

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

U.S. socialist presidential candidate visits Cuba

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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## Protests against apartheid deepen

BY ESTELLE DEBATES

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — An unprecedented campaign of mass actions called by the African National Congress (ANC) here has become the center of politics in the country since the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa II) negotiations broke off June 23.

Two contending forces are responding to South Africa's deepest political, social, and economic crisis. On one side stands the revolutionary democratic movement of millions of workers, youth, and democratically minded people determined to bring about a government based on majority rule.

On the other is the white minority regime, which hopes to retain the economic and social power of the wealthy rulers of the country.

Faced with the strength of the revolutionary organizations — the ANC, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), and civic groups — the government has attempted to impose a scheme of minority veto power in any new government. The regime has unleashed a terror campaign in

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## Operation Rescue is set back in Louisiana

BY DAN FURMAN AND RICHARD RATHERS

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana — Close to 1,000 abortion rights fighters mobilized here July 11, successfully defending the Delta Women's Clinic from an equal number of Operation Rescue (OR) supporters. The confrontation ended a week-long OR campaign in Baton Rouge.

The final showdown began before midnight on Friday when hundreds of pro-choice activists took up positions near the entrance to the clinic. Young women with two-way radios patrolled the lines of abortion rights supporters, giving instructions, providing water, and reporting on Operation Rescue's activities.

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## U.S., allies take steps to war in Yugoslavia

BY PAUL MAILHOT

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Western European Union agreed July 10 to take new steps toward military intervention in Yugoslavia. The Western European Union is a nine-nation military alliance in which France is the dominant military power.

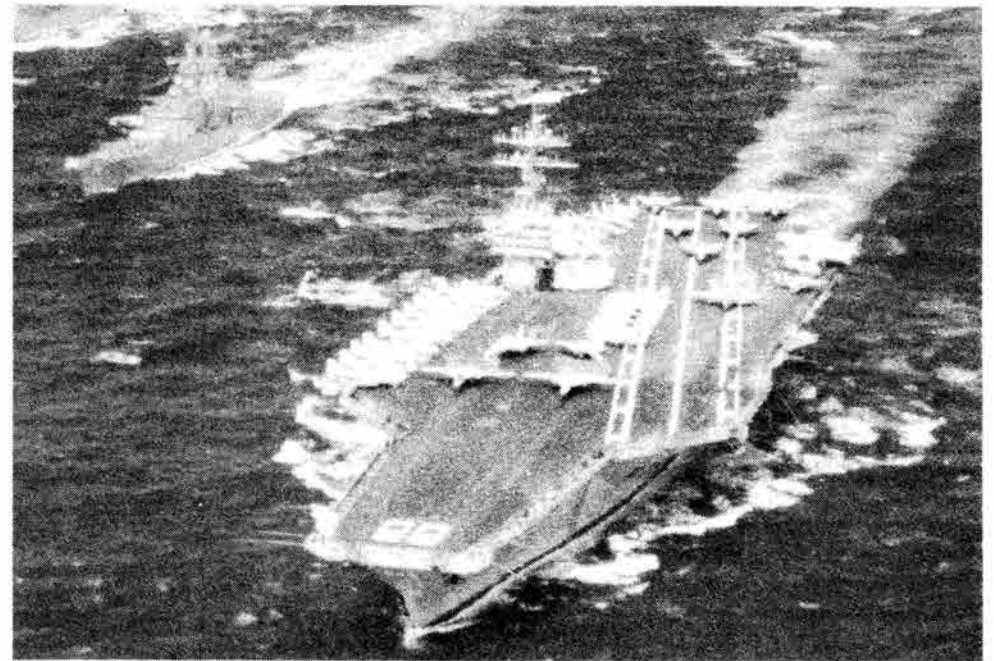
The action came just two days after leaders of the Group of Seven — the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, and Canada — met in Munich, Germany, and declared, "We believe the [United Nations] Security Council will have to consider other measures, not excluding military means, to achieve its humanitarian objectives" in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Under the guise of "supporting humanitarian relief operations" for the Muslim, Serbian, and Croatian population under siege in Sarajevo, the world's major imperialist powers have begun moving warships into the Adriatic Sea off the coast of Yugoslavia. Two U.S. warships from the navy's Sixth Fleet will join the British destroyer HMS *Nottingham* as well as several French and Italian vessels. France has sent nine helicopters to Sarajevo, including four Gazelle gunships, and put 700 troops on alert to reinforce Canadian military personnel at the Sarajevo airport. Canada already has some 1,200 troops deployed in Yugoslavia under the United Nations flag.

President George Bush has pledged to get food and medicine into Bosnia "no matter what it takes" while insisting that U.S. troops will not get bogged down in a military conflict. But the actions of the Group of Seven and its military alliances set the stage for an expanding military intervention. In addition to pledges to protect goods being airlifted into Sarajevo, military plans are being drawn up to open a land route from the Adriatic Sea into Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The London *Independent* stated in a July 8 editorial, "The message from Munich is unambiguous. The current airlift to Sarajevo is merely the beginning of a far larger international effort. . . . This initiative will also involve the establishment of land corridors from ports to a number of towns and cities, including Sarajevo. If the exercise is disrupted, or if the lives of those engaged in relief operations are endangered, by regular or irregular forces, the United Nations Security Council will be called on to authorize the use of military might." The editors then add, "The stated purpose would be to protect those bringing aid and to ensure the success of their operations."

Bush, President François Mitterrand of France, Prime Minister John Major of Brit-



U.S. aircraft carrier in Mediterranean. U.S., British, Italian, and French warships are now stationed in Adriatic Sea off coast of Yugoslavia.

ain, and the other heads of state of the major industrial powers hope to gain acceptance for greater military action due to the revolution of people around the world at the slaughter taking place in Bosnia.

### Sarajevo under siege

Fierce fighting continues in the former Yugoslav republic. It is estimated that more

than 7,000 people have been killed thus far and some 1.5 million people, out of a population of 4.4 million, have been driven from their homes.

Muslim Slavs, who make up more than 40 percent of the country's population, continue to put up resistance along with many Croats and Serbs to the militarily superior

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## Greek protesters demand: 'No intervention in Balkans'

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

ATHENS, Greece — Hundreds of people marched July 7 in Piraeus, the Greek capital's port, toward the docks where the U.S. helicopter carrier *Iwo Jima* had just visited. "No to military intervention in the Balkans," "Sixth Fleet out of Piraeus," and "NATO means military juntas and war," the protesters chanted.

The U.S. carrier, along with six other ships of the U.S. Sixth Fleet, have been carrying out military exercises in the Adriatic Sea, off the coast of Yugoslavia, in preparation for a possible military intervention there. The seven ships are transporting 2,200 marines and two dozen attack helicopters. Several of the ships docked in Piraeus and the Greek island Corfu, close to

southern Yugoslavia, the first week of July. Hundreds of military cops and officers of the police special antiterrorist unit were deployed along Piraeus docks.

Demonstrators carried signs reading, "No to European Community or U.S. intervention in the Balkans," "Greece out of NATO," and "Out with the bases of death," a reference to the four U.S. military bases in Greece. The action was called by the local organization of the Communist Party of Greece (KKE).

A contingent of youth at the demonstration carried a banner reading, "No to war and imperialist intervention. Come to the Peace Forum at the border." The antiwar youth forum is scheduled to take place July 10-12

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## Protests over N.Y. cop killings of two youths

BY MIKE FITZSIMMONS AND TONI JACKSON

NEW YORK — "Justice for Kiko and Dagoberto" and "Stop Police Abuse" were some of the demands heard in the streets of Washington Heights, the heart of the Dominican community in upper Manhattan. For several consecutive days marches and protests by hundreds of people against the police killing of two young workers have taken place.

José "Kiko" García, a 23-year-old grocery store clerk, was killed in the lobby of an apartment building by a plainclothes cop the evening of July 3. The cop, Michael O'Keefe, shot García once in the back and

once in the stomach. Eyewitnesses and family members say the young man was unarmed and was not resisting arrest.

The police version is that officer O'Keefe and two other cops riding in an unmarked car saw García adjusting his jacket in the building lobby. This, they claimed, meant he was probably trying to hide a weapon. O'Keefe beat and shot García in a scuffle. Later the cops alleged they found a .38-caliber revolver on him. A police spokeswoman told the *Militant* they were having "difficulty" identifying the fingerprints on the gun.

The day after the murder, protests against the police spread throughout the community. Some 200 angry residents waving Do-

minican flags marched to the 34th police precinct. Streets were closed with barricades and burning garbage cans and tires. Many people have lit candles in their apartment windows. A memorial with wreaths and flowers has been set up at the site where García was killed.

Some demonstrations involved as many as 1,000 people.

An army of 2,000 cops flooded Washington Heights, arresting dozens of protesters and others. On July 6 they killed another young Dominican man, 28-year-old Dagoberto Piccardo, who worked as a store clerk. His sister Awilda Valez says two cops — pursuing al-

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Ravenswood Aluminum fails to break steel union — page 15





## Venezuela: 1,400 demonstrations

From September 1991 until May this year, some 1,400 antigovernment street demonstrations took place in Venezuela. According to figures given to the Caracas daily *El Globo* by "military sources," one-third of the actions have occurred since the failed February 4 military coup directed at President Carlos Andrés Pérez.

High school and college students, teachers, telephone workers, garbage collectors, doctors, reporters, peasants, and truck drivers have been involved in a new wave of strikes, marches, and demonstrations to protest Venezuela's deepening economic crisis, government austerity, and repressive measures.

## 'Triple dip' recession?

The U.S. Labor Department reported July 2 that unemployment hit 7.8 percent in June. In California the rate jumped to 9.5 percent. Some economists are warning that the U.S. economy is suffering a "triple dip" recession. Most of the drop of 117,000 jobs came in manufacturing and construction.

Hoping to stem the slide and spur spending, the Federal Reserve Bank announced it was cutting interest rates, the 23rd time it has done so since mid-1989.

## Largest layoff ever in Canada

Canadian fisheries minister John Crosbie announced a two-year ban on cod fishing July 2. As a result 20,000 fishermen and workers at fish processing plants will be out of work, the largest layoff in Canadian history.

Nearly 400 communities in Newfoundland depend on the northern cod for jobs. The moratorium was announced to allow the cod numbers, which have been rapidly depleted, to recover.

While many fishermen agree on the need for some kind of action to prevent the fishing grounds from being decimated, they complain that government compensation of \$225 a week for laid-off workers is woefully inadequate.

The Canadian government has known for years about the stocking problem, but did nothing, stated Cabot Martin, head of the Newfoundland Inshore Fisheries Association. "This is a made-in-Canada disaster. Probably better put: a made-in-Ottawa disaster," he said.

## U.S. Navy punishes two officers

The Navy relieved two top officers of their commands July 2 after a new incident of blatant sexism came to light. A large banner describing oral sex and Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder was hung in an officers' club



Militant/ Alyson Kennedy

More than 800 people turned out in Birmingham, Alabama, for two demonstrations against neo-Nazi skinheads and their supporters June 13. Local skinhead leaders had called a march that day as a "Celebration of Aryan Unity" to protest the arrest of three members of the Aryan National Front who have been charged with the murder of Benny Rembert, a Black homeless worker. Only 44 people showed up to support the racists. More than 100 cops dressed in full riot gear were on hand to protect the fascist-minded group.

at Miramar Naval Air Station in San Diego during an aviators' banquet June 18.

Schroeder had criticized the Navy's handling of the events surrounding last year's convention of the Tailhook Association, a private group of active-duty and retired Naval aviators, where 26 women were assaulted.

## Algerian president assassinated

Military leaders in Algeria plan to use the June 29 assassination of president Mohammed Boudiaf as an excuse to step up repression.

High-ranking government officials claim that Boudiaf, who was installed as president after a military coup, was shot by supporters of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

The army has already arrested some 10,000 alleged backers of the front. More FIS members "are going to detention camps and they are staying there forever," one government official said.

In May, an Algerian military court sentenced 12 men accused of belonging to the FIS to death for the killing of three soldiers. At least 45 soldiers and police, and at least as many FIS supporters, have been killed

since the January coup.

## French-U.S. relations at new low

Tensions between Washington and Paris have been on the rise.

Speaking on nationwide television July 1 to encourage a vote for the Maastricht treaty, President François Mitterrand said the accord was necessary "to enable a united Europe to stand up to the economic-power countries beyond our continent, like the United States and Japan."

On May 5 France cancelled a 46-year-old commercial aviation agreement with the United States in a dispute over U.S. demands for more trans-Atlantic air routes. The cancellation takes effect in 12 months, while negotiations continue.

In an icy discussion May 11 over the newly announced joint French-German military corps in Europe, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker reportedly asked French foreign minister Roland Dumas, "Are you for us or against us?"

## Tactical nukes back in the U.S.

President George Bush said July 2 that the United States had withdrawn all 2,400 tactical nuclear weapons based outside the United States, including those based on ships. The return to the United States includes shorter-range land and naval nuclear arms, but excludes nukes carried by bombers.

The statement is impossible to verify however, since Washington has never officially acknowledged the location of the weapons, most of which were deployed in Europe and South Korea.

## Salvadoran rebels turn in arms

Guerrilla fighters of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) began giving up their weapons June 30. As part of peace accords signed with the Salvadoran government in January, the FMLN agreed to disarm in five stages ending October 31. The government has said it will dissolve the hated Treasury Police and other police bodies that were responsible for widespread repression of workers and peasants.

An estimated 75,000 people died in the 11-year-long civil war.

Some of the ex-combatants are to take exams for admission to a new police force, which is to replace the old security apparatus. Others have been promised either land or job training.

## Filipino youth leader arrested

Amante Jimenez, chairman of the League of Filipino Students, was beaten and arrested in Manila July 7.

The youth leader was with several other students in front of the U.S. embassy, protesting against U.S. military bases that remain in the Philippines and the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant. Police dispersed the demonstrators with batons and ruptured Jimenez's eardrum.

Messages of protest demanding the release of Jimenez can be sent to: President Fidel R. Ramos, Office of the President, Malacanang Palace, Manila, Philippines. Send copies to Youth for Philippine Action, 445 S. Ardmore Ave. #236, Los Angeles, CA 90020.

## Hungarian economy in tailspin

Attempts at restoring capitalism in Hungary are floundering, in spite of the country's image as one of the most successful in moving toward a market economy.

According to a government report, 60 percent of direct foreign investment in east-central Europe was in Hungary, which was recently accepted as an interim associate member of the European Community.

Hungary's industrial production fell 21 percent last year; the budget deficit is expected to reach \$2.3 billion; and unemployment is up to 9.7 percent. Unemployment is expected to almost double by next year.

Negotiations between Budapest and Cologne-Palmolive on the purchase of a state-owned cosmetics company recently fell through.

"The good news is, Hungarians seem to have complaints from everybody," commented a government advisor. "At least we're even-handed in not handling everything to everybody's satisfaction."

— SETH GALINSKY

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# Revolutionary youth leaders meet in Brazil

'Capitalism has made conditions of life devastating for millions of youth'

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS  
AND AARON RUBY

SÃO PAULO, Brazil — Representatives of several youth organizations affiliated to the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) met here June 26-28. It was the first regional meeting of the youth federation in Latin America and the Caribbean in at least a decade.

"The self-destruction of the governments in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe has brought rapid changes in the world," said Alejandro Aguilar, a vice-president of WFDY, at the opening of the meeting. "Capitalism has made conditions of life devastating for millions of youth in Latin America and the Caribbean."

"We are convinced that today we have better conditions to build a federation of youth organizations united in a fight against imperialism," he added. Aguilar is a leader of the Union of Young Communists (UJC) of Cuba and has been the organization's representative to WFDY for several years.

Delegates to the meeting came from 10 organizations in 6 countries. They included representatives of the Communist Youth Federation of Argentina, the Union of Young Communists and the Youth of the March 26 Movement of Uruguay, the Communist Youth (JUCO) of Colombia, the UJC of Cuba, and the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA) of the United States.

It was the first time in the federation's history that WFDY affiliates from North America were invited to a regional meeting of member organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Young Communist League from the United States sent a message to the meeting.

The YSA was voted in as a full member of the federation at the organization's General Council meeting in March. WFDY, which was founded in 1945 in London, was dominated for decades by youth groups affiliated with Communist parties that looked to Moscow for political direction and sustenance.

The recent disintegration of the regimes and parties that controlled the governments in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union brought changes among the youth affiliates of WFDY as well.

Aguilar gave a report from the results of the federation's General Council meeting in Madrid in March. "That meeting was successful because those who did not agree that anti-imperialism should be the axis of the federation remained a minority," said Aguilar. While some of those organizations indicated they will probably leave the federation, 30 others applied to join, he added.

The São Paulo meeting was co-hosted by the October 8 Revolutionary Youth of Brazil and JUCO of Colombia. Representatives of the Socialist Youth, affiliated with the Democratic Party of Workers (PDT), and two other youth groups from Brazil also took part. The youth commission of the Workers Party (PT) of Brazil sent a representative to the ceremonial opening of the meeting. The PT is the major party in the country's workers movement.

## Conditions in Latin America

"Growing unemployment, deep cuts in funding for public schools, and violence against youth by the military police is what faces youth in Brazil," said Manuel Rangel of the Union of Young Socialists of Brazil. César Piña from Argentina described recent student protests in Buenos Aires against cuts in government funds for public education. Some 30,000 students marched in Buenos Aires June 23. Several actions of hundreds of youth against police violence took place the same week throughout Argentina. Other delegates pointed to recent protests by youth in Venezuela against government repression.

A debate occurred at the meeting over whether sections of the capitalist classes and the armed forces in Latin America and the Caribbean can be part of the fight against imperialism. The "free-trade" policies and the privatization of sectors of the economy "have meant that countries like Brazil have lost their sovereignty," said Beatriz Rocha of the October 8 Revolutionary Youth.

Revolutionaries can look for "unity with sectors of the armed forces; there are nationalist sectors who oppose this policy of privatization," she said.

The policies of the government of Fernando Collor de Mello in Brazil are leading "to the destruction of our armed forces and the weakening of the defense of the frontier," added Union of Young Socialists representative Rangel.

"A fight putting forward the demand to cancel the foreign debt of Third World countries is essential to unify working people across the Americas," said Aaron Ruby, leader of the young socialists from the United States. "Internationalism needs to be counterposed to the growing nationalism of capitalist politicians throughout the world."

Most delegates were interested in finding out what had led to the antipolice riots in Los Angeles and what the widespread support for the candidacy of billionaire Ross Perot represents for politics in the United States.

"Despite the hegemonic pretensions of imperialism and the recent events in Eastern Europe," said the formal statement adopted by the delegates at the meeting, "the growing protests by young workers, students, and the popular movement in general in capital-

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Militant/Argiris Malapanis  
Alejandro Aguilar (center), a leader of the Union of Young Communists of Cuba, at World Federation of Democratic Youth meeting in São Paulo, Brazil.

## Interest in socialist conference builds

BY PETER THIERJUNG

CLEVELAND — Supporters of the Socialist Workers 1992 campaign are building the International Socialist Conference slated for Oberlin, Ohio, August 5-9.

"Through an ambitious statewide ballot effort netting 8,000 signatures for socialist candidates James Warren and Estelle DeBates, we met thousands of working people, students, and youth who are thinking about politics and would like the socialist alternative on the ballot in Ohio," said Garnez Parks, Socialist Workers candidate for Congress in the 11th District here. "Many recognize that the Republican and Democratic parties are leading us to an economic and social catastrophe."

"We urge those who want to know more about socialism, our campaign, and the Socialist Workers Party to come to the conference in Oberlin this August. We and supporters of our campaign around the country are organizing a big effort to get everyone there."

Cleveland campaign events in recent weeks have attracted students from South Korea, supporters of the African National Congress of South Africa, immigrant workers from Eastern Europe, high school and college students, young workers, and even some supporters of the Ross Perot campaign.

Many young people signed up in this period to get more information on the socialist campaign and the conference. Others have already pitched in on campaign activities and are looking forward to the conference.

Darryl Roberts, a high school student who petitioned to get socialists on the ballot, said he planned to attend the conference to learn more about the Socialist Workers Party's history and goals. "Young people should come to the conference," he said, "because when we study revolution, it's been young people mostly involved."

Ginger Sager, a 19-year-old from Alabama, was part of a special campaign team in Ohio. She plans to return for the conference. "I've always felt that factory workers should earn more than their bosses," she said. Her convictions stirred her interest in socialism.

Jessie McGinnis, another high school student, helped take the initiative to promote a weekly socialist class series at the Pathfinder Bookstore here because she wanted a better grasp of the campaign's ideas to convince others. "These classes have helped open my eyes and convinced me how important going to the conference will be," she said.

Socialist campaign supporters in Ohio plan an ambitious effort to reach out with the campaign to build the conference. Teams are slated to campaign across the state on weekends and when possible during the week.

Volunteers are planning a special mailing to all who have signed up for more information on the campaign. The mailing will provide information on the conference and costs. They are also preparing to answer all inquiries about the conference called, mailed, or faxed to the Cleveland campaign headquarters from across the country and

around the world. A 20-year-old from Virginia has already written in asking to attend.

Having agreed to take major responsibility for organizing the conference, Cleveland supporters have transformed the campaign office and Pathfinder Bookstore into a public organizing center for the August gathering.

Volunteers are being recruited to help daily with many tasks to prepare the conference, which will attract hundreds of participants. A campaign supporter from Puerto Rico already plans to arrive in Cleveland a few weeks prior to the conference to help.

There is a \$12-per-day registration fee for

the conference. Rooms are \$15.90 per night for a single, \$10.60 for a double, and \$5 for budget housing. A three-meal-per-day plan costs \$17, two meals \$13.50. Individual meal tickets can also be purchased and other meal options are available.

For more information on the 1992 International Socialist Conference contact the socialist campaign headquarters at the Pathfinder Bookstore nearest you listed on page 16, or write or call the Cleveland Socialist Campaign, 1863 W. 25th St., Cleveland, Ohio 44113. Tel: (216) 861-6150, fax (216) 861-1773.

## 1992 International Socialist Conference THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO TODAY

August 5-9 at Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio

Join with unionists, students and other youth, participants in protests against police brutality and in defense of abortion rights, socialist candidates for public office, and others from around the world. There will be classes, workshops, feature presentations, social events, and

more! Conference classes and feature presentations will discuss how fighters and revolutionary minded workers and youth can draw on the historic lessons of the working class and communist movement in confronting the wars, racism, and economic crisis of capitalism.

### Conference schedule

#### Wednesday, August 5:

EVENING FEATURE PRESENTATION: "The Communist Manifesto Today" by Jack Barnes, National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party.

#### Thursday, August 6:

FEATURE PRESENTATION: "The Communist Foundations of the Fight for Women's Rights" by Mary-Alice Waters, Editor, *New Internationalist*.

- Lunch
- Class and Workshops
- Dinner

MULTI-MEDIA PROGRAM: "Expanding the Arsenal of Revolutionary books and Literature—Reconstruction of the Pathfinder Building."

