in the "Battle of Saltley Gates," a turning point in the 1972 miners strike. In that strike, tens of thousands of Birmingham car and engineering workers mobilized in support of the miners, closing the Saltley coke depot.

At Orgreave, TV reports made it appear that the police were acting defensively, in the face of an unprovoked assault. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher dubbed the miners "the enemy within" ("the enemy without" having been Argentina during the war over the Malvinas Islands). Home Secretary Leon Brittan called for those arrested to be given life sentences.

Labour Party and Trades Union Congress leaders joined the chorus against "picket line violence." The campaign had an impact on some NUM area leaders who wound down the mobilization of pickets to Orgreave.

In July 1985, 15 NUM members were acquitted on charges of riot and unlawful assembly at Orgreave after a 48-day trial in which the prosecution case collapsed. "It must count as one of the most ignominious failures of the state in prosecuting people for many years. There was a riot but it was a police riot, and it was a miracle that none of the miners were killed," said Michael McGolgan, a lawyer for the NUM members.

The police commander at Orgreave, Ray Clement, had testified that the miners "had no right to be there." Consequently, he said, he would "not be the slightest troubled if they were trampled on by horses."

The June 23, 1991, *Observer* reported: "The cases against the 95 had collapsed when they came to court after defense counsel

## The Star

No. 32,434 Sheffield, Thursday, June 20, 1991 22p



June 20 Sheffield *Star* front page featured photo of 1984 cop assault on miners' picket line at Orgreave.

showed that numerous officials had copied each other's statements verbatim."

The defense forced the police to produce film they had shot throughout the day, which gave a completely different picture from that presented by Clement. As the *Sheffield Star* reported June 20: "One senior officer could

also be heard briefing his truncheon-wielding men on the sound-track. He said simply: 'You know what you are doing. No heads. Bodies only.'"

The paper went on to quote "one South Yorkshire sergeant" who said, "The bosses wanted us to act with military efficiency,

ruthlessness, and above all to win. I can still hear the screams of some miners when the dogs went in on them. The idea was to strip away the more faint-hearted and concentrate on the hard core. I never want to go through that again."

Arthur Scargill said the out-of-court settlement by the police made it clear that there was now a need for a public investigation. "It demands an inquiry as to why they practiced the tactics they did; why they inflicted the pain and damage to the people they did."

Russell Broadhead, one of the miners who will be receiving compensation, said, "I would have preferred to see it go to court. That's the only place where justice can be seen to be done, not through check books or bank accounts."

Another NUM member, David Moore, said the police had tried to impose a "no publicity" clause on their settlement.

One of the NUM members to be compensated, Ray Morris, said he wanted to see "the people who instigated this attack on the pickets put in the dock — the Chief Constable, his deputy, and some of the constables who exceeded necessary force."

Jim Spaul, an NUM member at Kellingley colliery and a leading activist in the Justice for Mineworkers campaign, explained that more than 50 miners are still victimized six years after the end of the strike. "British Coal used trumped-up court cases like this as the reason for firing many of them. They should all be reinstated now."

## Yorkshire gala: miners determined to fight

BY RICH PALSER

DONCASTER, Britain — Thousands of miners, their families, and supporters attended the 103rd Yorkshire Miners' demonstration and gala here June 15.

This annual event, organized by the Yorkshire Area National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), provides an opportunity for the miners to demonstrate their commitment to union solidarity and discuss the challenges currently facing the labor movement.

"We on this demonstration once again pledge our support for our Black comrades in South Africa and their fight against apartheid," declared Frank Cave, assistant general secretary of Yorkshire area NUM, in his

address opening the gala.

Cave explained that he recently went with an NUM delegation to South Africa, meeting with members of the National Union of Mineworkers there. He visited the company-run hostels where Black miners live and went to Alexandra township where many have died in violent attacks on the anti-apartheid movement.

"We support the release of all political prisoners," Cave said. "We demand that this government impose sanctions until apartheid is removed."

In his keynote address to the rally, Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, gave a vigorous defense of the union's role in waging the 1984-85 strike against pit closures.

Since that strike, more than 100 pits have been closed and 100,000 miners have lost their jobs.

"Unless the government's policy is checked we are likely to see the industry further slaughtered in this next period, with no more than 30 to 35 pits, and the workforce decimated to 35,000," Scargill warned. "This is not scaremongering, but cold hard facts, because they pursue a policy of the acquisition of maximum profit at the expense of human beings."

Pointing to a 1979 leaked cabinet document that targeted destroying the power of the NUM and the transport union, Scargill said, "You see, the Tories don't mess around. They understand the nature of the system under which they live, and they will do anything in their power to protect their privileged position, to attack those forces and individuals who seek to change society and improve the quality of life for human beings."