#### Friday, August 7:

Feature presentation: "The Struggle in South Africa Today" by Greg McCartan, Editor, *The Militant*.

- Lunch
- Classes and Workshops
- Dinner

International Youth Panel.

#### Saturday, August 8:

FEATURE PRESENTATION: "The Changing Face of Europe" by Sven Carlson.

- Lunch
- Classes
- Dinner

FEATURE PRESENTATION: "Tasks of Revolutionary Workers and Youth in 1992."

#### Sunday, August 9:

SPECIAL EVENT: James Warren and Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers presidential and vice-presidential candidates, address campaign supporters.

- \* Housing and meals costs per day: \$27.60 per person, double room
- \* Registration cost per day: \$12.00

Yes, I want to attend the conference. Send me more information.

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# Socialist campaigners win new 'Militant' readers

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Petitioners working to place Socialist Workers candidates on the ballot in states around the country have found this effort creates good opportunities for introducing thousands of working people and youth to the campaign newspaper, the *Militant*.

Offering the *Militant* to everyone signing the socialists' petitions results in many signers buying copies of the paper or taking out subscriptions. Follow-up phone calls and visits to those signing campaign interest cards have led to winning additional new readers as well.

In **Massachusetts**, where campaigners have been on a drive to collect 15,000 signatures to place the socialist ticket on the ballot, Cecelia Moriarty reports: "The full-time petitioning team has been setting and surpassing daily goals for sales of the *Militant*. During 6 days of campaigning and petitioning, supporters sold 5 *Militant* subscriptions and 162 single copies, 2 *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions and 6 single copies, and 3 issues of *New International*.

In **Delaware**, campaign supporters recently collected more than 2,800 signatures in an effort to win ballot status for the socialist presidential ticket for the first time in the state since 1976. More than 20 people signed endorser cards and 5 *Militant* subscriptions and many single issues were sold, together with some \$90 worth of Pathfinder literature.

## Subscription deadlines

The international circulation campaign ends July 25. Supporters in every area must have all subscriptions, together with final reports on *New International* and *L'inter-*

*nationaliste* sales, into the *Militant* business office by Wednesday, July 29, at 12:00 noon EST.

From **Stockholm**, where supporters of the *Militant* raised their goals for the second time during the course of the drive, Carl-Erik Isacson filed the following report: "Saturday sales have been the real key to a successful subscription drive. Every Saturday at 10:00 a.m., 8 to 15 *Militant* supporters gather at the Pathfinder Bookstore to discuss the political content of the current *Militant* and organize to set up tables at political events and demonstrations taking place in Stockholm.

"At these book tables we have sold a total of 19 *Militant* and 12 *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions. Another 14 *Militant* and 3 *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions have been sold by door-to-door teams.

"We went to the Roskilde youth festival in Denmark at the end of June where thousands of young people gather every year. We found a great deal of interest in the *Communist Manifesto*. During the last month we have sold more than 15 copies of the pamphlet."

## Gold miners buy subscriptions

During the course of two sales-reporting trips to **Yellowknife, Northwest Territories**, where 240 members of the Canadian Association of Smelter and Allied Workers have been on strike since May 22, gold miners bought 11 *Militant* subscriptions and 2 *New Internationals*.

Team member Ned Dmytryshyn reports: "One striker who had previously bought a one-year *Militant* subscription at the beginning of June decided to purchase *New International* numbers 6 and 7. He was par-



Militant

Circulating 'Militant' in Salt Lake City at rally protesting Rodney King verdict.

ticularly interested in the article "Land, Labor, and the Canadian Revolution," and the working-class view of the U.S.-led war against Iraq.

"Strike coordinator Dale Johnston thought it would be useful to subscribe to receive weekly coverage that the *Militant* provides of union and working-class struggles around the world written by participants."

From **Nova Scotia**, Roger Annis reports: "Two *Militant* reporting teams recently visited Pictou County and the coal mining region of Cape Breton Island to hear firsthand from working people about the May 9 explosion at the Westray mine and its political consequences. Some 150 people bought copies of the *Militant* and 8 decided to buy subscriptions."

"In Arichat, team members walked the picket line with lobster processing workers on strike at Clearwater Fine Foods where on June 11, 600 strikers and union supporters succeeded in forcing the company and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to suspend attempts to operate the plant using scab labor."

From **Salt Lake City**, United Steelworkers of America member Dave Salner reports on the positive response to the *Militant* among members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) in the west.

"Throughout the western states of Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona, and Utah, which contain the largest coal deposits in the world, the coal bosses keep probing to see if they can break the union."

"Eighteen mine workers have recently subscribed to the *Militant* in Craig, Colorado, where UMWA Local 1799 successfully resisted a year-long union-busting ef-

fort by Cypress Minerals, and on the Navajo Indian Reservation in Arizona. Sales teams to these areas have succeeded in introducing the international outlook of the *Militant* to the coalfields."

**Britain**  
A New Stage  
in the Struggle Against  
Apartheid in South Africa:  
Eyewitness Report.  
Speakers include: Estelle DeBates, U.S. vice-presidential candidate; Greg McCartan, editor, the *Militant*; Shellia Kennedy, Communist League.

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Spital Hill. Tel: 0742-765070

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47 The Cut. SE 1. Tel: 071-928-7993.

## Selling the socialist press to unionists

Union	% Sold (Goal)	Sold	Goal	% Sold	Sold
<b>UNITED STATES</b>					
ACTWU	56%	55	31	25	5
IAM	65%	110	71	19	8
ILGWU	72%	46	33	5	7
OCWA	103%	39	40	15	6
UAW	100%	75	75	15	3
UFCW	77%	90	69	30	12
USWA	79%	85	67	20	1
UTU**	86%	85	73	20	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>87%</b>		<b>487</b>		<b>130</b>
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>					
MFTU	120%	5	6	2	0
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>87%</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>BRITAIN</b>					
AEU	10%	10	1	5	1
NUM	30%	10	3	0	0
RMT	100%	17	17	14	3
TGWU	80%	15	12	5	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>87%</b>		<b>45</b>		<b>21</b>
<b>CANADA</b>					
ACTWU	75%	8	6	3	1
CAW	53%	15	8	2	2
IAM	80%	5	4	2	1
USWA	50%	16	8	8	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>87%</b>		<b>38</b>		<b>13</b>
<b>SWEDEN</b>					
FOOD WORKERS	50%	4	2	3	3
METAL WORKERS	127%	11	14	3	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>107%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>SHOULD BE</b>	<b>87%</b>		<b>13</b>		<b>5</b>

ACTWU — Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; AEU — Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union; CAW — Canadian Auto Workers; IAM — International Association of Machinists; ILGWU — International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; MFTU — Metal Trades Federation of Unions; NUM — National Union of Mineworkers; OCAW — Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; RMT — Rail, Maritime & Transport Workers' Union; TGWU — Transport and General Workers' Union; UAW — United Auto Workers; UFCW — United Food and Commercial Workers; USWA — United Steelworkers of America.

\* Includes subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*.

\*\* Raised goal

## Sales Drive Scoreboard

Areas	The Militant			Perspectiva Mundial		L'inter-nationaliste		New International		Total	
	Goal	Total Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
<b>UNITED STATES</b>											
Portland	10	10	100%	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10
Seattle	120	117	98%	35	20	3	3	25	22	183	162
Los Angeles*	200	171	86%	110	102	4	1	110	85	424	359
Des Moines, IA	130	109	84%	25	20	2	1	40	19	197	149
Philadelphia	85	66	78%	20	22	3	0	30	12	138	100
Salt Lake City	130	100	77%	20	8	2	0	30	9	182	117
Washington, DC	130	96	74%	20	23	10	3	55	41	215	163
Chicago	150	108	72%	35	19	5	0	70	25	260	152
Birmingham, AL	80	57	71%	5	2	2	0	40	2	127	61
Twin Cities, MN	140	97	69%	20	12	2	0	30	15	192	124
Pittsburgh	90	62	69%	5	5	2	0	30	3	127	70
Morgantown, WV	80	55	69%	3	3	2	0	30	20	115	78
St. Louis	100	68	68%	5	1	2	0	25	4	132	73
Greensboro, NC	80	54	68%	8	8	2	1	15	6	105	69
San Francisco	150	100	67%	50	13	8	0	70	54	278	167
Houston	80	53	66%	20	15	2	0	20	6	122	74
Boston	135	89	66%	40	40	15	2	50	57	240	188
Atlanta	90	58	64%	8	8	2	1	30	14	130	81
Newark, NJ	160	102	64%	50	23	15	9	70	22	295	156
Baltimore	110	67	61%	12	8	3	2	30	5	155	82
Detroit	140	77	55%	10	3	2	0	30	24	182	104
New York	250	110	44%	100	18	20	6	110	39	480	173
Miami	110	48	44%	30	21	15	15	45	27	200	111
New Haven, CT*	20	8	40%	4	1	0	0	6	3	30	12
Cleveland	90	35	39%	10	1	2	1	20	11	122	48
Cincinnati*	39	14	36%	3	0	0	0	5	2	47	16
Wilmington, DE	10	2	20%	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	2
Ft. Madison, IA	5	1	20%	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1
<b>U.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>2,914</b>	<b>1,934</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1,016</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>4,703</b>	<b>2,902</b>
<b>AUSTRALIA*</b>											
	45	32	71%	14	9	1	0	20	12	80	53
<b>BELGIUM*</b>											
	6	5	83%	2	1	12	1	8	4	16	11
<b>BRITAIN</b>											
London	80	64	80%	6	2	2	2	40	26	128	94
Manchester	50	38	76%	2	1	1	1	30	20	83	60
Sheffield	50	36	72%	3	1	2	0	25	16	80	53
<b>BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>207</b>
<b>CANADA</b>											
Vancouver*	130	107	82%	15	13	8	6	30	24	183	150
Toronto	90	65	72%	20	16	5	2	45	34	160	117
Montreal*	75	50	67%	20	20	30	12	60	64	185	146
<b>CANADA TOTAL</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>413</b>
<b>FRANCE</b>											
	5	2	40%	2	1	15	12	5	7	27	22
<b>ICELAND</b>											
	20	21	105%	1	0	1	0	5	2	27	23
<b>MEXICO</b>											
	1	1	100%	5	4	0	0	0	0	6	5
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>											
Wellington*	50	49	98%	1	1	1	0	10	9	62	59
Christchurch	40	37	93%	1	0	1	0	10	2	52	39
Auckland*	65	57	88%	5	5	1	1	13	12	84	75
Other N.Z.	4	4	100%	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
<b>N.Z. TOTAL</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>177</b>
<b>PUERTO RICO</b>											
	1	0	0%	5	6	0	0	2	2	8	8
<b>SWEDEN*</b>											
	75	73	97%	30	37	3	3	20	19	128	132
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,695</b>	<b>2,575</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>1,339</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>6,016</b>	<b>3,953</b>
<b>SHOULD BE</b>		<b>3045</b>	<b>87%</b>		<b>653</b>		<b>174</b>		<b>1,088</b>		
<b>DRIVE GOALS</b>	<b>3,500</b>			<b>750</b>		<b>200</b>		<b>1,250</b>		<b>5,700</b>	
*raised goals.											



# DeBates visits South Africa massacre site

BY SHELLIA KENNEDY

BOIPATONG, South Africa — "I want to extend our solidarity to your struggle and join in condemning the violence perpetrated against you and the people of South Africa by the apartheid regime," Socialist Workers candidate for Vice-president Estelle DeBates told residents of this strife-torn township.

DeBates is on a one-week tour of South Africa, learning about political developments in the country and holding discussions with a number of organizations. The African National Congress (ANC) Youth League has helped organize a series of visits to townships and meetings with the ANC Women's League, Congress of South African Trade Unions, ANC, South African Student Congress, and others.

Forty-nine residents of Boipatong township were massacred last month. DeBates visited several families whose homes and family members had been attacked. Ms. Mabowa, aged 63, and her daughter Minosie, aged 10, were two of the victims. Both received deep cuts to the head. Attackers broke windows to enter the house, then stole blankets, televisions, and other items.

One resident escorted DeBates and her entourage through barricades erected to pro-

tect the community. He explained that his children no longer want to sleep in the house at night, but "I have no other home to go to." He also told DeBates that the community has street patrols which stay up until 4:30 in the morning to keep watch for further attacks.

The vice-presidential candidate explained that she and her running mate, James Warren, would use their campaign as a platform to get out the truth about the struggle in South Africa. Both will encourage youth and unionists to add their voices to the campaign to bring the attacks against anti-apartheid activists to an end, and demand

that the South African regime concede to the creation of a democratically elected constituent assembly.

DeBates also attended a national conference of the South African Student Congress at the University of the North, held in the Lebowa Bantustan.

"Our campaign explains that there is no 'national' solution to the crisis workers and youth face in the United States," DeBates said in greetings to the 300 student delegates. "The deep-going crisis of capitalism will either be resolved by imperialism dragging us into a world war — as they did to

resolve their last great crisis in the 1930s — or by working people and youth worldwide joining together in a common struggle against exploitation and oppression. The mobilizations of South African workers and youth are an example to working people the world over of how to fight the ravages of the capitalist crisis." DeBates received a standing ovation from the conference.

DeBates was also able to meet with ANC and trade union leaders to discuss the challenges facing the revolutionary movement, and the current stage in the fight for a democratic South African republic.

## Mass action campaign deepens in S. Africa

Continued from front page

which anti-apartheid activists have been targeted for assassination and township residents massacred at random.

At a July 9 press conference ANC president Nelson Mandela outlined the contents of a memorandum issued to South African president F.W. de Klerk. The statement denounced government charges that the ANC has fabricated a crisis in order to sabotage negotiations while launching a mass action campaign aimed at seizing power.

Mandela rejected de Klerk's call for face-to-face talks. He appealed for the president to "recognize the gravity of the crisis" and to meet the preconditions set by the ANC for the resumption of talks.

The main demands in the June 23 ANC statement are that the government agree to the "creation of a democratically elected and sovereign Constituent Assembly to draft and adopt a new constitution;" the "establishment of an Interim Government of National Unity to decisively end white minority rule;" and the "termination of all covert operations including hit squad activity, as well as the disarming, disbanding and confining to barracks of all special forces as well as detachments made up of foreign nationals."

Millions of workers and youth have responded to the ANC's call for a rolling campaign of mass actions to press these demands. The campaign already includes the following actions:

- COSATU has called a seven-day national strike beginning August 3.
- A series of mass rallies and meetings will be held in the final days of the seven-

day strike.

• The South African National Civic Organization (SANCO) has announced plans for a boycott of bond repayments directed at lending institutions throughout the country. Civil organizations are also considering a rent boycott. The Broad Forum, an alliance of community and political organizations, has intensified its boycott of white-owned businesses in several towns.

• A successful countrywide work stay-away June 16 kicked off the campaign. Numerous rallies and protests were held June 23 to commemorate the 49 people killed in Boipatong township and to protest the involvement of South African security forces in the massacre.

• A June 27 rally of 40,000 metalworkers demanding a living wage also called for an end to the campaign of violence and terror and for an interim government.

### Industrial disputes

South African workers are facing massive layoffs in basic industries. The first six months of 1992 were marked by a sharp increase in strikes demanding a living wage.

One of the sharpest conflicts involves a strike by hospital workers demanding their first contract. Management dismissed 7,000 workers in response to a National Education Health and Allied Workers Union action that has swept the nation in the past weeks. Toyota fired 6,000 National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) members who have been striking in Durban for more than six weeks. The company's action prompted 500 workers at Toyota's Midrand plant in the Transvaal to join the strike.

More than 40,000 NUMSA members are poised to strike in the auto, metal, and tire industries as well.

Government and big-business spokespeople have taken a hard stance against the mass action campaign.

"The so-called deadlock we are in is due to the fact that the ANC has not been able to move away from emotional politics," government minister Tertius Delpoit said in an address to the National Party Federal Youth Congress. The National Party is the ruling party in the country.

Other government officials have made similar statements, shifting the blame for the break off in negotiations and the failure to move ahead on plans for election of a Constituent Assembly. The regime has gone further, saying the ANC's mass actions, rather than the government itself, is responsible for the violence in the country.

Foreign Minister Pik Botha said the government considers resuming negotiations an urgent matter and that "leaders of the major parties should jointly accept responsibility for further steps to curb violence."

Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi backed up the government position saying the mass action campaign is "a recipe for anarchy... and civil war, our economy is in dire straits. Why bash it further?" he added. "The ANC is dragging our country into a state of further tragic loss of life just to force concessions in constitutional talks."

### Business officials' threats

"Those who argue that economic conditions cannot get any worse could be in for a rude awakening," a South African Chamber of Business statement said prior to a meeting between the business association and ANC leader Mandela.

Chamber of Business labor affairs spokesperson Jerry Bezuidenhout said "attitudes of business leaders are hardening" toward the planned mass actions. "Aside from the principle of no work, no pay, com-

panies look set to take disciplinary actions against workers who stay away. This could lead to disciplinary actions."

An editorial in *Business Day* cautioned against such a hard-line approach. *Business's*, "image was badly damaged in the eyes of many COSATU and ANC supporters by overt support of the government during the apartheid years," but should not side with the alliance "because of feelings of guilt."

Instead, the paper said, "If business is to help facilitate the resumption of negotiations between the government and the ANC, it needs to make clear that it is doing so because its own interests demand the increased stability this would bring."

COSATU refused to be intimidated by these threats. In an interview with the conservative daily *The Citizen*, COSATU secretary general Jay Naidoo said, "We will build up the mass action to the point where we will compel the government to re-enter the negotiation process on a bonafide basis."

"We are saying that the government has to agree to a general election by the end of December and what we need to enter into is negotiations around the modalities of reaching a free and fair election," the union leader said.

The South African Co-ordinating Committee on Labour Affairs, a body representing 10 major employers and COSATU, was convened to discuss the action. A day of joint business-union action on August 3 — the opening of the general strike — is now being considered.

Meanwhile, the United Nations secretary general agreed to convene a meeting of the Security Council July 15 to discuss the violence. Initially opposing any "outside interference," the de Klerk regime says it now welcomes UN proposals to discuss the situation in the country. Officials of the regime, the ANC, the Pan Africanist Congress, and others are scheduled to address the UN Security Council.

Much of the big-business media in the United States and elsewhere has portrayed the mass action campaign as a concession by Mandela to "militant" youth and trade union members. But leaders of the ANC Youth League, COSATU, and the ANC interviewed here say there is unanimity among the organizations on the need to defend the initiative of negotiations and deepen the political mobilization of wider layers of the population.

Across the country democratic organizations and trade unions are preparing for the most widespread and sustained mass action campaign ever to press the ANC's demands. "You may succeed in delaying," said Mandela in his letter to de Klerk, "but never in preventing the transition of South Africa to a democracy."

## —CALENDAR—

### CANADA

**Vancouver**  
**Pathfinder Bookstore Open House.** See video of interviews with artists who worked on the Pathfinder mural. Sat., July 18, 7:30 p.m. 3967 Main St. (between 23rd and 24 Ave). Donation: \$4. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

### NEW YORK

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Militant/Arthur Hughes  
Estelle DeBates, socialist candidate

## Apartheid regime guilty of violence

BY GREG McCARTAN

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — A central focus of the campaign of mass actions here is to force the government of South African president F.W. de Klerk to accept responsibility for widespread attacks on anti-apartheid activists and random violence against residents of Black townships.

Following the June 17 massacre of more than 40 people in the township of Boipatong, the Goldstone Commission rapped the regime for ignoring proposals aimed at curbing the rising number of violent attacks. The commission, headed up by Supreme Court Justice Richard Goldstone, is charged with investigating incidents across the country.

But Goldstone also said that ANC allegations that the de Klerk regime is responsible for the violence is "unwise, unfair, and dangerous." The ANC based its claims on the fact that residents who have been assaulted report that state security forces have either

helped plan or have participated in numerous attacks. Despite such evidence, no members of the security forces or government officials have been convicted in any of the assassinations or massacres. So far this year 1,181 people have been killed in the violence.

Goldstone said in the report that no evidence had been submitted that indicates that de Klerk is either complicit or has a direct hand in numerous attacks.

The regime seized on this aspect of the commission's report to demand an apology from the ANC. Government minister Piet Coetzer said that the ANC should "search its own heart as far as violence is concerned," and demanded the organization return to the negotiating table.

"The ANC itself," he said, "has to make a constructive contribution to cool down the current overheated political climate, instead of agitating it further."

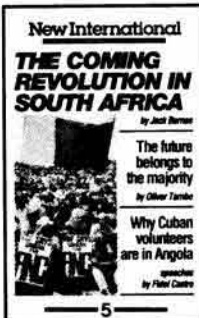
Conservative Party leader Andries Treurnicht said the commission's report proved the ANC's allegations are a "typical communist strategy to pave the way for takeover either by themselves or by an international task force."

Responding to this attempt to exonerate the regime, the ANC said in a statement that the commission, "unfortunately, narrowed the issue of state culpability to 'direct complicity in or planning of the violence.' This misses the point. Culpability extends to acts of commission and omission. We find it odd that the commission can make so conclusive a determination without evidence being laid before it."

The extent and character of the involvement of the security forces in the violence was the topic of a series of articles in the monthly ANC journal, *Mayibuye*. A growing feature of the attacks on township residents, the articles and senior ANC of-

Continued on Page 18

From Pathfinder  
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# James Warren visits Cuban steel factory

## Workers tell U.S. socialist candidate: 'Here people are the main priority'

BY SELVA NEBBIA

HAVANA, Cuba — "The workers of our company, Cubana de Acero, wish you a most cordial welcome and fruitful visit at our plant. We hope it will strengthen the ties of solidarity with U.S. workers, and that you will convey to your people the spirit of dedication and sacrifice with which the Cuban workers are confronting the difficult times that our country is going through, convinced that we will be able to resist and develop, not only for ourselves but for all the oppressed of the world. Long live the friendship among the peoples of the world!"

This was the message read by Mercedes Hernández, as she and other workers at Cubana de Acero welcomed James Warren to their steel plant here. Warren, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president, was on a six-day fact-finding trip to Cuba.

Hernández, a secretary who has worked at the plant for 16 years, joined René Fernández, the plant manager, and other plant workers in giving Warren a tour of the shop. Pedro Ross, head of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions (CTC), also participated in the shop tour. The tour was followed by an informal gathering over juice and coffee, where Warren was able to learn more about the plant and answer questions about U.S. politics.

30-year embargo against trade with the island, which, coupled with the legacy of decades of imperialist domination, continues to have a devastating effect on the economy of this Caribbean country.

### Effects of shortages

This recent crisis has led to a shorter workweek in some industries and the closing down of others due to lack of fuel and spare parts.

One of the workers at the plant who, after learning that this was Warren's second visit to Cuba, asked the candidate what changes he had noticed. Noting the effects of the fuel shortage, Warren explained, "The one thing that struck me has been the lack of cars on the road compared to the many I saw during my first visit back in 1981, and the tremendous numbers of people riding bicycles in the streets today."

Fernández and the others led Warren to the first of several open buildings that make up the various machine shops where he and Ross introduced him to individual workers who took time off from welding, looking over blueprints, testing equipment, and running lathes and other machinery to meet the visitor.

A steelworker himself in Chicago, Warren described the working conditions U.S. steelworkers face and listened to the workers' description of work at the Cuban steel plant.

"Here you will experience a totally different situation from what you are used to," one worker told Warren. "While we work with very expensive material, our most valuable asset here is the human beings who do the work."

With a work force of 800 workers, Cubana de Acero today mainly produces stainless steel equipment for Cuba's pharmaceutical and medical industry. One of the workers showed Warren a hermetic door being built at the

plant for Havana's institute of biotechnology. Warren had toured the institute earlier that week.

### Generations working together

In every workshop at the plant, workers proudly introduced Warren to the younger members of the work force as well as the old-timers, pointing out the importance of the different generations working together and sharing training and experience.

"It's good to have workers with 30 years experience alongside brand new workers; this allows for good training," a younger worker pointed out.

clinic. They were met by a group of only 50 pro-choice activists.

Young people from Baton Rouge made up the majority of the clinic defenders. Many of them were students at Louisiana State University who were organized by Louisiana Choice. Others arrived from around the country as part of groups such as the National Women's Rights Organizing Coalition and the Coalition to Reclaim Our Abortion and Reproductive Rights.

Local TV stations portrayed the Operation Rescue forces as peaceful demonstrators confronted by angry, screaming clinic defenders, and gave publicity to nightly rallies organized by OR at local clinics.

Local and state police assumed an aggressive role in keeping OR away from clinic property. They blocked off part of the road



U.S. socialist presidential candidate James Warren (left) with workers at Cubana de Acero steel plant in Havana, Cuba.

Luis Valdez, 26, head of one of the machine shops, introduced Warren to Marlén Domínguez. Domínguez, 44, is a crane operator. She has been at Cubana de Acero for 16 years.

The Cuban steel plant began hiring women in 1960, after the triumph of the revolution, when the first systematic training program was set up. That same year a free cafeteria was set up at the plant. By 1964, there were women trained as machinists, mechanics, in assembly, and crane operators. The country's first woman welder was trained at that time in the plant.

Today there are 248 women working at Cubana de Acero.

Warren was taken to a room at one end of the plant lined with newspaper clippings and awards marking the workers' achievements throughout the years. There he was asked to sign the guest book.

"Cubana de Acero was born 33 years ago, on June 9, 1959," Fernández explained. "Che [Guevara] came to the plant and opened it up with a group of workers. At the beginning they hardly earned any wages, but fought to get production going after the plant had been left idle by its U.S. owners."

Founded in 1914 under the name of American Steel Corp. of Cuba, the steel plant's original U.S. owners began dismantling it in 1957 with the pretext that they were going to relocate.

### Workers guarded plant

"With the triumph of the revolution in January 1959," the plant head explained, "the workers who had worked for the steel plant occupied the plant and guarded it against further dismantling." They were part of the massive workers' upsurge that toppled the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. Both production workers as well as office workers started up production hoping that the plant would again become what it had been in the past — the main producer of steel structures in Cuba.

Workers at the plant opened one of the scrap books to a newspaper clipping reporting on Ernesto Che Guevara's visit to the plant a short time after the June 9 opening. The Argentine-born Guevara was a leader of the Cuban revolution who played an important role in the organiza-

tion of Cuba's industry during the first years of the revolution.

Quoting Guevara, the headline read: "Where two years ago there had been only 80 workers, today there are more than one thousand," reflecting the progress made by workers running the plant. "First there was only one shift; now the plant works 24 hours a day. The working class marches at the head of the revolution and every day it participates more in the running of the country."

Warren was also shown a display of photos of workers who were among the founders of Cubana de Acero. Alongside these, another display showed the portraits of workers at the plant who had participated in volunteer missions in Africa, in Grenada, and in Nicaragua.

Warren was introduced to an old-timer who heads up the Movement of the Senior Members of Production at the plant. Set up in 1992 by older workers, retirees, and founding members of the company, this group helps in training and keeps an eye on quality and waste as well as safe working conditions.

The socialist candidate was shown the infirmary at the plant that is attended by a full-time doctor and a nurse.

One of those accompanying Warren during his tour was Marta Díez, head of the chapter of the Union of Communist Youth (UJC) at the plant. Of the 330 youth who are part of the work force here, she told Warren, 66 belong to the UJC.

During the discussion period that followed the tour, Fernández described how today as throughout the years, Cubana de Acero production changed to meet the specific needs of the country at any given time.

"We have switched what we produced many times," he said. "This plant has played an important role in the production of new products, which was later turned over to other industries, along with the technology and experience we had developed."

### Variety of products

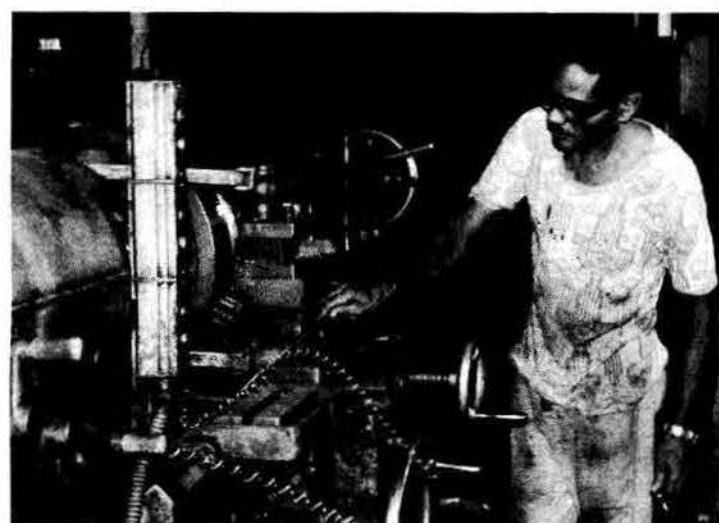
Cubana de Acero produced major components for the sugar industry, one of Cuba's major exports; wheels for railroad cars; and pipes and containers for various industries. Today the steel plant is producing equipment to meet the needs of the food program. It has produced parts for pre-cooked rice factories and for the animal feed industry. The aim of the food program is to produce as much food to achieve self-sufficiency through the massive mobilization of voluntary labor.

"Today we are firmly dedicated to Cuba's program to develop the medical and the biotechnological industries. Given the needs of the country, this is an essential task," said Fernández.

The biotechnological industry is one of the industries that have been prioritized since it provides Cuba with badly needed foreign currency.

Warren spent a couple of hours talking to workers at the plant and answering questions on how he sees the U.S. elections, the Ross Perot development, the role of Jesse Jackson, and the possibilities for revolutionary developments in the United States.

Before leaving, the unionists urged Warren to come back and spend more time exchanging ideas with Cuban workers. "We hope very much that more workers like you come to visit Cuba and see things for themselves," said Ross.



Lathe operator at Havana steel plant

"Because of the special period we are in," explained Fernández during the tour, "workers at Cubana de Acero are working two 10-hour shifts a day, trying to meet the needs of the country. This is what is needed today to meet the needs of the special period."

The plant director was referring to the special conditions of severe shortages Cuba has been facing over the last couple of years. The shortages are due to the drastic cut in trade of vital supplies from the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, which were Cuba's main trading partners. Cuba was pushed to depend heavily on trade with these countries by Washington's more than

## Operation Rescue is set back in Louisiana

Continued from front page

Operation Rescue supporters gathered around cars approaching the clinic grounds, attempting to prevent clients from entering. Except for one incident when an anti-abortion activist sat down in front of the fence the police had erected around the clinic grounds, Operation Rescue limited itself to harassing clinic defenders.

OR leaders claimed to have "saved" three "babies," but at 10 a.m. the pro-choice fighters got word that all the patients had entered the clinic.

The Delta Women's Clinic is the only facility in Baton Rouge that offers abortions. Another clinic shut down shortly after OR announced its intention to target the city as part of its "summer of purpose."

On July 8 more than 1,000 members of Operation Rescue had marched against the

in front of the clinic, established police lines on either side of a six-foot-high chain link fence they erected around the clinic grounds, and arrested anyone who tried to cross their lines.

Clinic defenders locked arms and established long defensive lines to keep OR supporters off clinic grounds. They chanted "Hey hey, ho ho, we kicked you out of Buffalo," and "Racist, sexist, anti-gay; born again bigots go away." One OR demonstrator carried a sign that read, "Sterilize all feminists" and "Why can't lesbians get AIDS."

By Wednesday 45 people had been arrested, mostly from OR. Operation Rescue has announced that it is considering filing a civil rights lawsuit against the city, claiming the police unjustly treated them with "soft brutality."



# U.S. socialist candidate tours Britain

BY SHELLIA KENNEDY

SHEFFIELD, England — Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. vice-president, visited here for four days starting June 19. A press release announcing the tour was picked up by the *Star*, one of the main newspapers, and BBC Radio Sheffield aired a five-minute interview with the socialist candidate.

A student at a local comprehensive school (high school) organized for DeBates to speak with a sociology class and address an informal lunchtime meeting. Thirty students participated in the two events. They raised questions about the Saddam Hussein regime in Iraq; how to stop the war in Yugoslavia, the definition of the "working class," and whether or not Britain is in a depression. Two students said they wanted to attend the Communist League and Young Socialist fusion congress, which was held here June 27-28 (see article on page 11).

DeBates also campaigned at the Yorkshire Miners' Gala, an annual gathering of miners, their families, and other trade unionists. Thousands participated in this year's event. The candidate had lively discussions with miners and workers at the Pathfinder bookstall at the gala. Many miners wanted to know about working-class and other struggles taking place in the United States. Some expressed disappointment that the Labour Party in Britain didn't win the recent election. Many said they liked the idea of a worker running for U.S. vice-president speaking about the alternative to racism, depression, and war. Some 25 people bought single copies of the *Militant* and one bought a subscrip-

tion, while hundreds took leaflets and campaign brochures.

That evening DeBates spoke at a Militant Labour Forum. A truck driver who had heard DeBates's radio interview attended. He bought a Militant subscription and a copy of the Marxist magazine, *New Internationalist*, featuring the article, "Opening Guns of World War III."

DeBates and campaign supporters also visited a picket line of workers at the River Don Stamping plant, who have been on strike for a week and a half over wage cuts.

BY ROBERT HIGLEY

LONDON — Amid chants of "British justice, no justice," and "Who are the real terrorists? The police are the real terrorists," Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. vice-president, joined 30 other antiracist fighters outside the Stratford Magistrate's Court in East London.

The picket was in solidarity with Arnold and Tony Deane. The Deanes had been charged with assaulting the police. The incident arose when Tony Deane, who is Black, was approached by the cops for information on an incident they were investigating nearby. When he explained that he knew nothing about it, the police viciously assaulted him and his father.

Following the picket, DeBates spoke to a meeting of 18 students and college staff from Queen Mary's College. She was also interviewed by Capital Radio, a major commercial radio station in London, and spoke at a Militant Labour Forum held at the Pathfinder bookshop. This meeting was also

addressed by Sakhiwe Khumalo, a member of the African National Congress Youth League who has been touring Britain.

The following day, DeBates spoke with a number of workers at Heathrow airport,

visited Raphael Rowe, a framed-up Black youth, in prison, and participated in a demonstration called by the antiapartheid movement to protest the recent Boipatong massacre in South Africa.

## Washington State socialist campaign wins exemption from disclosure laws

BY SCOTT BREEN

OLYMPIA, Washington—The Washington State Public Disclosure Commission voted 4-1 to exempt the Socialist Workers 1992 Washington State Campaign Committee from publicly disclosing the names and addresses of its contributors and vendors. The exemption will continue through 1992.

Washington's campaign disclosure laws require that contributors to state and local candidates be made public. In addition, the law requires that campaign financial records be available for public inspection.

Kathy Wheeler, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Washington, called it a "victory for the right to free association."

The decision came after the commission held a public hearing on the request of the Socialist Workers campaign committee for an extension of an exemption granted by the Public Disclosure Commission in 1991.

The hearing was attended by Socialist Workers candidates, their coworkers, and supporters. Mark Severs, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate, and David Stobaugh, an attorney representing the campaign spoke.

"This exemption is necessary," Severs

told the commission. "Socialist Workers candidates and their supporters would be deprived of rights guaranteed by the First Amendment because of the likelihood of harassment resulting from such disclosure."

The campaign presented evidence of recent attempts at intimidation against socialist candidates and campaign supporters; previous rulings in support of exemption, including the one granted by the Federal Election Commission for all Socialist Workers federal candidates through 1996; and the text of Judge Thomas Griesa's 1986 ruling in *Socialist Workers Party v. Attorney General* documenting decades-long government harassment.

In requesting a 5-year exemption, Severs told the commission that publicly disclosing the names of contributors "would have a chilling effect on our ability to solicit and receive funds. It would open up our supporters to intimidation, threats, and reprisals."

"Harassment against socialist candidates and supporters continues today," he said, pointing to recent death threats against Chris Nisan, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in St. Paul, Minnesota. Nisan is

Continued on Page 16

### SOCIALIST CAMPAIGN IN THE NEWS

# THE TIMES

MONDAY JUNE 29 1992

## A voice from the wilderness

When America votes, Estelle DeBates is confident she will be a loser

This year's American presidential race may be wide open but one party confidently expects a drubbing in November's poll. The Socialist Workers' Party has already chosen its candidates, but the woman who should have her eyes on Dan Quayle's job has no doubt about her chances.

Estelle DeBates, aged 32, the party's vice-presidential candidate, says: "President Bush will win again, though he'll be given a tough time by Ross Perot. We're not in the election for votes because social forces would have to be so different for us to win. The aims of The Communist Manifesto won't be realised overnight. But we want to reach out to the small layer of people who are receptive to our ideas and build the leadership of the working class."

Ms DeBates has been in Britain to spread the socialist message and to support the workers' struggle. First port of call in London was an early morning appointment on a picket line outside Stratford Magistrates Court to support two black men accused of beating up two policemen. Somewhat quixotically, she accuses the British police of being given a free rein to terrorise workers.

Later, Ms DeBates addressed students at Queen Mary and Westfield College in the East End. Seated, and reading from a neat set of



Spreading the message in London: Estelle DeBates says "Civilised discussion is the best way and I try to listen"

notes, she seemed a different breed from the unreconstructed members of her party's British namesake, who took exception to her views on the former Soviet Union. She had said that for all its faults it was still a workers' state, though a "deformed" one. To the British faction it was a regime run by bloated bureaucrats who oppressed workers in a system of state capitalism.

Ms DeBates is, indeed, an unlikely revolutionary. Although she peppers her conversation with casual references to "Fidel" in Havana she spells out her agenda in the soothing tones of an

assured school teacher. "I have confidence in my ideas and I don't think shouting helps," she says. "Civilised discussion is the best way and I always try to listen. There are people on the left who are aggressive and frustrated. I'm not and I have total confidence that things will change. I am very patient and know there are big battles coming that will involve tens of thousands of American workers."

Her struggle is hardly helped by America's political system which excludes fringe parties. She says: "The election rules are prohibitive and undemocratic. We have to collect

thousands of signatures in every state just to be allowed on the ballot paper. In 1988 we only made the ballot in 17 states."

Life has become a little easier for the party since a judge awarded them \$264,000 (£130,000) in 1986 to compensate for FBI harassment. But Ms DeBates is sure she is still being watched. "Legally they have no right to hound me but it is well known that they keep tabs on people. I am sure I am considered a threat to national security," she says.

In her campaign leaflet Ms DeBates claims her eight

years' experience in the clothes industry as her qualification for leadership. Although she dropped out from the University of Minnesota, she could presumably have secured a better job than as a seamstress. But she took the job for "political reasons". She says: "I didn't let on about my education. I wanted to be part of the industrial working class to see what is happening. Socialists who don't take part in discussions with workers think they are beaten down and see the future as bleak. I don't feel that way at all."

She used to support the Democrats, but became disillusioned.

"I grew up on a farm in South Dakota and my family felt the full force of the depression in the 1930s. This roused my interest in politics and I went to work for the Democrats at the age of 19 as they were meant to be the party for workers. I soon quit. They just paid lip service to the thousands of people losing their jobs."

Ronald Reagan's meddling in Central America and the Nicaraguan revolution spurred Ms DeBates into the socialist cause. She still visits the region and has great affection for Cuba. "I may not agree with all that Fidel does but I have tremendous respect for him and I think he is a popular leader. He has led an internationalist cause. Sending Cuban troops to Angola was a fine example of that."

These sentiments contrast with her contempt for America's leaders. "The United States is the epitome of what is wrong with the world. There is a deep social and political crisis and Ross Perot's success stems from the failure of the two parties to solve these problems."

Not surprisingly, she vehemently opposed the war in the Gulf, though this was not out of sympathy for Saddam Hussein. "The Gulf war was the opening of World War Three and revealed the complete crisis of world capitalism. We put ourselves in the shoes of workers in Iraq and the war was certainly not in their interest. Saddam's invasion of Kuwait was just for his interest, but American imperialism made things worse. The US will continue to use its unparalleled military might against anyone that threatens its interests."

NICHOLAS WATT



# THE GLOBE AND MAIL

## Canadians help sought to get socialists on ballot U.S. pair, preaching world solidarity, hope to run for White House

PAUL VIEIRA

Special to the Globe and Mail

TORONTO — Who are James Warren and Estelle DeBates?

It may come as a shock to Americans and Canadians alike, but they are campaigning for the presidency and vice-presidency of the United States under the banner of the Socialist Workers Party.

Mr. Warren is a Chicago steel worker and wants to run for president. Ms. DeBates, a staff member at New York's socialist newspaper, *The Militant*, will be Mr. Warren's running mate.

They were in Toronto on the weekend looking for Canadians and others who would go to Ohio and help them gather names for a petition to get on the ballot there. They hope to get on the presidential ballot in at least 25 states, including New York, Michigan and Illinois.

The two have done much of their campaigning outside the United States — in North Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

"The whole framework for our election campaign is to present the need for an international working-class solidarity in face of a world that's increasingly dividing, turning on itself on the impact of the prices of the market system," Mr. Warren said.

"I consider my campaigning and talking to people in other countries as a very important part of what happens to the people in the U.S."

It is Mr. Warren's second run for the White House. As the SWP candidate in 1988, he garnered about 19,000 votes. The party, which has about 600 members across the United States, has fielded presidential candidates since 1948.

While Mr. Warren and Ms. DeBates laugh when the topic of winning the election is brought up, they say they are confident they will improve upon their 1988 totals and will also increase their party membership.

"I think the period we are living in is different," Mr. Warren said. "The biggest reflection of this is with the crisis of the two major parties — the Democrats and

Republicans — in the U.S. They are in such a deep crisis. People throughout the country . . . [are] so disgusted with the conduct of the two major parties that they're even willing to turn to a candidate they haven't even heard of, or don't know anything about."

Mr. Warren's proposed policies include:

- A shorter work week with no reduction in pay. He says this will lead to a 25-per-cent increase in jobs;

- A public-works program that will build and rebuild roads, schools and day-care centres. This would also create jobs, he says;

- An affirmative action program that would ensure more women and racial minorities are employed in every field in the United States;

- The immediate cancellation of Third World debt;

- Protection of abortion clinics;

- The filing of federal civil-rights charges against the four Los Angeles police officers acquitted in the beating of motorist Rodney King and the release of the 17,000 people arrested during the Los Angeles riots that followed the acquittal.

Ms. DeBates says the main goal that the pair's campaign can accomplish is in the area of recruiting. "We want to meet others who want to adopt the socialist perspective . . . so we can build a working-class movement to fight this capitalist crisis. Massive amounts of people are not ready for what we're saying, but there are people who are."

## The Miami Herald

### Socialist seeks presidential support

James Warren, the presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, came to South Florida on Monday to ask voters to join "the socialist alternative to the two parties of war, racism and economic depression."

Although conceding supporters will get him on the ballot in only about 25 states and acknowledging he has no chance of winning, he is taking his shoestring campaign around the country.

Warren, 40, is a crane operator for a steel warehouse in Chicago. He also ran for president in 1988.

He said he plans to spend about \$75,000 on his campaign. He said the money will be raised from donations from supporters.

National and economic problems go far deeper than Democrats and Republicans admit, Warren said. High unemployment, despite economic upturns and other factors, suggest that we are in the midst of the "decline of the capitalist system," Warren said.

He called for a series of strong measures to protect those "devastated" by this decline.



Warren



Militant/Kathy Mickells

Socialist presidential candidate James Warren (right) at Philadelphia house meeting. During Philadelphia tour Warren was interviewed on the largest Black radio station in the area and by the 'Philadelphia Inquirer.' As the economic 'recovery' falters and U.S. moves toward war around the world become clearer, the socialist candidates are finding greater interest in revolutionary ideas.



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The new Black view

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## Radical candidates say mainstream pols lack ideas

By CHARLES BAILLOU  
Special to the AmNews

With the Cold War ended and the nuclear threat vastly lessened, the "developed world" should turn its attention to assisting the people who have been neglected for too much long, radical candidates for this nation's chief executive offices said.

James Warren, presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, said that, "building hospitals, roads, day care centers and addressing the needs of working people, especially those who have been devastated by the last 15 years" should be the primary concern of the next president.

But this will not happen, Warren said in a telephone interview, unless workers get involved to fight for those changes.

"Working people must begin to act in politics," he said. "It is out of going into the streets to place demands on government that we can begin to move." In short, he contended, "practicing politics on a higher level" is what is needed.

However, Warren said the struggle is international in scope. And he said one of the principal issues for the Socialist Workers Party 1992 campaign is cancellation of the Third World debt. "We will begin to address ourselves to

the conditions of life for the vast majority of humanity residing in the Third World," he pledged.

"The fight for jobs, affirmative action and cancellation of the international debt" are among the issues stressed in the SWP's campaign platform, Warren noted.

"Our campaign is to find people who want to lead the big struggle coming down the road," said Estelle DeBates, the candidate for vice-president on the Socialist Workers Party ticket.

And this struggle is not limited by borders, DeBates said, during a conversation at her Manhattan office. "We don't believe there are any American solutions to the problem."

But that is not the view of the major presidential candidates, according to their statements, she said. "At the heart of our opponents' campaigns is nationalism: 'Making America strong, solving America's problems, making America first.' This is the litany from Pat Buchanan to Bill Clinton and Ross Perot, she said.

But this is merely an indication of the narrow nationalism extant in mainstream U.S. politics, according to the SWP's vice-presidential candidate. "We do not believe there are any American solutions. We reject that totally. There are only working class so-

lutions, which are international in character."

Contending that the major candidates are devoid of ideas, DeBates said they have "no solution to the budget deficit, homelessness or joblessness."

And the reality of these unsettling social conditions goes against the pronouncements of President George Bush, who touts his New World Order concept, DeBates said.

As a result, DeBates said, "The order set up after WWII has completely fallen apart. And no major power seems to have any kind of solutions to move in another direction."