The official leadership of the unions, organized in the Trades Union Congress (TUC), should respond to these attacks, he said. They failed to do so in the past. "If the TUC had not pontificated in 1984-85 and instead called upon the movement to take strike action, we would not be in this position now," Scargill explained.

The TUC and the leadership of the Labour Party failed to mobilize solidarity with the NUM in the 1984-85 strike. Since the defeat of the strike, the leadership of the Labour Party has moved progressively to the right, taking the same stand as the Tories on many domestic and foreign policy questions.

"I want to make my position clear on where I stand in relation to the next Labour government," said Scargill. "I've seen the red roses in place of the red flags. I've seen the clean-cut image in place of rallies like this. I say to you, I've not been a member of the Labour Party for 30 years to tell people we can run capitalism better than the Tories. I want a change in the system. I want a socialist system."

Two days later Scargill and union leader

Peter Heathfield were due to appear in court on frame-up charges related to their handling of union finances during the strike.

Scargill concluded his address by referring to the pending case: "I'm proud of the role that I played; and I know that Peter is proud of the role that he played during the course of the miners strike; and I'm prepared to come to the real court of justice and the one that matters to me — the members of this union, their wives, and their families."

Speaking to 60 people at a Militant Labor Forum here after the gala, Yorkshire Area NUM leader Ken Capstick said:

"I believe Scargill and Heathfield have survived the witch-hunt because there's a bulwark between them and the state, *Daily Mirror* owner Robert Maxwell, and so on. That bulwark is the miners. The political consciousness miners gained through the strike meant they couldn't be stampeded to get rid of Scargill and Heathfield."

Joining Capstick on the platform were Sue Reid, Communist League parliamentary election candidate for Sheffield Central, and Betsy Farley, a member of the United Steelworkers of America from Birmingham, Alabama.

## TV documentary exposes lies

Continued from front

prove it. Many of those attacking the union had taken Cook's allegation for granted without bothering to check it out.

A union-sponsored inquiry headed by lawyer Gavin Lightman had found that the allegation of misappropriation of funds was "entirely untrue."

"Dispatches" also proves as untrue allegations aimed at discrediting the International Miners Organisation (IMO). The media and others seized on allegations made by Lightman that Scargill had diverted funds from the Soviet Union — which should have gone to the NUM to relieve hardship of striking miners — into the coffers of the IMO. Scargill is IMO president.

The IMO, founded after the 1984-85 strike, brought together 43 miners' unions from around the world and has helped build solidarity with miners' struggles in South Africa, the Philippines, and Morocco.

Relations between the British and Soviet miners were directed by the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, which ordered a large financial donation out of Soviet foreign currency reserves. The money was paid into an account of the Miners Trade Union International based in Prague, for "miners in struggle around the world," the program explained.

Oleg Gordievsky of the Soviet secret police agency, the KGB, said that he advised Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that it would be "undesirable and counter-productive for the Soviet Union to help striking miners in Britain." Gordievsky was KGB head in Britain at the time of the strike.

The Soviet government did not want to do anything that might jeopardize its relationship with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government in Britain.

"Dispatches" tried to question those who carried out the witch-hunt, looking into the quality of the "investigative journalism." Both the *Daily Mirror's* Terry Pattinson, who wrote the article that initiated the witch-hunt and who has spearheaded the media campaign ever since, and Roger Cook, presenter of the "Cook Report," refused interviews.

"Dispatches" reported that Roger Windsor, former chief administrator of the NUM and the source of the original misappropriation of funds allegation, was paid £80,000 (US\$28,000) by the *Daily Mirror* for his story.

NUM leaders Ken Capstick from Yorkshire, Henry Richardson from Nottinghamshire, and Billy Etherington from the North East are interviewed in the documentary. They said who they believe helped give credence to the *Mirror's* allegations. "I don't believe that the attack came from the Conservative Party. They were in the slipstream of the whole thing," Capstick said. "The people who were attacking Scargill straight out as soon as the *Mirror* came out with its allegations were people from the Labour Party and the right wing of the trade union movement."

The NUM leaders suggest the Labour Party leadership and its friends in the union officialdom have as much to gain as the government in rubbing out the legacy of the 1984-85 miners strike.

The "Dispatches" film concluded with a short interview with Arthur Scargill. Scargill explained he is not surprised at the character of the attack made against the union and its leadership, and expects other such frame-ups in the future. "Sooner rather than later, workers will make the judgment about the drive against the union," he said.

"The Arthur Legend" provides those who want to fight the frame-up of the NUM leadership with valuable ammunition.

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