That is perhaps why Warren said he is getting much better response in 1992 than he got in '88, when he first ran for president. "Today we can explain to people what it means to be a socialist or communist without the obstacle of the Stalinist police state in the Soviet Union as the so-called leader of the fight for socialism."

Asserting that the defeat of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union is good for international socialism, Warren added: "This new world is open to a deeper understanding of the fight for socialism more than any other time since WWI."

The Salt Lake Tribune



Utah's Campaign '92 with Paul Rolly

Sunday, May 10, 1992

The package of Utah candidates from the Socialist Workers Party has released a joint statement calling for free, universal health care. "We need to take the business out of health care. Our starting point must be that health care is a human right, not a service provided for profit," said the statement.

The statement says 37 million Americans have no health coverage and that the health-care industry is a \$700 billion big business.

The statement was released by U.S. Senate candidate Patricia Grogan, gubernatorial candidate Eleanor Garcia, lieutenant governor candidate William Arth, 2nd Congressional District candidate Eileen Koschak, 3rd Congressional District can-

didate Nels J'Anthony, and State Senate candidate David Anshen.

Tuesday, May 26, 1992

A joint statement by Utah Socialist Workers Party candidates condemned the recent execution of convicted killer Roger Coleman in Virginia, stating he became the "11th person in the U.S. to be legally murdered since March 1."

The statement said substantial evidence suggests Coleman did not receive a fair trial, arousing fears the state may have executed an innocent man.

The statement was issued by U.S. Senate candidate Patricia Grogan, and Eileen Koschak, candidate for the 2nd Congressional District. It called for a massive campaign to do away with the death penalty.



# Meat-packer, construction worker speak at socialist campaign rally in Michigan

BY DIANE SARGE

DETROIT — "This is a good time in history to get together with socialists around the world," said meat-packer Mike Guinyard, speaking at a Socialist Workers campaign rally here.

The rally celebrated the successful completion of a drive to collect signatures to place James Harris, a United Auto Workers member and SWP candidate in the 15th Congressional District, on the Michigan ballot. Socialist campaigners gathered 4,070 signatures in two weeks — more than double the requirement.

The June 27 victory rally drew four meat-packers from Detroit's Thorn Apple Valley plants, as well as other unionists and young people. Five participants signed up to attend the 1992 International Socialist Conference August 5-9 in Oberlin, Ohio.

Joining Guinyard, who is 29, on the rally platform was 23-year-old construction worker Amy Gasdorf. She first became active in politics at demonstrations to defend abortion clinics from rightist attacks.

Many youth, Gasdorf told the rally, try to "beat the system, get around it." Capitalist society encourages the idea that "rebellion is partying, alcohol, and drugs, not being on picket lines or joining social protests."

"It's important that young people know about the socialist alternative," she continued. The Socialist Workers 1992 campaign "is not an opportunity to escape or get around the system, but to meet it head-on."

Guinyard, a member of Local 26 of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, assailed the reaction of Democratic and Republican candidates to the antipolice riot in Los Angeles. The capitalist candidates, he noted, condemned Los Angeles working people and youth for not holding "our standards" of morality.

"Our standards? Are they talking about you or me? I don't think so," said Guinyard. "This is why we need socialist candidates out there. What they have is an agenda and

a plan to deal with the economic crisis and racism."

Guinyard said the first Socialist Workers campaigners he met were coworkers at the Thorn Apple Valley process plant. "They work side-by-side with you on the job. They're not like some groups that stand outside the plant and gossip. This is how the Socialist Workers have won my respect."

Socialist candidate James Harris explained that crime among working people stems from the competition imposed by the capitalist system. He encouraged people to read *The Condition of the Working Class in England*, by communist leader Frederick Engels, who described the phenomenon more than a century ago.

"Gang- and drug-related violence arise from the breakdown in human solidarity produced by capitalism," Harris said. "The way to turn it around is to win young people to enter political struggle."

The petitioners emphasized the socialists' opposition to U.S. war moves against the people of Yugoslavia, Libya, Iraq, and Korea. They stressed the need for a shorter workweek with no reduction in pay, popular in a city where 10- and 11-hour shifts are more and more the norm.

Frequently, residents grabbed the petition board to sign when they heard that Harris calls for indicting the police in Los Angeles who beat Rodney King and stands for keeping abortion safe and legal.

Socialist campaigners found a positive response in Hamtramck, a city both of res-

## The fight to put socialists on the ballot in 1992



Supporters of the Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign are petitioning to put James Warren for U.S. president and Estelle DeBates for vice-president on the ballot in 20 states and the District of Columbia. In addition, efforts are underway to place on the ballot socialist candidates for Congress and Senate in many of those states plus Florida, Michigan, and Pennsylvania, where anti-democratic restrictions have made petitioning for the socialist presidential candidates prohibitive for the 1992 elections.

Militant map by Eric Simpson

\* District of Columbia: petitioning is underway

	On the ballot
	Will petition in near future
	Petitioning is underway
	Petitioning is completed

idents who are Black and many families recently arrived from Poland, Albania, Yugoslavia, or Russia. Many young people from Eastern Europe were interested in the campaign, some engaging in lengthy discussion about the difference between their experience with "socialism" in their homeland and what the SWP stands for.

One young man who was asked to sign a

petition responded, "I'm an American. I can't do that." Later he returned to ask, "What is socialism, anyway?" and bought a copy of the *Communist Manifesto*.

Despite the strong support from working people and youth for placing socialists on the ballot, Harris explained that the SWP presidential ticket of James Warren and Estelle DeBates would not be on the Michigan ballot. "We could not overcome the undemocratic restrictions here that require working-class candidates to get 30,000 signatures for the presidential ticket," he said.

In addition to Harris, the Michigan Socialist Workers campaign is running Rose Ana Barbo in the 14th Congressional District and David Alvarez in the 16th Congressional District. An appeal to rally participants raised \$250 to help send vice-presidential candidate DeBates to South Africa.

Diane Sarge is a member of the International Association of Machinists and works at Northwest Airlines.

## Socialists win new support in San Francisco

BY OMARI MUSA

SAN FRANCISCO — Supporters of the campaign of Milton Chee for Board of Supervisors launched an ambitious drive here June 20 to put his name on the November ballot. Chee is a sheet metal mechanic at the Alameda Naval Air Station and member of International Association of Machinists Local 1584.

Georges Mehrabian, Socialist Workers campaign director and candidate for California State Assembly 13th District, told supporters, "We endorse Chee for supervisor in this officially nonpartisan election. Our goal is to collect 5,000 signatures between now and July 23. That's two-and-a-half times the number required. We think that more working people and youth are looking for answers to capitalist war, racism, and depression."

At a rally after the first day of petitioning, Chee announced that more than 700 signatures had been collected. "My campaign is directed against the war drive of the employers and their government," he said. As they prepare for more wars like that against the Iraqi people, they need to restrict the political space working people have won."

"The rulers," Chee declared, "must attack our democratic rights, our unions, and deepen divisions among working people. They cannot allow us to discuss and decide what is in our interest and what is not."

"My employer, the Department of the Navy, issued me a letter of caution June 1. The letter said I violated their contraband list by distributing political literature. These rules are designed to prevent workers from participating in and acting on the political issues of the day."

Juan Fajardo, a student at the University of California Santa Cruz explained why he supports Chee's campaign. "Politics is not about personalities or candidates, it's about issues," he said. "It's about police declaring open season on folks they disagree with and getting away with it. The petitioning today shows that people are ready for change. They are looking for answers. This leaves a space that we should fight to fill with this campaign."

Evergreen Community College student

Jose Aravena told the rally that the not guilty verdict in the King case pushed him closer to the socialists. "I support the campaign because it puts the workers' interests first and fights for unity," he explained. "This campaign deals with the real enemy of working people and minorities—the capitalists."

Rally participants responded to a fund appeal by Andrew Hunt, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the 16th

District, by contributing more than \$400 to the campaign.

By the end of the first week of petitioning campaigners had gathered 1,500 signatures toward their goal.

Omari Musa is Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the 9th District and a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-326. He works at UNOCAL's refinery in Rodeo, California.

## Socialists launch Massachusetts ballot drive

BY CECILIA MORIARITY

BOSTON — James Warren, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president visited here in mid-June. His visit helped kick off the petitioning effort to get Warren and his running mate Estelle DeBates, on the ballot in Massachusetts.

Warren's first stop? A picket line to protest the attempt by Operation Rescue to close abortion clinics in Boston.

After the protest Warren met with several abortion rights fighters who were interested in learning more about the campaign. The next morning he was part of the defense line at the Gynecare clinic, which has been targeted by Operation Rescue.

A dozen full-time and many part-time volunteers have been attending abortion rights protests, petitioning in working-class neighborhoods, and participating in demonstrations by Boston school bus drivers who are demanding that their union contract be honored.

The goal of the petitioning teams is to collect 15,000 signatures by July 13. This is 5,000 more than the 10,000 required to place the socialist candidates on the ballot.

At a June 21 forum, Warren explained that the socialist campaign is "for everyone who wants to join and use the campaign to fight against the perspective of war, racism, and economic depression."

"In all fights, from picket lines against employers, defense lines at abortion clinics, to protests against police brutality," he said,

"we face the same enemies, the same problems."

"These kind of attacks on our rights, which we must respond to, are occurring in every country in the world except Cuba."

Socialist campaign activists participate in these fights because "our perspective is that of international working-class solidarity," Warren added. "Those who are oppressed can be organized to defend their interests — which are our interests — against those who oppress us."

Volunteers collecting signatures for ballot status found a good response. Many of those defending abortion clinics signed the petition to place Warren and DeBates on the ballot.

"This is exactly what I've been looking for," a young former GI told one petitioner. He had attended several antiwar demonstrations during the U.S. war on Iraq, while he was still in the navy.

Many of those who signed petitions don't agree with everything the socialists stand for.

"People have a lot of questions about the world today," said Elizabeth, a campaign supporter. "They want to know what war moves are we talking about and what does it mean when we say our candidates are working class. I was also asked what a socialist alternative means for the economy."

Every morning before heading out to collect signatures, campaigners met to discuss how they did the day before and what the plans were for the day.

"We're not out there to get something from people," said one of the volunteers. "We're bringing a socialist perspective to people — that working people and their allies around the world can be united to fight against the problems we all face."

As part of the petition efforts, volunteers sold the campaign newspapers the *Militant* and Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*, and publicized events organized by the Militant Labor Forum.

One of the top petitioners is Eric, a junior high school student.

"I tell people to sign the petition to put working-class candidates on the ballot," Eric said. "We're not billionaires like Perot. I think it is important to build a new movement to get people interested in revolutionary politics and to fight in their own interests."

As a result of the petition effort, more than 100 people signed up to get more information on the socialist campaign or to become campaign supporters.

"It's the best way to introduce fighters to an alternative to today's problems," said one campaigner, encouraging others to join the petition efforts underway across the country.

"It's hard work and fun," said another volunteer. "We earn every signature we get because we explain the campaign to everyone who stops."

Richard Sorrentino and Elizabeth Kealy, full-time volunteers on the petitioning team, contributed to this article.



# Iran seeks dominant role in Central Asia

## Crumbling of Soviet Union creates many political openings in region

BY PAUL MAILHOT

With the breakup of the Soviet Union, Iran's rulers are moving aggressively to become a dominant economic and political power in Central Asia. An important aspect of this effort is establishing trade and cultural ties with the newly independent countries to the north of Iran — Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan.

These emerging republics are attempting to break out of their isolation and establish relations with other countries. Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan are all vying to take advantage of this new situation. But Iran seems to be making the most headway, a development that is making Washington uneasy.

At a Militant Labor Forum in New York June 6, Ma'mud Shirvani, who recently traveled to Iran, spoke about the important shifts that are taking place in Iran and Central Asia today. His talk also noted that Iran's reaching out to the region will open up opportunities to influence working people and youth there with revolutionary literature and ideas (see article on Tehran bookfair).

"The first thing that comes to mind when most people hear about Iran is the word 'fundamentalism,'" said Shirvani. "But contrary to the propaganda that U.S. working people have been subjected to, Iran has a rich history of working-class and peasant struggle. Perhaps it has witnessed more revolutions in this century than any country."

Shirvani explained that massive social movements have rocked the country during the past century aimed at sweeping away the monarchy and dictatorial rule. He noted three of the biggest struggles in Iran's history:

- At the turn of the century a national democratic revolution took place against the Qajar dynasty, which had become an instrument of British and Russian Czarist imperialism's plunder of the country. The landlords and the upper echelons of the Islamic clergy who supported the monarchy were defeated and a secular constitution was won. During that upheaval multinational brigades of Muslims, Armenians, Georgians, and others came as volunteers to defend the revolution against the reaction. Even a young Princeton graduate, who was working in the American consulate in Tabriz at the time, fought in the revolution against the monarchy and was killed. He became one of the martyrs of the first Iranian revolution.

In 1916 Iranian Marxists and socialists formed a communist party and participated in the Russian revolution along with the Bolsheviks. They later joined in the struggle to defend that revolution by fighting against the British and Turks who were attacking revolutionary Baku, where a workers' soviet had taken power.

- After World War II massive struggles

took place that established a workers and farmers government in the northwestern region of Azerbaijan and engulfed the whole country in a revolutionary upsurge. An independent Kurdish Republic was also established for one year. Stalinist misleaders, upon orders from Moscow, betrayed the revolution and handed it over to be butchered by the proimperialist shah of Iran.

The movement against imperialism continued in the country until 1953 when Washington intervened and managed to reverse the gains of the workers and farmers through a CIA-organized coup with military supporters of the shah. These forces overthrew the democratically elected government of Premier Mohammed Mossadegh and put the shah back in power.

- In 1979 Iran went through its latest revolution starting with a mass uprising in the city of Tabriz in 1978 and spreading across the country. Millions of people came into action against the shah's dictatorship. Hundreds were killed as a result of the military repression. A working-class general strike, led by the oil workers who had shut down the country's key industry for five months, led to a mass insurrection that brought down one of the world's most heavily armed and brutal regimes.

"Despite Iran's rich revolutionary heritage, the 1979 revolution did not lead to a workers and peasants government because of the crisis of working-class leadership," explained Shirvani. "Stalinism had managed to kill Marxism in Russia and break the political and organizational continuity of revolutionists in Iran with the Russian revolution led by the Bolsheviks. A section of Iran's capitalist class, although weakened, managed to take governmental power and hold on to it."

### U.S. loses influence

Since the revolution in 1979 Washington, which was closely allied to the deposed shah, has been unable to regain its influence and domination over Iran. Pro-U.S. army officers, and even a long military assault by the Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein backed by Washington, failed to dislodge the government led by Islamic forces. Workers and peasants fought to prevent the return of imperialist rule.

Tehran's challenge to U.S. supremacy in the Persian Gulf and Central Asia is a growing cause for concern in U.S. capitalist circles. Syndicated columnists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak in a May 27 article wrote, "Iran's assertion of regional power is one more depressing symptom of distress that has struck the United States in many places since the collapse of the Soviet Union."

Government officials and political commentators point with alarm at Iran's buildup of weapons, naval maneuvers in the Persian Gulf, and establishment of major trade rela-

tions with neighboring countries. Writing in the *Wall Street Journal* Patrick Clawson says, "U.S. policy must be based on the firm principle that Iran is a strategic enemy with which some tactical deals can perhaps be done."

Washington is hoping Turkey, which it considers a close ally, will be able to gain the upper hand in the region. The Central Asian republics are often referred to as Turkic republics because the Turkish dialect is the predominant language in the region. Turkey recently offered a \$1.2 billion aid package to the Central Asian republics.

In spite of Washington's hostility Iran is responding aggressively to the new openings in the region in order to expand its political and economic interests. "This is being done primarily through trade and cultural ties," Shirvani explained. "The newly elected Rafsanjani government uses Islam, but that is not the main way it seeks to affect the region."

"While I was in Iran there was a revolt taking place in Tajikistan, in the capital Dushanbe. Demonstrators had surrounded the presidential palace and wanted to overthrow the Rakhmon Nabiev government, but Iranian president Hashemi Rafsanjani mediated a settlement with Islamic leaders to stop the fighting."

Tajikistan is the only Persian-speaking country among the former Soviet Central Asian republics. Iran has opened up cultural links with the Tajiks and is promoting the development of an oil pipeline that would tie the two countries together.

Rafsanjani has also played an active role in mediating the Azerbaijani-Armenia conflict. Representatives from both governments have been brought to Tehran to try to come up with a solution to the fighting in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

In Afghanistan the Iranian regime has emerged with considerable authority after the 14-year civil war. For many years Iran backed the main guerrilla groups and political organizations that now control the central government. Tehran supplied weapons and provided refuge for the guerrillas. It also took in more than a million refugees.

"There were many discussions about Afghanistan while I was in Iran," reported Shirvani. "Rather than promoting the Islamic revolution the Iranian regime recently has stressed Persian culture and economic cooperation with the new government. One of the reasons for this is that the dominant Pushtun nationality is no longer ruling the country; Uzbeks and Farsi-speaking (the Persian language) Tajiks have come to power. With every sack of wheat that Iran sends to Afghanistan it encloses a copy of *Shahname* — the book of Kings — which retells the history of the Persian Empire and the rise of Iranian culture."

The Iranian regime has sent fuel and food to Afghanistan's western provinces and is hoping to open trade routes through the country to other Central Asian republics. The new Kabul regime has ordered a significant supply of oil from Iran. Tehran is also hoping that stabilizing the situation in Afghanistan will lessen the financial burden of supporting refugees from the war-torn country.

"People were talking about the refugees in the same way that immigrants are often talked about in the press in this country," said Shirvani. "The Iranian capitalists do pretty much what the U.S. government does here in relation to immigrants: on the one hand they superexploit them and at the same time try to make them illegal. Some people were saying that it will be good when the refugees go back but then others were saying, 'but who will run the brick kilns,' which

is a very hard and low-paying job."

### Competition for trade

Iran's foreign minister recently commented that, "In view of the recent urge for independence in Central Asia, [Iran] has to fill the existing cultural and economic vacuum in the region." Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Afghanistan are land-



locked countries that are looking for trade routes to the West.

In addition to its economic deals with Tajikistan and Afghanistan the Iranian government has reached a major transport, banking, and trade agreement with Turkmenistan. Under the agreement, a joint banking and customs system will be established. Iran will also bear the cost of building a railway link between the two countries.

"What we are offering them is a chance to export goods via the Persian Gulf," said Iran's finance minister, Mohsen Nurbakhsh. Iran envisages that raw materials, including Uzbek cotton and silk, Kazakh oil, and Turkmen natural gas could soon be exported through this route.

"Rafsanjani wants Iran to become more a part of the world, more a part of the world capitalist market, that is the trajectory," said Shirvani. "The revolution that toppled the shah was a deep-going social upheaval by the workers and peasants of the country. Capitalists used religion as a political weapon to prevent workers and farmers from establishing their own government."

"Many clerics and petty-bourgeois Islamic radicals were in the forefront of this and used their prestige as fighters against the shah and their links with the peasantry and city masses not to deepen the revolution but to push it back. They were supported by the leadership of the pro-Moscow Tudeh Party during the early years of the revolution."

"Now that the country is more stabilized the main capitalist forces have been able to consolidate their hold over the government. That is the meaning of the recent elections. The Islamic radicals are not needed anymore so they've been kicked out of the government. From a majority in the parliament they have been reduced to a minority."

"Essentially the coalition of capitalists with the petty bourgeoisie in the government has ended in favor of the capitalists."

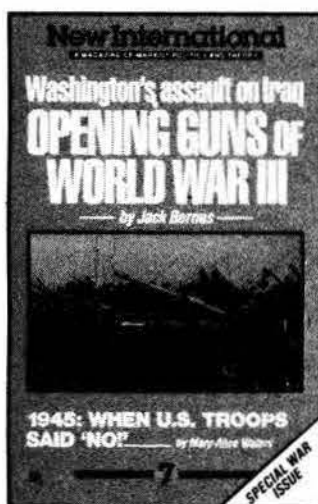
### Squatters riot over land rights

Although the Iranian government has consolidated itself, class conflicts and discontent over worsening economic conditions continue to plague the regime.

Four days of rioting last month in the city of Mashhad in the northeast are one sign of serious disaffection in the country. It followed similar upheavals in Shiraz, Arak, and Tabriz.

In Mashhad some demonstrators burned down the city hall and the main library. Nine police were reported killed in the rioting. "The people felt that the revolution had given them the right to a piece of land and they had built houses there," Shirvani said. "They have resisted attempts to throw them out; they have no where to go. Impoverished peasants that have come to work in

## New International No. 7



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the cities in the last decade are especially hard hit. These events show one of the serious conflicts taking place. There have also been some workers struggles but they have been modest.

"Iran and the surrounding republics are not immune to the world capitalist disorder. The squatters' rebellions and the subsequent executions of several participants in the riots point to rising class tensions. The executions in Iran will not gain support or respect for the Rafsanjani government with workers in the country or in the Turkic republics."

One of the reasons Rafsanjani has attempted to mediate settlements in Azerbaijan and Armenia, as well as in Tajikistan, is that Iran itself is a country of many different nationalities, many of whom are oppressed by the capitalist regime.

Of Iran's 58 million people more than half are of nationalities other than the dominant Persians. There are large concentrations of Azerbaijanis and Kurds, who are oppressed people in Iran. This situation is inherited from the Pahlavi dynasty that was founded after the Russian revolution



Street demonstration in Iran in 1979. In February of that year, millions mobilized to overthrow the hated Shah.

with the support of British imperialists, to organize a centralized state and block the extension of revolution in Iran. Farsi was made the official language and the study of other national languages was repressed. The 1979 revolution overthrew the Pahlavi dynasty but its legacy of national oppression although weakened, still continues.

"While I was there I came upon a raging discussion among 50 or 60 people about language rights in Iranian Azerbaijan," said Shirvani. "There are two Azerbaijanis. The one you read about is a former Soviet republic and now an independent country. The other is a part of northern Iran. Both have a common language which is one of

the Turkish dialects.

"Some of the Azerbaijanis were arguing that there should be linguistic freedom to learn Turkish in the schools. Some Persian-speaking people were arguing that the country will fall apart if that is allowed. Others responded that the country will fall apart if it isn't allowed.

"The discussion was heated, but civil. This is an indication of serious political discussion that working people there are engaged in," Shirvani explained. "The important thing to see is that the world is opening up and the demise of Stalinism is helping this."

"The world economic decline and depression conditions are having a big impact on the region where Iran is centered," Shirvani concluded. "While Iran and the Turkic republics are trying to become more a part of the world and trying to compete in the world market you have contradictions, upheavals, and openings for revolutionary politics. In the case of the former Soviet republics there are now openings that haven't existed for 60 or 70 years."

## How U.S. lied over 1988 downing of Iran airliner

BY SARA LOBMAN

New information exposing the U.S. government cover-up of the downing of an Iranian airliner by a U.S. warship in 1988 has come to light. Published in *Newsweek*, the feature article, "Sea of Lies," also shows the extent of U.S. covert operations on the side of Iraq in its war against Iran during the 1980s. *Newsweek*, along with ABC News's "Nightline," conducted a joint investigation into the airliner incident.

This exposé comes at a time when growing numbers of working people are increasingly skeptical about the U.S. explanations for the 1990-91 war against Iraq and horrified by the slaughter of tens of thousands of Iraqi working people. Fueling this disenchantment is growing knowledge of the

close collaboration between the U.S. and Iraqi governments in the years preceding Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

On July 3, 1988, the U.S. cruiser *Vincennes* fired two anti-aircraft missiles at an unarmed Airbus of Iran Air. All 290 passengers were killed.

Adm. William Crowe, then-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, summarized the official U.S. version of the events at a news conference 11 hours after the shooting. Crowe reported that the airliner had been flying outside the prescribed commercial air corridor, that it had been descending and heading directly for the *Vincennes* at high speed. He said that the electronic equipment on the *Vincennes* showed the aircraft as an Iranian military F-14 that failed to respond

to warnings on the civilian channel. Pentagon officials claimed that the ship was responding to an attack on one of its helicopters by Iranian gunboats.

Within one or two days, every one of these "facts" had been discredited or contradicted by other evidence. The Pentagon conceded that the plane had been flying within its assigned air corridor. A neighboring U.S. ship recorded the Airbus as ascending, not descending. Pentagon officials told a group of congressmen that the alleged military signal could have come from another plane. Pilots on short trips like the one planned for the Airbus were not required to monitor the channel over which the warnings allegedly were sent.

The *Newsweek* investigation now shows that the *Vincennes* had been operating illegally in Iranian territorial waters in contradiction to the map presented to Congress in September 1988 as part of the Navy's report on the incident. *Newsweek* reports, "According to three sources on board the *Vincennes* that day, the real map had shown Hengam Island, Iranian territory less than nine miles from the *Vincennes* at the time of the shoot-down. On the frames shown by [Rear Adm. William] Fogarty, the island was simply deleted — miraculously placing the *Vincennes* safely in international waters once more."

*Newsweek* also notes that the Navy investigation was "notable for the questions it failed to ask." Many of the Navy officers on surrounding vessels were never even interviewed.

According to then-president Ronald Reagan, warships like the U.S.S. *Vincennes* were in the Gulf region to guarantee freedom of navigation and to help end the war that began when Iraqi forces invaded Iran in 1980. The *Militant* in a July 15, 1988, editorial

explained that the opposite was the truth. "The U.S. presence has nothing to do with freedom of navigation or peace," the paper said. "U.S. intervention is intended to help the Iraqi rulers push back Iranian forces. The movement of a U.S. armada . . . into the Persian Gulf was intended to escalate the Iraqi war against Iran, and it has done so."

New information backs up this analysis. *Newsweek* reports that by mid-1987 the United States was involved in extensive covert operations in the Gulf. These included "a CIA reconnaissance program, code-named Eager Glacier, that sent spy planes and helicopters flying over Iranian bases."

The U.S. government also provided targeting, intelligence, and air controllers for Iraqi raids on targets in Iran. A high-ranking official on the National Security staff told *Newsweek* that "strikes were authorized by U.S. carrier-based warplanes against [Iranian] Silksworm missile sites in the Strait of Hormuz."

A Pentagon official recalled authorizing the use of a "decoy ship" to lure the [Iranian] gunboats into international waters. Navy sources said the plan was to simulate a tanker with fake radio transmissions.

This brings the *Newsweek* investigation back to the downing of the Iranian airliner. The Navy report to the Senate Armed Services Committee stated that the *Vincennes* had been on its way to rescue the *Stoval*, a Liberian tanker, that morning. "There is no such tanker reported in any ship registry," *Newsweek* reports. "According to two sources, including a naval officer involved in the investigation, the *Stoval* was a decoy, a phantom conjured up by fake radio messages to lure out the Iranian gunboats. According to these sources, the Iranian aggression . . . had in fact been the trial run for an American sting operation."

### Keen interest in Pathfinder books among youth at Tehran bookfair

One indication of the approach that Iran is taking to its neighboring countries is the broad participation it encouraged in the international bookfair held in Tehran in May.

More than 430 publishers came from inside the country. Some 650 publishers from other countries also participated. Three hundred were from English-speaking countries, principally the United States and Britain.

The fair received daily television coverage. People came from all over Iran to see the 15,000 Farsi books and the nearly 50,000 titles displayed by international exhibitors. According to statistics published by the government, 600,000 people bought entrance tickets. In addition, tens of thousands of students were bused in from schools.

Books and some handicrafts were displayed from Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, the newly emerging republics north of Iran. The exhibits showed how multinational the Turkic republics are. For example in the Kazakhstan republic 4 percent of the population is German speaking.

Some of the republics had well-developed book collections including scientific books and encyclopedias, which Iran has not yet been able to produce. Many of the books displayed were also on Islamic religion.

#### Pathfinder participates in Tehran Fair

Among the international publishers that went to Tehran to introduce literature was Pathfinder Press, which publishes books by authors such as Nelson Mandela, Malcolm X, Leon Trotsky,

Thomas Sankara, and others. This was the first time that Pathfinder had been able to be a part of the Tehran bookfair.

"Pathfinder's participation in the bookfair was a great success," explained Norton Sandler from the publisher's headquarters in New York. "Our representative at the fair found that there was a great openness and interest in the books that are published by Pathfinder. Many of the young people were attracted to the books about Nelson Mandela. It turns out that a film on his life and the struggle in South Africa had recently been aired on TV and it seemed like everyone in the country had seen it. Even small children would come by the booth and say, 'Nelson Mandela!'"

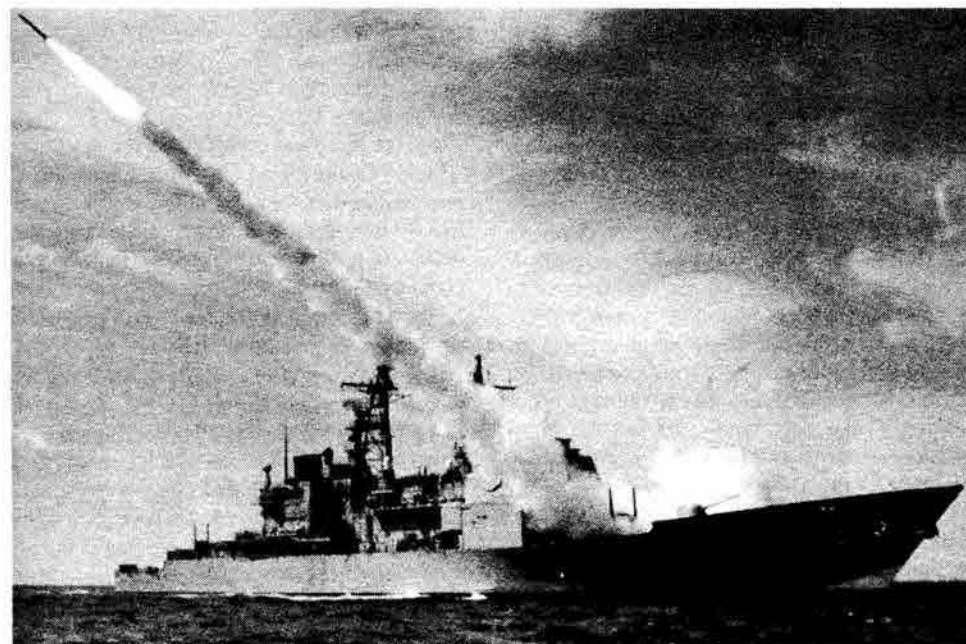
"There was also interest in the books Pathfinder publishes on the economic and political ideas of Che Guevara. Young people would ask questions about Che's views on the transition to socialism and how they differed from the models of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

"Our representative at the fair told me that one soldier commented, 'I have lived many years with Che,' meaning with the revolutionary ideas that he put forward. One student who had been by the table quite often said, 'You know in our dormitory there was quite a discussion about Che last night. These ideas are very popular among students.'"

There was also interest in Malcolm X, though he was less known than Guevara and Mandela, Sandler said.

The publishing house will be organizing follow-up on the trip to help get Pathfinder books distributed more widely in Iran and the Turkic republics, Sandler added.

— P.M.



U.S.S. *Vincennes* fires missile. In 1988 the *Vincennes* shot down an unarmed Iran Air jet, killing all 290 people on board.



# Groups in Salt Lake City protest against scheduled execution

BY MIKE SHUR

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — Holding up a copy of a napkin that had a noose drawn on it and the words "Hang the niggers," Tim Ford stated, "This note was given to a bailiff by a juror in the original trial of William Andrews. The judge made no attempt to find out how long it had been circulating among the jurors. This racist atmosphere is why Andrews received the death penalty."

Ford, who is Andrews' lawyer, was speaking at a June 22 news conference called by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to protest the planned execution of Andrews on July 30. Andrews has spent 18 years on death row in Utah, longer than any other prisoner.

Alberta Henry, president of the Salt Lake City NAACP, pointed out that a number of whites convicted of murder in Utah had been given life sentences including Joseph Paul Franklin, a white supremacist who murdered two Black men jogging with white women in Salt Lake City's Liberty Park.

"We appeal to Blacks, Whites, Hispanics, Polynesians, and Native Americans to come together to petition the board of pardons to commute William Andrews's sentence to life without parole on the basis of equal justice for all," stated Henry.

Petitions to this effect are being circulated by the NAACP and area churches.

Andrews was convicted in 1974 of first-

degree murder and sentenced to death for his participation in a robbery of a stereo shop in Ogden, Utah, that became known as the "Hi-fi killings." While admitting he participated in the robbery, Andrews maintains he did not shoot the three white store employees who were killed.

At the trial witnesses for the prosecution stated that Andrews had left the store before the shooting. Dale Selby, who was convicted of murder at the same trial, admitted to the shooting.

## Racist hysteria

Andrews and Selby, who were Air Force helicopter mechanics stationed at Hill Air Force Base outside of Ogden are both Black. Their 1974 trial was conducted in an atmosphere of racist hysteria. Members of Ogden's Black community remember police sweeps through the area. Black youth were rounded up at random for questioning in the aftermath of the killings.

The defendants were denied bail and brought to court in shackles. All trial observers were searched by sheriff's deputies. Andrews's attorney at the time was an inexperienced court-appointed lawyer who failed to inform the jury that it could find Andrews guilty on a lesser charge of second-degree murder.

The judge in the trial refused to sequester the all-white jury despite the racist campaign being whipped up by the prosecutors and the media. He allowed evidence admit-



News conference called to protest planned July 30 execution of William Andrews. Speaking is Alberta Henry, president of Salt Lake City NAACP.

ted that was seized without a search warrant and refused to investigate the "napkin incident."

Andrews appealed his case to higher courts. In 1980 the U.S. Supreme Court refused to reverse the death sentence or grant a new trial. This was the first of five times that the court rejected the appeals.

Andrews's and Selby's fight against Utah's death penalty has been supported by Amnesty International and other human rights groups. When Selby was executed by lethal injection in 1987 more than 200 people protested outside the Utah State Prison.

The execution spurred racist actions as well, with bars in Ogden organizing death penalty parties and the white supremacist group Aryan Nation coming to Utah to organize.

On June 1 a federal district judge in Ogden set the July 30 execution date. Some 100 protesters who rallied outside the courthouse at the time heard a message from Andrews stating "Your prayers and your actions give me hope because you are showing the judicial system that we are not content with racism and with the unfairness and favoritism it has shown in the past."

Eleanor García, Socialist Workers candidate for governor of Utah, released a statement condemning the planned execution. "The same legal system that acquitted the cops who beat Rodney King is responsible for sentencing William Andrews to die," said García. "The death penalty is a weapon of terror used by the ruling class against working people."

"My campaign calls for the commutation of Andrews' sentence. A massive campaign against the death penalty needs to be organized. The lives of thousands of people are at stake, including many who have been railroaded to jail and are guilty of no crime."

## Leader of protests against cop brutality defeats frame-up

BY JOANNE MURPHY

DES MOINES, Iowa — Dudley Allison, a leader in the fight against police brutality here, was acquitted June 4 on charges of interfering with police while videotaping an arrest.

Allison's supporters filled the courtroom during two May sessions of his trial. The case received prominent coverage in the *Des Moines Register* and on radio station KUCB.

The two cops who arrested Allison claimed he blocked their view of a fleeing teenage suspect March 14. Judge Carol Egly gave credit to the stories of the police, but admitted the prosecution failed to prove intent to obstruct.

Officer Max Street stated he mistook Allison's video camera for a brick although it was daytime and he was just an arm's length away. Street put a gun to Allison's head, slammed him into a wall, and ordered him to throw down the camera and get on the ground. He told the court he was seconds away from shooting Allison. Both Allison and the fleeing suspect are Black.

Allison is chairman of the direct action committee of the Community Support Force, which in addition to videotaping police activity, organized a number of actions to demand justice for Larry Milton, a Black man beaten by Des Moines cops late last year. Pam Williams, president of the group, testified, wrote letters, and spoke out in Allison's defense.

Members of the Community Support Force, staff of KUCB radio, and other activists against police brutality also attended the trial.

# Los Angeles officials admit secretly filming people attending beating trial

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — In a continuing drive to intimidate and victimize members of the Black community, the Los Angeles district attorney's office let it be known that it has been secretly videotaping people who attend court hearings for those charged in the beating of truck driver Reginald Denny.

People have been filmed as they filed out of the courtroom or stood in court corridors. Officials said the tapes are being reviewed by the joint federal and local police task force, which is continuing to investigate possible violations of the law during the outbreak triggered by the whitewash of the cops who beat Rodney King.

Officials said the secretly filmed videotapes are being studied to determine if any of those who have come to court were involved in the attack on Denny who in the

first hours of the outbreak was pulled from his truck and severely beaten.

A spokesperson for the district attorney's office asserted the videotapes have been made because "we have a lot of outstanding suspects."

"It's unusual," she added, "but it's not unprecedented."

Dozens of people have turned out at court hearings for the Black youths charged in the Denny beating.

A number have indicated that they have attended the hearings out of concern that the youth get fair treatment and not be railroaded.

## High bail set

Bail for the three principal defendants ranges from \$500,000 to \$580,000 and they remain in jail.

The family of one defendant, Damian

Williams, succeeded in raising his \$580,000 bail by posting property worth that amount.

But, the court ruled that before Williams can be released, a special hearing must be held to determine if the property posted was legally acquired.

No such hearing was required for the four cops charged in the King beating, and the bail set for them was but a fraction of that in the Denny beating case.

Meanwhile, officials now say that 45 people, not 60, died during the outbreak. Of these, local police departments, the sheriff's department, and the National Guard admit to killing 10 — all of them Black or Latino.

One of those killed by a sheriff's deputy was 15-year-old Mark Garcia. Initially the coroner's office falsely asserted he was shot in the chest. But, when pressed, the sheriff's department admitted the unarmed youth was shot in the back.

The Garcia family has filed a \$5 million wrongful death claim against the department. The families of at least two other victims of the cops are also reportedly filing unlawful death claims and possible law suits.

According to a report issued by the RAND Corporation, more than 5,000 people have been charged with offenses during the outbreak, mostly curfew violations.

Of those facing charges, the report said, 51 percent are Latinos and 36 percent are Blacks. The remaining 13 percent are mainly whites, with a small number identified as "other."

Meanwhile, the lawyer for police officer Laurence Powell said that he will appeal the decision to retry Powell in Los Angeles County. Powell was one of the four cops charged with beating King.

The Simi Valley jury had fully cleared the other three cops, but deadlocked on a single charge against Powell — using excessive force under color of authority.

Terry White, the deputy district attorney who tried the case, said that federal charges may still be filed against the four cops.

Ten of the cops who stood by and watched the beating of King have appeared before a federal grand jury and have been interviewed by federal investigators, according to a lawyer for some of the cops called in.

# Puerto Rican court orders release of files on 135,000 alleged 'subversives'

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

After a five-year battle, supporters of civil liberties won a stunning victory when Puerto Rico's Supreme Court ruled June 30 that massive government files of so-called subversives must be released in their entirety on request.

The government, through the intelligence division of the police and the FBI, compiled secret files on 135,000 people and organizations in Puerto Rico, including independence supporters, unionists, socialists, members of civic and religious organizations, and others. The existence of the files was revealed in 1987 by one of the cops convicted for the 1978 police murder of two pro-independence activists at Cerro Maravilla.

"On behalf of the 135,000 Puerto Ricans whose only crime was to support independence for their country, I hail this as a great victory," said David Noriega of the Puerto Rican Independence Party. Noriega, a member of the island's House of Representatives, brought a lawsuit in 1987 demanding release of the files.

Puerto Rico's top court upheld a lower

court ruling that the "subversives lists" were unconstitutional. The government had demanded the files be released only in censored form, allegedly to protect the "privacy" of the cops involved in the spying.

The Puerto Rican Supreme Court, however, ruled that the files must be released in full — including the names of the cops, undercover police, and informers who helped compile them.

So far some 5,000 people and organizations have requested their files.

José Alberto Pérez, vice-president of the electrical workers union UTIER, remarked in a phone interview that "our union, as well as hundreds of individual members, were on those 'subversive lists.' The government used those lists to spy on, frame up, and fire many union activists."

He noted that the political police have been further discredited through the recent Senate hearings on the Cerro Maravilla murders. The televised hearings have sparked a widespread debate on FBI and police victimization of independence supporters and other political activists.



# Emboldened by gains, rail bosses cut jobs

## Smaller crews mean more dangerous conditions for workers and passengers

BY PAT HUNT  
AND SCOTT WARE

In April 1991, 235,000 rail workers nationwide went on strike to fight against company demands for deep cuts in the size of work crews, attacks on health benefits and safety on the job, and inadequate pay raises. After only 19 hours Congress passed legislation ordering an end to the walkout. Rail union officials dutifully followed Congress's edict and ordered workers back on the job.

Recently, a limited strike by 1,500 machinist rail workers was met by a nationwide company lockout and swift government action to end the dispute. An agreement, certain to be detrimental to rail workers, will be imposed by the federal government within the next month.

The rail carriers' drive against the unions, backed up by the government, and the union officialdom's unwillingness to lead a fight have put rail workers in a tough position since the April 1991 strike.

It's has now been over a year since president George Bush and Congress, after moving against that walkout, forced major concessions upon rail workers through a contract imposed by a Presidential Emergency Board (PEB).

This contract required members of the United Transportation Union (UTU) to renegotiate local agreements in order to further reduce crew sizes. Union locals that could not reach an agreement with the bosses were threatened with binding arbitration where union officials argued an even worse agreement would be imposed.

Rail locals in area after area voted overwhelmingly to accept the new concession agreements last fall. In exchange for "job guarantees" for current workers, the unions agreed to work on more trains with 2-person crews — called conductor-only — and do more of the industrial and yard switching. The agreements also increased the mileage that crews must travel to receive a day's pay and made other work rule changes that favored the bosses.

### Rail carriers cut jobs

Train crews used to consist of an engineer, fireman, conductor, and two brakemen. But over the last decade the rail carriers have succeeded in reducing their work force more than 50 percent through attrition, agreements to reduce crew size, firings, and buyouts. Ten years ago the UTU represented more than 130,000 rail workers. Today there are less than 80,000 in the union. Smaller crews are running longer trains, further distances, on less rest, and under more unsafe conditions than ever before.

Dazzled by the scope of their victory, the carriers have been emboldened to take even more.

Recently, Conrail decided to eliminate another 117 positions in the northeast region. An agreement allows the carrier to operate conductor-only if it claims to be short of trainmen. At the same time, the company can abolish an unlimited number of job assignments as long as no one is laid off.

The agreement at Norfolk Southern Railroad allowed the carrier to carry out 50 percent of the work on all through-freight jobs with just a conductor and en-



Militant/Joe Swanson

Locked out rail workers at Union Pacific rail yard in Oakland, California, in June.

gineer. Additional cuts will be made for the next five years until all these types of trains have just two workers on the crew.

"Through-freight" refers to runs on which a crew takes a train from one rail yard to another. These runs tend to involve less switching than other train runs. While cutting the size of these crews, however, the agreements also allow the companies to require crews to carry out more work.

At Union Pacific Railroad, officials have vowed to eliminate as many as 4,000 positions in the next five years. Cutting crew size, paring down track crews, buyouts, and firings are all part of their game plan.

### Fewer workers means less safety

With the loss of jobs, safety is drastically compromised as the carriers try to increase productivity with fewer people. Recent accidents on the Santa Fe Railroad further expose this industry's reputation for being one of the most dangerous in which to work. On June 1, Herbert Blanthorne was cut in half under the wheels of a train he was working on as a conductor near Escondido, California. He is the eighth trainman killed on the Santa Fe in Southern California in just five years.

Four trainmen were killed three years ago at Corona, California, in a head-on collision which was attributed to the crew falling asleep after being called back to work from their 8 hours rest. The engineer, who hadn't slept for 24 hours, had protested to his supervisor that it wasn't safe for him to work with so little rest.

The Santa Fe is also testing and promot-

ing new hires with less than one year experience to be conductors on trains that carry hazardous and flammable materials. In all probability, in the next few months, these trains will have newly promoted engineers and conductors with very little if any over-the-road experience.

On the Chicago Northwestern Railroad the company is requiring new hires to work conductor-only after just 90 days as a helper. It required intervention by the union to win even this ridiculously short training period. The company originally wanted a three day training requirement.

Union Pacific is proposing that train switches done in the Oakland, California, yard now be done on the road, eliminating jobs and lengthening the work day and time away from home for those workers who remain.

### All rail workers facing attacks

Track workers, who are represented by the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees (BMWE), are sometimes being forced to work up to 1,500 miles away from home. Many BMWE members have very difficult conditions of work and live in "camp" rail cars while doing their job. They are among the lowest paid rail workers. Many are Black, Latino, or Native American.

Members of the Transportation Communications Union (TCU) received a notice that their salaries are being reevaluated and many will receive a pay cut. Many clerks jobs have been lost through attrition. In other cases work loads and responsibilities have increased, and some clerks have been

forced to relocate to other cities or forfeit their jobs.

Workers are angry and bitter about the concessions. This has led many coworkers to question the decision to go back to work in April 1991 after rail workers had virtually shut down the whole rail system. Many rail workers also feel they did not get the opportunity to express their opinion or get a fair and secret vote on the new contracts. Some are calling for the recent ratification votes to be rescinded and a new vote taken.

A small number of UTU members on the Union Pacific and Burlington Northern formed the Brakeman's Association of America in January in North Platte, Nebraska, to prepare for a lawsuit to overturn the recent contracts.

Railworkers are now paying the price for decades of misleadership on the part of rail union officials. UTU national president Tom DuBose was elected recently, replacing Fred Hardin who was president when the walkout and back-to-work orders occurred. There is no fundamental policy difference between the new and the former leadership. They both look to the Democratic Party and Congress to act on behalf of working people.

Afraid of the ranks and of waging a real fight, these officials always rely on striking deals with the companies and the government, rather than organizing the union to act in its own interest. Rail workers learned first hand the bankruptcy of this policy last year when Congress voted 400-5 to order them back to work.

The attacks on wages, working conditions, and health benefits coming down on rail workers are not unique to the rail industry. Working people across the country and around the world are facing the same government and business assaults. Rail workers need to begin now to offer solidarity to fights that other working people are involved in today and prepare to prevent further erosions of working conditions. The entire labor movement has a stake in this fight and should actively join with rail workers in their struggle to oppose concessions.

*Pat Hunt is a switchman and member of United Transportation Union Local 1405 at Norfolk Southern in St. Louis. Scott Ware is a switchman at Norfolk Southern in Chicago and belongs to UTU Local 1895. Also contributing to this article were Joe Swanson, member of UTU Local 1730 at Santa Fe; Henry Hillenbrand, a member of UTU Local 300 at Conrail; and Harvey McArthur, a member of UTU Local 845 in Washington State.*

## Puerto Rican fighter wins freedom

BY JOHN HARRIS

BRIDGEPORT, Connecticut — In a victory for the Puerto Rican independence movement and supporters of democratic rights, Yvonne Meléndez, a fighter for Puerto Rican independence, received no prison time when she was sentenced here July 1. Meléndez was convicted in May on

frame-up charges of conspiracy and transporting stolen money in connection with the 1983 robbery of a Wells Fargo depot in Hartford, Connecticut.

Meléndez is one of 15 Puerto Rican independence fighters, known as the Hartford 15, who were abducted from their country by the FBI and brought to the United States. Their case won widespread support both in Puerto Rico and the United States, including in Hartford, where the earlier trials took place.

After almost seven years of trial preparations, the government was unable to produce one witness claiming knowledge of her involvement in transporting stolen money. Meléndez was convicted solely on the evidence of tape recordings.

She pointed out that the use of wiretaps violated the Puerto Rican constitution and that some of the tapes remained unsealed for up to four months, allowing them to be illegally tampered with. One FBI agent had even admitted taking tapes home.

Meléndez was tried together with Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, who had gone into hiding and was tried in absentia. Federal district court judge Gilroy Daly sentenced Ojeda to 65 years with a \$600,000 fine. Meléndez faced a 15-year sentence but received time already served, five years probation, and 1,000 hours of community service.

Because she spent 16 months in prison after being denied bail, was forced to wait seven years for her case to come to trial, and received a grossly unfair trial, petitions were circulated calling for her sentence to be limited to the time she had already served.

The judge heard testimony from several people in the community who described her efforts to educate and help poor and working people during the seven years she was awaiting trial.

During sentencing the courtroom was packed with 100 supporters while several dozen others held a picket outside.

In assessing the victory Meléndez said, "I feel that a powerful message was sent to the government: that I was not alone but had broad support, and that this was never a criminal case. It was always a political case and I was tried solely for my fight against colonialism."

She emphasized that "my faith has always been in the people — not the judicial system — because it serves the interests of the ruling class which oppresses us. Today this victory is a victory for all of us."

Socialist Workers presidential and vice-presidential candidates James Warren and Estelle DeBates sent greetings to Meléndez congratulating her on her victory.

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# 'People of the Pines' explains Mohawk struggle

**People of the Pines: The Warriors and the Legacy of Oka** by Geoffrey York and Loreen Pinder. Little Brown and Company. \$30 (Canadian) hardcover.

BY ROGER ANNIS

MONTREAL — *People of the Pines* tells the story of the 11-week armed confrontation between the Mohawk people and the Quebec and Canadian governments and army in the summer of 1990.

The title refers to the pine forest in the Mohawk territory

## IN REVIEW

of Kanesatake next to the town of Oka, Quebec, 30 miles southwest of Montreal. This small stand of giant pine trees became the flashpoint of a dramatic confrontation that drew national and international attention to the fight for basic rights by Native people across Canada.

A group of capitalists in Oka, supported by the mayor, wanted to expand an existing golf course on the pine forest land. Mohawks have fought for decades to assert their rights over the forest and the larger Kanesatake territory.

When Mohawks got word of the proposed theft of yet more of their land, they staged an occupation of "The Pines" beginning in the spring of 1990. They said they would stay there until the golf course expansion was canceled.

A Quebec judge soon granted an injunction to end the occupation. On July 11, 100 cops from the Quebec provincial police (SQ) arrived and ordered the Mohawks out. They refused and the cops opened fire with tear gas, concussion

grenades, and bullets.

To the cops' surprise and dismay, the Mohawks fired back in self-defense. The cops fled and set up a barricade at Oka on the highway leading to Kahnawake.

When news of the cop assault reached the Mohawk community of Kahnawake, south of Montreal, residents there staged an occupation of the Mercier Bridge and pledged to remain there until the police withdrew their siege of Kanesatake. The bridge is a major traffic artery across the St. Lawrence River into Montreal whose southern end and approaching highways occupy land at Kahnawake.

Thus began an armed standoff that inspired Natives and other working people across Canada and deeply alarmed the capitalist class in Canada and Quebec.

The Canadian and Quebec governments were forced into negotiations that addressed a series of historical injustices against the Mohawks. But at the same time, they launched a massive propaganda war against the Mohawks and eventually walked out on the negotiations. In September the Canadian army invaded Kanesatake. After weeks of a tense standoff, the Mohawks ended their protests. Many arrests followed.

*People of the Pines* book puts together a factual account of the events that took place on July 11 and the weeks that followed. In doing so, it renders an important service to all those concerned about democratic rights in Canada.

That's because the facts surrounding these events as well as the whole history of injustice against the Mohawks were and are continually buried in mountains of lies and half-truths perpetrated by the Canadian and Quebec governments.

When the facts are presented, as they are so clearly in this book, the justice of the Mohawks' cause is proven beyond

dispute.

Several chapters in the book present a well-researched history of the entire Mohawk people. Among other things, it shows that the Mohawks' fight for land at Kanesatake goes back more than 150 years.

Of particular interest is the chapter on the Solidarité Châteauguay movement. This was a racist movement launched by a former provincial cop and by some small Quebecois businessmen in Châteauguay, a largely working-class suburb connected to Montreal by the Mercier Bridge.

This movement played on the frustrations of thousands of Châteauguay residents who use the bridge to get to work. Solidarité Châteauguay organized anti-Mohawk demonstrations every night at the barricades near the bridge which drew hundreds and sometimes thousands of people. Racists frequently assaulted Mohawks trying to bring food or medicine through the police and army siege lines.

In the most infamous incident, which was shown on television news, racists stoned a convoy of vehicles containing Mohawk women, children, and elders leaving Kahnawake as the army was closing in. Provincial and federal police stood by and watched with their arms folded.

*People of the Pines* is written by two journalists who were eyewitnesses to the major events that summer, Geoffrey York of the *Toronto Globe and Mail* and Loreen Pinder, a CBC Radio reporter.

Bulk orders can be placed directly with the publisher at 148 Yorkville Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5R 1C2. The publisher has no immediate plans to bring it out in paperback.

York wrote a previous book, *The Dispossessed*, published in 1989. It is arguably the best overview of the history of Native people in Canada and their long fight for justice. It is published in paperback by Vintage U.K.

## Major victory won in Mohawk land rights fight

BY ROSEMARY RAY

MONTREAL — A landmark victory has been won in the Quebec Superior Court for the right of Native Indians to defend themselves against capitalist developers and police and army assaults.

Thirty four Mohawk Indians and their Native supporters were acquitted by a jury July 3 of all 88 criminal charges against them. The charges stem from the explosive land claim confrontation in the summer of 1990 at Kanesatake and Oka, Quebec, 30 miles southwest of Montreal. Charges against five others were dropped for lack of evidence during the trial.

Charges included possession of firearms

for a dangerous purpose, participation in a riot, and obstruction of police and Canadian army personnel. In 40 days, more than 2,700 people were summoned for selection, the most of any jury trial in Canadian history. Of the 2,700 people summoned more than 1,000 did not respond and 500 were disqualified. Of the 643 who were questioned 355 were disqualified. Many of these expressed support for the Mohawks. Some of those who were disqualified gave victory signs to the accused Native rights fighters as they left the court.

As the defendants emerged from the courtroom with their fists raised in victory, they said the verdict was a complete vindication of their fight to defend their land.

Jenny Jack, a Tlingit Indian from British Columbia, said the verdict is a warning to governments in Canada that aboriginal land issues must be resolved.

Mohawk Joe Deom affirmed, "We've always said that what we did was right, and this jury agrees with us."

The jury acquittal is a big blow to the campaign orchestrated by the Quebec and Canadian governments since 1990 to portray the Mohawk people as terrorists and common criminals.

Crown prosecutor Jean-Pierre Boyer had called for jail terms for the accused to show that the Canadian justice system would not tolerate people "who regulate disputes by the use of firearms."

In his closing remarks to the jury, Boyer said an acquittal of the Mohawks would "open the door to anarchy."

"Can you imagine," he harangued the jury, "the message that would be sent to the rest of the world if you acquit them? 'Come to Canada, bring your own weapons. In case of a dispute, you can settle out of court.'"

While Mohawks in Kanesatake and Kahnawake celebrated in the streets at news of the acquittals, a campaign to discredit the jury decision got underway.

Lise Bourgault, the federal government member of Parliament for Argenteuil-Deux Montagnes, the constituency that includes Kanesatake, said the verdict was "an insult to both the white and non-Native populations affected by the bitter confrontation."

Yvon Poitras, an ex-cop and leader of the racist organization Solidarité Châteauguay, called on the Quebec government to declare an amnesty for all "non-Natives" charged with criminal offenses while the Mercier Bridge was closed. Poitras' group organized racist demonstrations of hundreds and thousands of people against the Mohawk people in Châteauguay, a suburb adjacent to Kahnawake.

The "non-Natives" that Poitras refers to are the racist thugs who stoned a convoy of Mohawk women, children, and elders attempting to leave Kahnawake after the army announced its intention to launch an assault on the encircled territory. One man who was injured in this attack later died.

Three of the stonethrowers were convicted but given suspended sentences by the judge after they pleaded that a criminal record would hinder their future job prospects as police or soldiers. However, two Mohawks were convicted in an earlier trial for their part in the struggle and imprisoned for up to four years.

No settlement of the issues at the heart of the 1990 conflict is in sight. Mohawks have been unable to win an agreement from the federal and Quebec governments for a formally recognized Mohawk territory and accompanying land rights in Kanesatake.

Both governments continue to impose the

presence of their police forces in the Mohawk territories over the objections of the Mohawks. Twenty-four hour checkpoints at Kahnawake are maintained by Mohawks to keep non-Native police out of the community.

"What we call the Native crisis is far from being completely resolved," Quebec public security minister Claude Ryan told the Quebec association of police and fire chiefs June 30. "And I doubt we will be able to draft a complete and definitive settlement of this situation in the foreseeable future."

Rosemary Ray is a member of Canadian Auto Workers union Local 1900 and works at Chrysler.

## Hundreds in New York City protest cop killing of two young Dominicans

Continued from front page

leged bottle-throwers — broke down her apartment door with guns drawn. Pichardo went to the roof in an attempt to avoid a further confrontation. Daniel Pascual, who was with Pichardo, was hit in the mouth with a night stick by a cop who followed them. The cop then pushed Pichardo off the roof, Pascual stated.

The police claim the young man jumped to his death.

Pichardo's death sparked larger protests, covering more than 50 blocks in Washington Heights. There has been little looting or random violence, but this is what the big-business press has focused on, describing protesters as "hoodlums."

At a rally outside the wake for García — which swelled to 750 people — Siomaris Morales got loud applause when she said, "We don't want another Los Angeles and to burn down our own buildings. We need to keep protesting to guarantee that justice is done." The predominantly young protesters marched down St. Nicholas Avenue chanting in Spanish, "Justice" and "The police are murderers."

City officials have tried to put a lid on the protests, which began just days before the opening of the Democratic Party convention here. Mayor David Dinkins and other politicians have made a number of visits to Washington Heights. All call for an end to the protests and promise a fair investigation of the killings, urging people to trust its conclusions.

The media has launched a fierce propaganda campaign. Articles and editorials have excused the shooting of García saying he might have been a drug dealer because he was from the Dominican Republic. Lurid articles have painted Dominicans as drug dealers and criminals.

Addressing a meeting of 300 youth in Washington Heights, Dinkins and Cardinal John O'Connor told them to remain patient

and calm. One teenager, Clara Cruz, got up and replied, "They shot him like a dog, but worse than a dog," referring to García's death. "Because Americans, they respect their dogs, but they don't respect their Dominicans."

The same day hundreds of protesters marched again to the 34th precinct police station. "We're sick of abuse," said Nelson Rincón, 20. "We'll stay out tonight as long as it takes to get our message across."

The newly formed Committee Against Police Brutality, a coalition of more than a dozen community and political organizations, has called for further protests demanding that the cops who killed García and Pichardo be indicted.

A mass demonstration is planned for Saturday, July 18 at 2 p.m. starting at 162 Street and Broadway in Manhattan. For more information about ongoing protests call 543-1047 or 231-0506.

Available from Pathfinder



**Genocide against the Indians**  
by George Novack \$2

At bookstores listed on page 16 or from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Add \$3 for handling, \$.50 each additional one.



Joe David, one of 34 Mohawks acquitted by Montreal jury in landmark decision, outside the courthouse.



# Ravenswood Aluminum fails to bust union

BY LINDA JOYCE

RAVENSWOOD, West Virginia — The 20-month-long lockout by Ravenswood Aluminum Corp. (RAC) of 1,700 members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 5668 ended June 29. The company had spent millions of dollars, appealed National Labor Relations Board rulings favoring the union, secured court injunctions, and

## NEWS ANALYSIS

hired 1,300 strikebreakers and a small army of Vance Security guards in its unsuccessful effort to bust the union.

The three-year contract agreed upon by the company and the union includes:

- a \$2,000 payment to all Local 5668 members;

- wage increases totaling \$1.25 per hour over the life of the contract;

- limitations on overtime shifts in the extremely hot potroom area, with a requirement that forced overtime shifts be separated by breaks of at least two days from November to March and at least three days from April to October;

- a successor clause stating that if RAC sells all or part of the plant the new owner must recognize the USWA and accept a USWA contract.

The company won the right to combine jobs and change seniority rights that previously allowed older workers to refuse mandatory overtime.

By going back with the union intact, members of USWA Local 5668, the Women's Support Group, and their supporters have won a significant victory.

The workers won by remaining united — less than 20 unionists crossed the picketline — and by reaching out to other working people around the world. The Steelworkers local organized frequent marches, rallies, and picnics to win solidarity and keep up the morale of union members and their families.

Members of Local 5668 fanned out across the United States, speaking to thousands of



Militant/Tom Nichols

Steelworkers at Ravenswood Aluminum together with members of the Women's Support Group celebrating their victory

workers at union gatherings and visiting picket lines like the one at the *Daily News* in New York City last year. They leafleted about their fight, from Wall Street to the Metal Exchange in London, England, and at events like the Indianapolis 500 car race. They traveled to Europe and met with members of the metal workers unions there.

Many working people expressed their solidarity by coming to the Ravenswood USWA union hall, known as "Fort Unity."

Hundreds of thousands of dollars were donated to the local to keep up the fight. The United Mine Workers of America organized bucket collections at mine bath houses and in dozens of coal mining communities across southern West Virginia.

### Lockout transformed into strike

Through these activities the ranks transformed what was officially a lockout into a strike that was effective enough to win. RAC lost 20 percent of its business during the nearly two-year struggle, including contracts with major breweries like Stroh's, Anheuser-Busch, and Miller, as well as Coca-Cola.

While top USWA officials point to the "corporate campaign," of boycotting Ravenswood Aluminum products as being responsible for the lost business and strike victory, the main factor that forced the company to give in was the unified and determined fight carried out by USWA Local 5668.

"One thing is for sure — the next time we have to stop the scabs," said William Wines, who has worked 33 years as a furnace operator at RAC. Many workers have expressed this idea — that there won't be any trucks or trains going in or out of the plant next time, and that they will reach out to the labor movement as a whole to accomplish this.

During the strike itself, the union leadership never tried to organize a real fight to shut down production, which would have required reaching out to the unemployed and young people desperate for jobs and winning them to the fight.

One scab even came to the union hall willing to go public over unsafe working conditions in the plant but he was told that he was not welcome. Another scab was

quoted in the *Charleston Gazette* saying, "I look back on it now, and it was more like the carrot in front of the donkey. All this is mirrors, quicksand and a revolving door."

These examples point to the power of the Steelworkers fight and the ability to win over even people who had crossed the line to the union cause.

### Harassment in the plant

Shortly after the settlement was reached George Becker, USWA international vice-president, was quoted in the *Morgantown, West Virginia, Dominion Post* saying, "It's time to rededicate ourselves to work in the plant and make it the class act of the American aluminum industry." But the experience of workers back in the plant points to the continued fight that workers at RAC have on their hands.

Since returning to work, Steelworkers report that close to 100 former scabs were immediately hired back and are being protected by guards. Some Steelworkers are working under scabs who were made foremen. These provocative actions by RAC are also combined with a hardline approach toward the unionists over work rules. Seniority rights have been thrown out the window in regards to job assignments and shifts.

Gary Owens, a slitter operator with 25 years at RAC, explained, "I came from a weak union member to a strong one, but I have mixed emotions going back in with the job combinations and the scabs. I've been cut back to a laborer and that's unfair. It means a reduction in pay, and working in the rolling mill, which is greasy with a constant mist in the air."

Before the lockout, RAC's productivity drive cost five workers their lives. It's clear that they are trying to press ahead regardless of safety. "The working conditions are not good — they treat us like there's no union," stated Ernie Cobb, who has worked at RAC for 28 years. A lot of people are wondering why we stayed out 20 months to come back to this. Some workers believe RAC is trying to force a wildcat strike.

At a press conference following the announcement of the settlement in May, USWA vice-president Becker said, "Never in the history of the American labor movement has anyone achieved a victory of the magnitude you have won."

The feelings of many in the ranks, however, is somewhat different. "Sometimes you have to swallow a bitter pill," said one worker, acknowledging that union members had not achieved much of what they wanted with the current contract. But many RAC workers see the best alternative as getting back in the plant with the union intact to be able to fight another day.

The victory in the "Battle of RAC," even though a contradictory one, belongs squarely in the hands of the courageous fighters of Local 5668 and the Women's Support Group. Their resistance to RAC's brutal lockout was never crushed and in the end it was the company that was forced to back down. But the war is not over. There is still the fight for health and safety and against the attempts at speed-up and job elimination and, most of all, for dignity in the workplace.

Linda Joyce is a member of International Union of Electronic Workers Local 627 in Fairmont, West Virginia.

## Steelworkers: The union's here to stay!

RAVENSWOOD, West Virginia — Chanting, "Hey, hey what do you say, the union's here to stay!" and singing the union song "Solidarity Forever," hundreds of friends, family members, and supporters of United Steelworkers of America Local 5668 marched back into the Ravenswood Aluminum Corp. (RAC) plant June 29 after a 20-month lockout. Unionists from all over the region were on hand with banners and hats.

The mood of workers was jubilant as dozens of federal marshals and state troopers looked on. "This is a great day," exclaimed Edna Weatherholt, a member of the Women's Support Group, whose husband has worked at RAC for 33 years. "We're marching our husbands back in. It's been a long struggle, but since we've grown up in the coalfields we know what the miners went through to form the union. One thing they can never take away from

us is our pride and our dignity."

The 500 Steelworkers marched back into the plant under the union banners, some sporting T-shirts reading, "Too Tough to Die — We Survived the Battle of Ft. RAC." Supporters hugged and kissed them, tears flowing down many faces. Gone were the goon guards as supporters marched right through the gates together with the Steelworkers. One Local 5668 member, though terminally ill with cancer and unable to work, insisted on marching in. A company official tried to provide him with an electric cart, but he waved him away.

The scabs had clocked out for the last time at 7:00 a.m., and the Steelworkers went in at 9:00 a.m. As the scabs left, many drove past the union hall where more than 1,000 people had gathered to get ready for the return-to-work march. The scabs flung out old work shoes and hats as they went by. While some were hostile and defiant, others smiled and waved and gave the thumbs-up sign. "That's because they're glad to get out of that hellhole," said one Steelworker.

"I'm glad to be going back to work," one of the young members of the union said. "The contract wasn't as good as it should've been, but at least the scabs are gone."

Tom Creech, who worked two years at the plant before the lockout, was angry. "The laws should be changed in America to protect the workers and our jobs," he said. "The company makes its profits through the productive workers and then uses that money against us. We need a safe place to work."

"I think it's a wonderful day," said Lisa Layner, a member of International Association of Machinists Local 598. Her husband and father were both locked out at RAC. "It's a victory for all unions. We fought a long, hard battle. We won but we still have a long way to go. If it takes a battle like in the coalfields, I will lay my life down. Until my last living breath, I will fight. I will never give up."

—L.J.

## U.S. Senate kills antiscab legislation

BY SETH GALINSKY

The U.S. Senate killed the Workplace Fairness Act June 11, a bill heavily pushed by U.S. trade union officials. The bill was promoted as a means of banning the hiring of scabs.

Senator Robert Dole, the main Republican leader in the Senate, claimed the measure was "the strike breeder act of 1992."

In a last-ditch effort to salvage the proposed legislation, the AFL-CIO Executive Council offered to accept further restrictions on the right of workers to strike. But the strike restriction amendment put forward by Senator Robert Packwood, a Republican from Oregon — and endorsed by the AFL-CIO — was unable to rescue the act.

Under Packwood's measure, unions would have to notify the owners and the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service a week before planning to go on strike. If both the union and company agreed, a federal mediator would hold hearings. The current contract would remain in place for 45 days, during which time a strike would be illegal. Hiring of scabs would also be prohibited during this period.

If the union rejects the arbitrator's ruling, the government would give the green light to companies to hire scabs. If rejected by the company, the union ostensibly would then

be allowed to strike.

The July 5 *Washington Post* states that the AFL-CIO, with its endorsement of the Packwood scheme, "has now signaled that [labor] is willing to surrender what was once one of its most sacred rights for a price."

### AFL-CIO's 'consistent goal'

For decades the union officialdom has done everything in its power to undermine the ability of workers to go on strike to defend their interests.

According to AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland, support to the Packwood measure is "consistent with [unionists'] goal of peaceably resolving disputes with their employers and thereby avoiding strikes."

The decades-long retreat by labor officials in the face of the offensive by the bosses is shown in strike figures.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of strikes involving 1,000 or more workers has been dropping steadily since the 1960s, from an average of 300 or more a year to just 40 in 1991. In fact, 1991 saw the lowest number of such strikes since records starting being kept in the 1940s.

Big business and its two parties, the Democrats and Republicans, saw no reason to accept the AFL-CIO offer, because in the words of the *Washington Post*, "they have gained the upper hand."



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 are welcome to attend and participate in these discussions on issues of importance to working people.

## ALABAMA

### Birmingham

Celebrate the Cuban Revolution! Sat., July 25, 7:30 p.m. 111 21st St. S. Donation: \$3. Tel: (205) 323-3079.

## CALIFORNIA

### Los Angeles

Behind the Continuing War in Yugoslavia. Speaker: Nelson Blackstock, correspondent for the *Militant*. Sat., July 18, 7:30 p.m. 2552-B W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

### San Francisco

Support the Freedom Struggle in South Africa. Video showing of *Stop the Violence* with panel discussion to follow. Sat., July 18, 7 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Donation: \$3. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

Report-back on the Fight Against War in Yugoslavia! No U.S. Intervention! Speaker: Natasha Terlexis, Socialist Workers candidate for State Senate, 3rd District, just returned from Balkan-wide youth conference to discuss peace in Yugoslavia. Sat., July 25, 7 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Donation: \$3. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

## WFDY meeting in Brazil

Continued from Page 3

ist countries like Germany, France, and the very United States, as well as in all Latin American countries, prove that capitalism does not offer any possibility for the life and future of humanity."

"Socialism is our alternative.

"It is for that reason that we are in solidarity with... the Cuban revolution," the statement said.

The delegates voted to organize a continent-wide youth brigade to Cuba, sponsored by WFDY, next January.

Activities were projected throughout the Americas encouraging debate and study of the ideas of Ernesto Che Guevara on October

## Abortion clinics defended in Boston

Continued from page 20

Their antiabortion campaign was a complete failure with pro-choice forces at times outmobilizing the rightists by a ratio of 3-to-1.

Beginning June 2, the first day OR had a significant presence at the clinic, pro-choice forces were able to gain the ground in front of the clinic and keep it. Operation Rescue was relegated to the sidewalk in front of Boston Commons across the street. When tour buses passed the scene, a roar went up of "Boston is pro-choice!" with many tourists giving thumbs up and clenched fists.

June 6 was the next important day. Beginning at 6:00 a.m. in a torrential rain, pro-choice activists gathered by the hundreds in front of the clinic and remained until the clinic closed at noon. OR had about 100 pickets across the street holding "tombstones" representing alleged deaths of women from legal abortions.

The enthusiasm and determination of the pro-choicers was more than a match for the rightists. At a noontime closing rally June 6, a deafening roar went up from the pro-choice crowd of "Who kept the clinic open? We did!"

Clinic defense was organized every day in June from 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Overwhelmingly youthful, clinic defenders included students, secretaries, rail workers, computer programmers, and professionals.

A statement by the Socialist Workers candidates for president and vice-president, James Warren and Estelle DeBates was distributed at the actions.

"The right to abortion is far from dead," the socialists said. "This conquest was won through hard-fought battles that were strengthened by the massive social struggles of the 1960s and 1970s for Black rights and against the Vietnam War. Similarly, the defense of this right today will be decided in the streets in struggles like in Buffalo and here today."

## CONNECTICUT

### New Haven

The Crisis in Yugoslavia and the United States Drive Toward War: A Working-Class Perspective. Speaker: Will Wilkin, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., July 18, 7:30 p.m. Dwight Hall Common Room. 67 High Street. Tel: (203) 772-3375

## GEORGIA

### Atlanta

Join the Socialist Alternative in 1992. Speaker: James Warren, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president. Sat., July 18, reception, 6:30 p.m.; rally, 7:30 p.m. 172 Trinity Ave. SW. Donation: \$5. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

## MICHIGAN

### Detroit

South Africa: New Stage in Battle Against Apartheid. Speaker: Jabu Dube, African National Congress Information Officer in Canada. Sat., July 25, 7:30 p.m. Pullman Hall, Unitarian Church, 4605 Cass. Donation: \$4. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

## MINNESOTA

### St. Paul

Speak-Out For Socialism! Speakers: Chris Nisan, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress, 5th C.D.; Jo Rothenberg, SWP candidate for Congress, 4th C.D. Sat., July 18, 7 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$5. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

## MISSOURI

### St. Louis

The Fight to Bring Down Apartheid. Speaker:

8, the 25th anniversary of Che's assassination, along with participation in debates, protests, and other actions on the 500th anniversary of the first sighting of land in the Americas by Christopher Columbus October 12.

The plan of action adopted declared that August 5 should be marked as a "day of reference in the struggle of youth for peace and against imperialist aggression against the world's peoples."

"The initiative of the Young Socialist Alliance from the United States to organize an international socialist educational conference beginning August 5 in Oberlin, Ohio, fits within this framework," the plan of action stated. Participating organizations at the conference can manifest their desire for peace and friendship among the peoples."

Delegates approved motions urging member organizations of WFDY to campaign for the return of deposed president Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti and demand that the U.S. government open its borders to Haitian refugees; protest the suspension of the constitution and attacks on democratic rights in Peru; demand that the cops who beat Rodney King in Los Angeles be prosecuted under federal civil rights charges by Washington; and participate in a defense campaign of six members of the Rural Movement of Landless Workers in Brazil who were convicted on frame-up charges of murder of a soldier during protests for land rights.

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CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles: 2552-B W. Pico Blvd. Zip: 90006. Tel: (213) 380-9460, 380-9640. San Francisco: 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

CONNECTICUT: New Haven: Mailing address: P.O. Box 16751, Baybrook Station, West Haven. Zip: 06516.

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IOWA: Des Moines: 2105 Forest Ave. Zip: 50311. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

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MARYLAND: Baltimore: 2905 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (410) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston: 780 Tremont St. Zip: 02118. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN: Detroit: 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA: Twin Cities: 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

representative, Socialist Workers campaign. Sat., July 18, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

Hear the Socialist Alternative in 1992. Speaker: Deborah Lazar, SWP candidate for Congress, 1st. C.D. Sat., July 25, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$3. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

## NEW YORK

### Manhattan

What Next in the Fight to Defend the Right to Abortion? Sat., July 18, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 727-8421.

The Cuban Revolution Today. Sat., July 25, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$4. Tel: (212) 727-8421.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Greensboro

Campaign Rally for the Socialist Alternative to the Two Parties of War, Racism, and Depression. Speaker: James Warren, Socialist Workers candidate for president. Sat., July 25, 6:30 p.m. reception, 7:30 p.m. program. 2000-C South Elm-Eugene Street. Donation: \$5. Tel: (919) 272-5996.

## OREGON

### Portland

Ross Perot; False Hope, False Promises. Hear the Alternative. Join the Socialist Campaign. Speaker: Mark Severs, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in Washington State. Thurs., July 25, 12, noon, Portland State University, Campus Christian Ministries, SW Broadway and Montgomery; 7 p.m., PCC Cascade, NE Killingsworth east of Albina, Terrell Hall, Lecture Hall 122. For more information: 288-0466.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Philadelphia

Assessing the 'Earth Summit': What Road Forward to Save the Environment. Speakers: Richard Myers, director, Southeast Pennsylvania Sierra Club; Steve Cataldo, member, Student Environmental Coalition at the University of Delaware; Bodge Inglee, supporter, Socialist Workers campaign, student at University of Delaware. Sat., July 18, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

Oppose Any U.S. Intervention in Yugoslavia: Support the Demonstrations for Peace! Speaker: Kathy Mickells, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., July 25, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

## Socialists in Washington State win exemption from disclosure law

Continued from Page 7

also a leader of struggles against police brutality.

Attorney Stobaugh, responded to one commissioner who had stated opposition to granting an exemption because "all candidates should be treated equally, whether Socialist, Democratic, or Republican." Stobaugh explained that "the courts have ruled that there is a difference between major and minor party candidates," requiring different treatment.

## WASHINGTON

### Seattle

New Stage in the Struggle Against Apartheid in South Africa. Speakers: George Lai Thom, head of British Columbia branch of African National Congress in Canada; Scott Breen, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., July 18, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E Madison. Donation: \$3. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

No U.S. Intervention in Yugoslavia! Speaker: Chris Hoepfner, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists. July 25, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E Madison. Donation: \$3. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

## AUSTRALIA

### Sydney

Behind the Civil War in Yugoslavia. Speaker: Bob Aiken, Communist League. Sat., July 25, 6 p.m. 66 Albion St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$3. Tel: (02) 281-3297.

## CANADA

### Vancouver

Celebrate the Cuban Revolution! Socialist publications fund-raising barbecue. Sat., July 25, 4 p.m. 894 East 32nd Ave., Donation: \$10. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

## ICELAND

### Reykjavik

Comintern and International Collaboration of Workers, Youth, and Oppressed Peoples. Speaker: representative, Internationalist Forums Association. Thurs., July 25, 8 p.m. Klappartíg 26. Donation: 100 kronur. Tel: (91) 17513.

## NEW ZEALAND

### Christchurch

Socialist Educational Weekend. Sat., July 18, 1 p.m., The Communist Manifesto Today; 3 p.m., The Fight for Women's Rights. 7 p.m., social: meet the Communist League candidate for mayor. 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Tel: (3) 656-055.

The Cuban Revolution Today. Sat., July 25, 7 p.m. 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Donation: \$3 Tel: (3) 656-055.

### Wellington

The Myth of 'Overpopulation.' Sat., July 18, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation: \$3. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

The Cuban Revolution Today. Sat., July 25, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation \$3. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

Tel: 071-928-7993.

Manchester: Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Postal code: M4 4AA. Tel: 061-839 1766.

Sheffield: 1 Gower St., Spital Hill, Postal code: S47HA. Tel: 0742-765070.

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Toronto: 827 Bloor St. West. Postal code: M6G 1M1. Tel: (416) 533-4324.

Vancouver: 3967 Main St. Postal code: V5V 3P3. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

## ICELAND

Reykjavik: Klappartíg 26. Mailing address: P. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. Tel: (91) 17513.

## MEXICO

Mexico City: Nevin Siders, Apdo. Postal 27-575, Col. Roma Sur. Mexico DF.

## NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road. Postal Address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 379-3075.

Christchurch: 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 656-055.

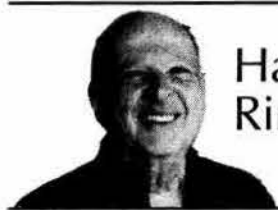
Wellington: 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Postal address: P.O. Box 9092. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

## SWEDEN

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



Happy days — "It may be a few more months. But the positive sign



Harry Ring

is people are looking for work." — Federal Reserve Board governor Susan Phillips.

**Slip of the tongue** — In a Senate debate, Robert Byrd (D-Va.) argued for a ban on immigrants who don't speak English. "I pick up the tele-

phone and call the local garage," he complained, "I can't understand the person on the other side of the line. I'm not sure he can understand me. They're all over the place and they don't speak English. Do we want more of this?" Later the senator said he spoke "unwisely."

**Probably exactly what he meant** — People in Ireland were offended by the apparent quality of the new U.S. ambassador, William Fitzgerald, a businessman who's tight with Bush. For openers, he said he was pleased that U.S. money will be used to "encourage dialogue and cooperation between the Unionists and the Loyalists" in British-occupied Northern Ireland.

Both terms describe the Protestant majority.

**Imperialism still pays** — Christopher Patten, who may be the last British governor of Hong Kong, will receive a tax-free \$273,000 a year — more than the British prime minister. He'll have the use of a Rolls-Royce, a 90-foot yacht, a weekend villa, and 56 servants.

**But they do promote Family Values** — The *Wall Street Journal* advises that with increased enrollment in private schools, it's not enough to save for children's college education. Like, a year of private pre-kindergarten education

can cost as much as \$10,000.

**Free-market medicine** — Richard Eamer, top dog at National Medical Enterprises, "earns" \$17.5 million a year.

**Probably do as well as the others** — "Can you predict the stock market by studying the growth patterns of tree rings? Might heavy sunspot activity portend a rise in the Dow to 4,000? Some technical analysts think so." — *Business Week*

**They should graduate spelling better than Dan Quayle** — The Toronto-area Metro Council voted to spend \$1.6 million to build a new training center for police dogs. The

old one, they assert, is overcrowded. With a capacity of 14 dogs, the center will feature the usual training area, lockers and showers, etc., plus indoor classrooms.

**American know-how** — Nubuck shoes are made with a suede-type leather. Someone steps on your foot, you can remove the marks with a spray cleaner, or even an eraser. A pair of mules, \$235.

**They appreciate the benefits** — California doctors who handle workers compensation cases, and who own their physical therapy centers, are twice as likely to refer injured workers for treatment as those doctors who don't.

## U.S., allies take steps toward war in Yugoslavia

Continued from front page

Serbian forces who have been relentlessly shelling Sarajevo and other towns.

Although the fighting is often described as an ethnic conflict, several of the towns that Serb forces claim as their territory have very small Serbian populations. In eastern Bosnia where Serbian military and right-wing paramilitary groups have launched some of their fiercest attacks the population is 80 percent Muslim Slavs.

The Army of the Serbian Republic of Bosnia, a force of some 50,000 troops, and paramilitary groups such as the White Eagles have used a massive military assault and outright terrorism to carve up some two-thirds of Bosnia and Herzegovina. These forces are under the control of the Serbian Democratic Party in Bosnia, led by Radovan Karadzic, who has close ties with Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic.

At the same time Croatian forces in Bosnia, allied with President Franjo Tudjman of the Croatian republic, have begun to carve up their own part of the former Yugoslav republic. Mate Boban, a Croatian arms dealer and leader of the Bosnia's Croatian Democratic Union, has declared up to a third of the territory of the republic

to be the new state of the Croatian Union of Herzeg-Bosnia.

Croatian president Tudjman put Boban in charge of Bosnia's Croatian Democratic Union, which is a sister party to the ruling party in Croatia, last January after its former leader Stjepan Kljucic had worked with Muslims and Serbs to try to maintain Bosnia and Herzegovina as a multinational republic.

After Boban's declaration, Radovan Karadzic offered a truce to Croatian forces in Bosnia and negotiations over borders. In effect he proposed partitioning the republic and leaving the 1.9 million Muslims and the many Croats and Serbs who have lived side-by-side for decades, and desire to continue to do so, with no place to go.

The actions by Boban and Karadzic, acting as surrogates for the leaders of the Croatian and Serbian republics, make it clear that these forces are nothing more than competing mafia-type gangsters carving up territory and resources with no concern for the desires of the people who live there.

**Imperialist rivalry**

While the Group of Seven and other imperialist leaders have united behind the effort for military intervention into Yugo-

slavia, considerable differences continue to hamper their efforts.

As rivals for power, resources, and influence in that region of the world and beyond, Washington and its allies have competing interests. They are also worried that the intervention into Yugoslavia may end up in a quagmire that would quickly erode support for military action from working people in their own countries. Because of this they are moving toward intervention with caution.

France, which is not a member of NATO, was instrumental in pushing for intervention to be organized by the Western European Union rather than by NATO alone, in which the United States plays the predominant role. Germany has been busy arming Croatia. Russia and Greece have noted their sympathy for Serbia.

Meanwhile, demonstrations continue in Serbia and particularly in the capital, Belgrade. On July 8 thousands of students attempted to demonstrate in front of the home of President Milosevic demanding that he resign. After police held back the protest the demonstrators moved to the

main highway in the Yugoslav capital and blocked it off. These actions follow many other protests including a demonstration of 100,000 people in Belgrade June 28 for an end to the war and the resignation of the hated Milosevic regime.



Belgrade protest against Milosevic

## — 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —



The intensity and breadth of the Newark rebellion made it a momentous event in the struggle for Afro-American freedom. The revolt in Newark was second in size only to Watts. In Watts there were 34 deaths and it took 14,000 national guardsmen to put down the community. In Newark 26 are reported dead so far, and more than 5,000 guardsmen were moved in. Over half the city constituted the area of rebellion which had to be pacified by the occupation army of troops and cops.

The most ominous aspect of the reaction of the ruling class to the Newark revolt was the continual featuring of the inflammatory racist statements by New Jersey's Gov. Hughes on radio and TV. Hughes not only brushed aside consideration of the conditions which provoked the revolt, but even insisted that the uprising was not caused by injustices against black people! In one incredible interview he flatly asserted that "There is no civil rights problem in Newark... these people are criminals." Over and over he referred to the black residents as "criminals." He contended that the existence of police brutality was "99 percent myth" and asserted that the cops, not black people, needed protection from brutality!

Gov. Hughes is a liberal Democrat. So is Mayor Addonizio of Newark. He piously claimed that "tremendous progress has been made under my administration." This self-induced blindness to reality, coupled with racism of these New Jersey officials, has marked the reactions to the ghetto uprising from both liberal and conservative Democratic and Republican politicians across the country.

The Newark rebellion and its outcome

have demonstrated more than anything else the urgent necessity of organizing black political power to accomplish the aims of the ghetto rebels.



August 1, 1942

Twenty-eight years ago this week the big guns of Europe boomed the announcement of World War I. After four years of the most terrible slaughter and destruction of the world's resources and manpower, the guns ceased firing and the grim totals were counted:

- 10,000,000 known dead.
- 4,000,000 "missing."
- 6,500,000 seriously wounded.
- 14,000,000 otherwise wounded.

What did this ghastly sacrifice bring the peoples of the world?

They had been promised a "just" peace. They were saddled with the monstrous injustice of Versailles. Europe was Balkanized, revolutions were stamped out in blood.

They were promised "democracy." All conditions were prepared for military dictatorships in Central Europe. Fascism in Germany was nourished.

They were promised "an end to all wars." We now commemorate the outbreak of World War I in the middle of World War II.

The causes of World War I — rivalry for the domination of the world's sources of raw materials and exploitation of millions of colonial slaves by a handful of financial oligarchs — are likewise the causes of World War II.

The causes of World War II will likewise be the causes of World War III —

Unless there emerges from World War II a wave of socialist revolution which takes political power and control of wealth and industry away from the ruling minority and puts them in the hands of the great toiling masses.

## Antiwar protest in Greece demands: 'No intervention in the Balkans'

Continued from front page

at Lake Prespes at the border between Greece, Yugoslavia, and Albania. It is sponsored by the World Federation of Democratic Youth and hosted by the Communist Youth of Greece (KNE).

"The big powers pretend they will save the world but instead they will destroy it," said Irene, a student at the march. "But we are not going to let them."

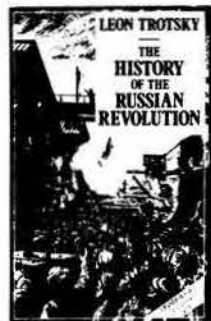
This was the first protest against the preparations of the Sixth Fleet for war in Yugoslavia. Two other demonstrations approximately 2,000-strong each had taken place June 11 and June 23 in Athens to demand an end to the war in Yugoslavia and denounce threats of military intervention by Washington, Bonn, Paris, and other imperialist powers. Those actions were called by

two different antiwar groups, "Antinationalist Antiwar Coalition," and the "Movement Against War in the Balkans."

Greek press secretary Vasilis Maginas recently left open the possibility of Greek involvement in a military intervention in Yugoslavia. "Anything can be discussed if the UN Security Council makes the appropriate decisions," he said responding to questions at a July 3 press conference.

The Greek daily *Rizospastis*, published by the KKE, reported July 7 that Greek army officers had begun inspections of military and civilian hospitals in Larissa and other cities in northern Greece in preparation for receiving wounded from an escalation of the war in Yugoslavia. The NATO headquarters in Larissa has been placed on state of alert.

From Pathfinder



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## Hands off Yugoslavia!

France, Britain, Italy, and the United States have stationed warships in the Adriatic Sea off the coast of Yugoslavia. In addition, 1,200 Canadian troops under the United Nations flag have been deployed in Yugoslavia, primarily at the Sarajevo airport. The purpose of these forces is not to serve the interests of the beleaguered population of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but to advance the political interests of the rival imperialist "allies" that are participating in this operation.

Their intentions are no more humanitarian than they were in the bloody war against Iraq carried out under the UN flag last year, the primary victims of which were the people of Iraq itself. That war was fought not to free the Kurds and other victims of Saddam Hussein's tyranny, but to impose a stability on the region suited to Washington's needs. Washington and the other imperialist powers had in fact strongly backed Hussein as long as he was attacking Iran, slaughtering tens of thousands as he did so.

Washington, Paris, London, Bonn, and Ottawa claim that the only hope for the people of Yugoslavia is benevolent outside intervention by the military forces of imperialism. But nothing could be further from the truth.

The bloody war that is raging in Yugoslavia today is being orchestrated by the privileged and corrupt bureaucrats who have grabbed power in the different regions of the country. The direct descendants of those who ruled Yugoslavia when it was a single country, they are nothing

more than mafia-type thugs fighting over turf, without regard for the human cost in dead and wounded or the devastation of the country.

The war is not the product of the ethnic groups of Yugoslavia suddenly all turning against each other. Working people and students of all nationalities in Yugoslavia oppose the war. Thousands are demonstrating in the streets for an end to the conflict, especially in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia. Many Serbs and Croats have joined Muslim Slavs in defending Sarajevo against the major military assault being mounted by forces allied to Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic.

The students and working people building an antiwar campaign in Belgrade and the multinational force fighting to turn back the Serbian attack on Sarajevo demonstrate that the workers, farmers, and youth of Yugoslavia are the force that can and will overcome national divisions and end the war.

Working people in the United States, Canada, and Europe should join in actions to demand that all moves toward intervention by the imperialist powers cease immediately. The troops should be withdrawn and the warships should leave the Adriatic Sea. Instead of UN sanctions against Serbia, which are part of the imperialists' moves to war, resources should be put toward aiding the more than 1.3 million refugees who have had to flee the fighting and are now without homes. As a first step, all borders should be opened to refugees from Yugoslavia.

## Indict New York killer cops!

As hundreds of people protested the police murder of two young workers in the large, mainly Dominican community of Washington Heights in New York, the city government sent in 2,000 cops to intimidate demonstrators and other residents. More than 125 people were arrested. One cop, Frank Albergo, was heard saying over police radio, "Central, where do you want the Scud missile?"

This comment graphically expresses the violence that cops mete out to working people every day. The ongoing marches and rallies in Washington Heights have put a spotlight on the most recent examples of this brutality — the cop killings of José García and Dagoberto Pichardo.

The cop who killed García was notorious among local residents for beating up and harassing people as well as skimming money from drug dealers. But there is nothing unique about Michael O'Keefe. As one of his colleagues put it, "He's the cop we all want to be."

The job of the police is to serve and protect the rich and their system, capitalism. Their role is to intimidate working people in order to keep them in line, passive, and divided. This is true whether the cops are white, Latino, Black, or women.

Police brutality is on the rise not only in the United States but in capitalist countries around the world. While cop violence falls hardest on Blacks and Latinos, as the economic crisis deepens and working people move into action to defend their rights, unionists on the picket lines will more and more find the blows of the night sticks directed at them. As New York cop Albergo's "Scud" remark underlined, the brutality and racism of the cops at home is exactly the same approach of the capitalist rulers toward working people in other countries, as demonstrated

in the U.S.-led slaughter in Iraq.

To justify the police killings of García and Pichardo, the big-business media has unleashed a campaign to smear them and the entire Dominican community in New York as drug dealers and criminals. A July 10 *New York Times* editorial titled, "It's Not the Rodney King Case," says the issue is not police brutality but drug trafficking by Dominican immigrants. This problem leads to "stress" on cops who "react with overly aggressive tactics," added the editorial in an allusion to García's murder.

The *Times* describes workers from the Dominican Republic as "young men [who] sneak into the country to deal drugs, sending unimaginable sums back to their poor families." It portrays the Dominican city of San Francisco de Macorís as a sinister drug center. Then the editorial states, "While the extent of Mr. García's drug involvement isn't clear, he, too, came from San Francisco de Macorís." Guilt by association.

As in the case of Rodney King, whom the cops also falsely accused of being on drugs to justify his savage beating, the issue is police brutality. What's needed is to continue the rallies, marches, speak-outs, vigils, and picket lines that are directed at the government, and demand the immediate indictment of the cops who killed García and Pichardo. The largest and broadest possible number of people and organizations can be drawn into these actions. Police brutality is a union issue. Trade unions, as the largest organizations of working people, should be part of this fight.

Indict the killer cops now!  
Justice for José García and Dagoberto Pichardo!  
Drop all the charges against those arrested during the anti-police-brutality protests!

## Come to Oberlin conference

Every *Militant* reader should seriously consider attending the 1992 International Socialist Conference to be held at Oberlin College, in Oberlin, Ohio, August 5-9. The theme of the conference will be "The Communist Manifesto Today" and activist workers and youth from around the world will be present.

In 1847 Karl Marx and Frederick Engels were assigned by the Communist League, an international association of workers, to draw up a program for the struggle for working-class emancipation. The two young revolutionaries drew on the discussions, actions, and developments in the working class up to that time to write the *Manifesto*. The most important sections of the document seem like they were written for the struggles that confront working people today.

Through the *Manifesto*, Marx and Engels explained the tendency of capitalism to lower the standard of living of the workers, and even to transform them into paupers. They described how the government of the modern capitalist state is nothing but the executive committee for the ruling rich to safeguard their profits, property, and influence. The *Manifesto* also explains how capitalism produces the very fighters who will be able to overthrow its system of exploitation — the working class.

The socialist conference will give workers and youth involved in the international struggle against the capitalist system, and against the wars, racism, and economic depression that it breeds, a chance to meet, discuss, and chart a course to fight in the coming year.

Feature presentations will take up the importance of the ideas advanced by Marx and Engels in the *Communist Manifesto* in relation to the world political situation today, the communist foundations of the fight for women's rights, the struggle in South Africa, and the changing face of Europe. James Warren and Estelle DeBates, socialist candidates for U.S. president and vice-president, will address campaign supporters to wind up the conference.

In addition to the major presentations at the conference (see ad on page 3) the five-day agenda will be filled with classes, workshops, and informal discussions. Participants will be able to attend classes that delve into the writings of Marx and Engels on the trade unions, on the fight for women's liberation, on the question of free trade and protectionism, and on the environment.

Other classes will describe the birth of the communist movement in the United States, and the struggle against Stalinism. Talks will also take up why capitalism hasn't been imposed in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the war in Yugoslavia, political developments in Iran and the Turkic republics, the Ross Perot campaign and its meaning for working people, and trade union struggles since the Pittston and Eastern strikes.

A class will also be held on the struggles of farmers, truckers, and fishermen.

So don't miss this important gathering. Mark "August 5-9 in Oberlin, Ohio" on your calendar, bring along a friend, and join unionists, students, and other youth from around the world involved in the fight against capitalism.

## 'Toronto Star' strikers gain a contract victory

BY DAN GRANT

TORONTO — Workers on strike against the *Toronto Star* voted by 82 percent in favor of the company's latest offer July 9. The *Toronto Star* is Canada's largest circulation daily newspaper.

The strike, which began June 8, involved 1,600 members of the Southern Ontario Newspaper Guild (SONG) including truck drivers, helper/loaders, mechanics, clerical workers in the circulation and advertisement department, and editorial writers.

Union members struck over contracting out work, wages, and other issues. The *Star* presented an offer June 25 but it was strongly rejected by striking employees by 778 to 239, because the company reserved the right to discipline workers involved in picket line activity. The *Star* owners also refused to make wage settlements retroactive to January 1 as they had done for other unions that had signed separate agreements.

Later, 12 workers were fired. Union members were determined not to go back until all the workers were rehired. This became the central issue in the strike.

In the latest contract offer the company reduced the dismissals to one-month suspensions, which can be immediately grieved to an independent arbitrator. Many workers believed the company was forced to back down on the firings because of the unity shown by workers at the June 25 meeting.

The day after the meeting a mass picket was set up in front of the *Star* building. Pressmen, who had signed a separate agreement, gathered across the street to begin their shift. Some encouraged the strikers to keep the line tight so their foremen could not make them pass. Eventually a union representative for the pressmen announced that no one would be crossing the line that evening. They turned and walked away to loud cheers from the jubilant picketers.

The *Star* was unable to print its Saturday edition for the first time in 100 years. Up until that point the company continued to publish with the help of scab labor. Workers spoke gleefully of how they had made history by shutting down the *Star*. That was a turning point in the strike. Workers' confidence increased and many wanted a repeat of the mass picketing to force the *Star* to rehire the fired workers known as the "Star Twelve."

*Star* workers were impressed with the solidarity they had received from other unionists. Many vowed to lend their support to other workers on strike. On July 5 a dozen *Star* strikers joined Nationair workers at an airport rally. Nationair workers have been locked out for eight months and the company is operating with scabs. Sam Chueng, a *Star* striker who attended the rally, said, "I feel I must do something in return. The need for unions to support each other is essential today." Nationair flight attendants kept the *Star* picket line up while strikers attended the June 25 meeting.

All workers, except the 12 suspended, were expected to be back on the job within a week.

## Apartheid regime provokes violence

Continued from Page 5

ficials explain, is the use of units previously used by the regime in terror campaigns in Angola, Namibia, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe.

Battalions 31 and 32 are drawn from former Angolan mercenaries; Recce 5 is made up of Mozambicans and Koevoet members from Namibia. Another unit, Recce 3, is comprised of forces used in the war in Rhodesia, a former South African ally now called Zimbabwe.

A new feature of the attacks carried out by these units is that they operate out of hostels that are located in many townships. The hostels are single-sex barracks erected to house migrant workers. Surrounded by fences and barbed-wire, they have become a staging ground for terrifying sweeps through surrounding housing and squatter camps.

Functioning out of the hostels helps further government propaganda that the violence is a result of fighting between the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party. Many of those occupying the hostels are Zulu-speaking workers from Natal Province where Inkatha has its base.

One step township residents have taken to defend against the violence is to set up block committees responsible for patrolling the community at night. Barricades of rocks, trees, and metal have been erected in many areas to prevent easy access to the township.

ANC activist Sam Mosia, a resident of Sebokeng township, said the defense units have "made a big difference in how confident government or Inkatha forces feel in simply sweeping into the area. The patrols are organized by the civil organizations and we patrol in the area we live."



# LTV Steel seeks right to revoke union contract

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

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a

company and union positions, even after the latest round of intense bargaining." The company's proposed four-year contract demands major concessions: a 50 percent wage reduction, elimination of Sunday premium pay, a health care deductible

would be closing as of Feb. 1, 1993, along with other services including help to handicapped passengers.

The airport management's plan is to contract out cleaning work to companies like Nordic Aero that use nonunion labor, low wages, and offer no job security.

In response to management's announcement, airport cleaner Kristina Lindblom stood up and asked workers, "Well, what are we going to say to this? Strike?"

"Yes," the unionists at the meeting answered.

The walkout was a total success with not a single permanent worker crossing the picket line. The strikers agreed that temporary workers shouldn't strike since they have no job security. Many of the temporaries, however, called in sick.

After the strike began, Portena, another cleaning company, sent its workers to clean planes. After a couple of hours the Transportation Workers Union told its members not to carry out this struck work. The Caretakers union, which also organizes airport cleaners, took a similar stand.

Strikers received money, faxes, and phone calls of support from unions around the country. Two rail workers from Växjö who were traveling through Arlanda stopped by and made a donation after seeing the striking workers marching around the international terminal with signs.

An agreement accepted by the striking workers calls for negotiations in August and no layoffs until then. The airport management also promised to not deduct any pay for the strike days, and to not sue the workers in the labor court.

If agreement is not reached, "we will strike again," stated Lindblom.

## New Zealand workers picket Mobil Oil

Since June 6, nine members of the New Zealand Engineers Union and their supporters have been mounting a weekend and evening picket of Mobil Oil service stations in the Hutt Valley, near Wellington, New Zealand. The workers were dismissed when they refused to sign a new employment contract, which substantially reduced their wages and conditions.

"We're doing this for other workers," said spokesperson Pennie Revill, "to show that little people can make a difference. If Mobil can do this to us, then what the hell are they going to do to younger workers. It's going to be a slave trade

model."

The workers have been encouraged by the reaction from passing motorists. During a one-hour period they counted 163 toots of support. Fourteen cars stopped, and only six went in to buy gas. The British Petroleum station further up the road reports a 60 percent increase in business.

The following people contributed to this week's column: Michael Itallie, member of United Steelworkers of America Local 14919 in Cleveland; Maria Hamberg and Barbro Davidsson from Sweden; and Terry Coggan, member of the New Zealand United Food and Chemical Workers Union from Wellington.

## ON THE PICKET LINE

way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. If there is an interesting political discussion going on at work, we would like to hear about that too.

United Steelworkers of America (USWA) locals at LTV Steel began voting June 25 to authorize a strike against the company. The union has withdrawn from all labor-management cooperative programs at the mill, charging that the company issued an "official declaration of war" through its request for court approval to throw out the union contract.

The USWA represents 13,000 workers at LTV mills in Cleveland, Ohio; Indiana Harbor, Indiana; and Hennepin, Illinois. LTV, which is trying to come out of six years of bankruptcy, is the third largest steel producer in the United States with about 8.4 percent of industry shipments.

On June 22 LTV asked U.S. Bankruptcy judge Burton Lifland for permission to reject the current contract, which is due to expire in August 1993, and impose a new one. In addition, the company is seeking Lifland's help in changing retiree health and life insurance benefits.

Judge Lifland set a July 13 hearing date on LTV's requests. He will then have at least 30 days to rule.

LTV officials told the Cleveland *Plain Dealer* that "deep, fundamental differences still separate the

increase to \$3,000 per year from the current \$200, and elimination of the company's 50 percent payment of retirees' major medical insurance.

USWA members have given concessions in previous contracts. Local 1157 president Al Forney charged that LTV's creditors "want a bigger slice of the pie at the expense of workers."

"They'd sell their grandmother for a nickel," cold mill worker Grant Schultz told the *Plain Dealer*, adding that he'd go on strike even if it threatened the company's survival.

Linda Gibson, who works in the roll shop, pointed out that a company victory in throwing out the contract will send a message to companies in bankruptcy and unions everywhere: "Beware, beware. Your job is not safe under any contract."

## Swedish airport cleaners strike against layoffs

Cleaners at the Arlanda airport in Stockholm, Sweden, struck for two days in mid-June to protest threatened layoffs. Some 230 cleaners work there — 150 "permanent" workers and 80 temporary workers who perform cleaning work for 22 companies at the airport.

In May manager Dan Lundwall declared that there were no plans to close Stockholm Arlanda Commercial Cleaning (SAKL). However, on June 9, airport manager Barbro Fischerström announced to a meeting of all the airport cleaners that SAKL



Militant/Tim Elliot

Farm workers rally in Coachella Valley, California, in mid-June for better wages and working conditions. Workers who pick grapes and citrus have been organizing walkouts and rallies to press demands against the growers.

## LETTERS

### Fruit-cake squad

In your May 29 issue Harry Ring's "Great Society" column, under the heading "The Fruit-cake squad," commented on a report from Canadian Press that in the 1960s "cops developed a 'fruit machine' to help root homosexuals out of government." Even though the machine, which measured pupil size, palm sweat, etc., as sexually provocative pictures were shown was found unworkable, files were opened on thousands of people and hundreds were purged from jobs.

There is more to this than seemingly bizarre inventions of the cops. This witchhunt was carried out in the name of defense of "national security" by the so-called Character Weakness Section of Canada's federal cops.

When the previously secret story broke it created an uproar in the Canadian Parliament forcing Prime Minister Brian Mulroney on April 27 to condemn the violation of the rights of thousands of workers as an outrage of the past.

The point is that today defense of "national security" is one of the central excuses used by the government to attack the rights of, divide and victimize working people.

The national security section of the legislation covering the Canadian Security Intelligence Services (CSIS), the current form of the secret police, provides the legal cover for the use of secret informers, wiretapping, and other measures including witchhunts targeting gays and lesbians.

Members of the International Association of Machinists seeking security passes to work at airports are subjected to interrogations by CSIS agents deal-

ing with their political views, activities and sexual orientation.

According to CSIS a gay or lesbian is a threat to national security because they are allegedly "compromisable" by being vulnerable to attempts to blackmail them into terrorists activity.

Unions and civil liberties organizations have tried to challenge the CSIS Act in court. But recently a judge ruled that the CSIS Act, including its sections on national security, do not violate the sections of Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms dealing with freedom of assembly, association, and freedom from unreasonable search and seizure.

John Steele  
Toronto, Ontario

### Caterpillar fight

Just a reminder that we at Caterpillar are still having to bear the attack from both sides of the fence without a contract from the U.A.W., but we are working under the company's final offer.

I would like to see more of our fight in your paper to show the world that even though they don't read about us on national news, the fight is still on.

J.G.  
Decatur, Illinois

### Curtis info in prison

I recently gave some information about the Mark Curtis case to a young prisoner who is allowed to leave jail on work release. He took the papers back to prison with him and received a great response from his fellow inmates.

He told me that his fellow prisoners said that it is a crime that the cops can get away with this and that they must be punished. He said that the information has stirred up a lot

of discussion.

However, the discussion did not stay within the confines of the inmates. Some of the guards got a hold of the literature and confiscated it and made copies of it. They wanted to know where he got it.

The same young prisoner wanted to send in a money order for a subscription to the *Militant*. He was told that he was not allowed to purchase a money order for this. (The prisoners are generally allowed to purchase money orders for other items.) He sent me a letter requesting the paper for himself and a friend anyway.

The fight for political space is an extremely important and immediate fight for both workers who are incarcerated and those who aren't. The Mark Curtis case is just one example of this fight. Access to information about the Mark Curtis case is a struggle which I think is important for all workers to take part in. The reaction of the prison guards shows how important this fight is. They know that if Mark's story as well as the story of many other workers just like him is told, they will have a much more difficult time carrying out their program against us.

Laura Kamienski  
Sunbury, Pennsylvania

### Gun control

I have a question for the Socialist Workers Party candidate for President which I would love to see discussed in the next, or some future issue of the *Militant*.

Guns are out of control here in N.Y.C. like other U.S. cities. Gunshots are the leading cause of death for Black teenagers. So many young people have guns, and are becoming more and more willing to use them. While this killing goes

on in our cities, what is the topic of discussion amongst politicians? Should we or should we not ban the new Water Gun !!! There seems to be little talk about the real thing.

Where does presidential candidate James Warren stand on gun control? What is the SWP's opinion on gun control? This seems to be an issue that has divided many communities including the Black community and the working class.

I would be grateful if Mr. Warren or the staff of the *Militant* could address this very current, very vital issue.

R. Shore  
Bronx, New York

### Cop beating

In Vol. 56/No. 22 of your paper (by the way, it's the first time I've ever seen it), you have a photo of a man, Larry Milton. Upon seeing this picture, I began to feel all the long forgotten anger that I was forced to swallow and accept at one time. You see, I was violently assaulted by two Pittsburgh City Police Officers.

These two cops stopped my car. I thought they were going to let me go. I was wrong. They were white officers. I am a white man. So it was not a racial thing. But they got out of the car, one on each side, and opened the doors and commenced to beat me with nightsticks. I was handcuffed behind my back so I could not protect myself. I was beaten three times, knocked unconscious each time.

I assure you, the photo of me makes the one of Mr. Milton seem

like nothing. Police Brutality is not just racism. Things need to change. The whole system is wrong. I may be just a nobody, but I have ideas of how things could be better in this country. If I can come up with ideas, then I'm sure others can too.

A prisoner  
Bellefonte, Pennsylvania

### Commends 'Militant'

I'm writing to thank you for the issue of the *Militant*. I was very impressed. Many of the stories made me angry. This is not bad, however, it's good, it shows that you won't knuckle under to the propaganda machine! It's been a long time since any newspaper has made me angry, because although conditions are bad and growing worse for the masses, the newspapers of this country are, for the most part, organs of the political machine, and therefore in no position to print the truth. I commend you for your honesty.

A prisoner  
Bellefonte, Pennsylvania

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.

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners. To help this important cause, send your contribution to Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.



## Protests from Dublin to Houston defend women's right to abortion

### Pro-choice activists demonstrate in Dublin

BY ANNALUCIA VERMUNT

DUBLIN, Ireland — Debate over the right to abortion has intensified since February, when the Supreme Court here ruled that a 14-year-old girl who had been raped could travel to Britain to terminate her pregnancy, overturning an injunction that denied her that right.

Not only is abortion illegal in Ireland, but so is the distribution of abortion information.

More than 50 organizations have launched the "Repeal the 8th Amendment" campaign to fight against the constitutional clause that prohibits abortion.

The student paper *Mic Leinn Le Cheile* reported on one action organized by the Women's Coalition "to highlight Irish women's right to information and travel as well as the demand to repeal the Eighth Amendment." The May 6 event took place with 200 women boarding "the Holyhead Ferry at Dun Laoghaire in solidarity with the thousands of Irish women who travel to Britain each year for abortions."

Antiabortion forces have also been organizing. Soon after Catholic priest Michael Cleary complained on the radio that not enough young people were involved in the antiabortion effort, a well-funded Youth Defense group was established. One thousand attended a June 6 antiabortion march called by the group. "We don't need your legislation. We don't need no birth control," the marchers chanted.

On May 24, reported the *Irish Times*, "Thousands of people marched through Dublin city center behind an image of the Virgin Mary in the biggest anti-abortion demonstration since the current debate began." The rightist forces are especially upset over the recent court decision. They

want the constitution amended to prohibit all abortions and travel for abortion under any circumstances.

About 1,000 pro-choice campaigners joined a "March against Maastricht" June 13 that called for a "no" vote in the national referendum on the proposed European Community treaty. They chanted "Drop the protocol; it's not right. It denies a woman's right." They were referring to a clause in the Maastricht Treaty that upholds the antiabortion 8th Amendment to the Irish constitution. Antiabortion groups have also opposed the treaty, claiming it would liberalize abortion laws.

The pro-choice contingent also chanted, "679 4700, women have the right to know." The phone number belongs to the Women's Information Network, a group that helps distribute abortion information.

Recent surveys show that 73 percent of those polled favor legalizing access to abortion information and the right to travel abroad for abortion.

### Preparing to defend clinics in Houston

BY JERRY FREIWIRTH

HOUSTON — "Operation Rescue was soundly defeated in Buffalo, New York. We aim to defeat them just as thoroughly in Houston this summer," said Patricia Ireland, national president of the National Organization for Women (NOW), to a packed meeting of supporters June 16.

An overflow crowd of more than 350, mostly young people, attended the meeting called to prepare for Operation Rescue's planned attack on Houston abortion clinics in mid-August. National leaders of Operation Rescue have announced their intention to halt all abortion services in Houston during the weeks before and during the Repub-



Militant/ Arthur Hughes  
Four hundred abortion rights supporters mobilized to defend the Eastern Women's Center in New York City July 13. More than 2,000 people trained for clinic defense after Operation Rescue announced it would try to close clinics in the city during the Democratic Party convention. Operation Rescue later backed down on its threats. Only 30 Operation Rescue supporters showed up at this clinic.

### Rightists fail to close Minnesota clinic

BY JACK GARFIELD

ROBBINSDALE, Minnesota — An Operation Rescue-led effort to close an abortion clinic in this Minneapolis suburb collapsed when confronted by superior forces determined to keep the medical center open.

The showdown occurred June 6, as more than 300 pro-choice demonstrators answered an appeal issued by staff members of the Robbinsdale Clinic to defend the right of clients seeking to use the facility. The clinic has long been a target of antiabortion mobilizations aimed at blocking access to the building.

By 7 a.m. that morning, activists organized by the Pro-Choices Resources Center, Abortion Rights Council, Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, and other organizations stood four and five deep, arms linked in a block-long line in front of the clinic. They were predominantly young, in their majority female, and prepared for a battle.

A half-hour later Operation Rescue's ranks, organized by the Minnesota Pro-Life Action Ministries, arrived. They numbered 75, mostly women, with teenage daughters and small children. Many sang religious songs.

Their activity was directed by five men in their 30s and 40s, among them Keith Tucci, a leader of Operation Rescue's failed drive to close abortion clinics in Buffalo earlier this year. Several of the men had walkie-talkies.

The antiabortion organizers taunted pro-choice activists at close range, and chatted cordially with Robbinsdale police.

The rightists were answered by angry chants of "Pro-life, it's a lie, you don't care

if women die" and "Hey, hey, ho, ho, remember who won in Buffalo" a theme that ran through other slogans as well.

As the first car with a patient turned into the main clinic parking lot, 30 yellow-shirted pro-choice escorts linked arms, separating the crowd. This opened a passage for the vehicle, which was flanked on either side by police.

As the car passed, the escorts regrouped and linked arms. Abortion rights activists poured in behind them sealing the entrance of the lot to the stunned rightists.

When one would-be clinic attacker, a large male wearing a preacher's collar, attempted to vault the defense line in front of the rear parking lot — as police passively watched — five young women efficiently removed him from the driveway.

This was the pattern of events until the clinic closed at its appointed hour of 12:30 p.m.

All scheduled appointments were kept, clinic spokeswoman Susan Osborne said in an interview.

Prior to the June 6 clinic defense action, the clinic staff had shied away from seeking such public support. "We preferred to let the police with our own [private] security take care of things," she said.

But "the completely successful" public defense, stated Osborne, coupled with the continuing threats by the rightists and the obvious refusal of police to arrest any of the Operation Rescue forces on June 6 have given way to "a new policy."

"We want as many people as possible in front of the clinic now," she said.

lican National Convention, which is scheduled to begin here August 17.

The high point of the meeting held at the Jewish Community Center was a clinic-defense training session led by Patricia Ireland and Loretta Kane, another national NOW leader. Since there was insufficient space in the meeting room the crowd filed out into the parking lot. The training exercises were featured on the major TV news shows that night and were widely covered in the Houston daily papers.

While everyone in the parking lot sweltered in the Southeast Texas heat and humidity, the mood of the pro-choice activists was enthusiastic and determined. Especially fired up were a group of young women and men from the University of Houston. "This is a whole lot more people than we expected," said one leader of the campus NOW chapter. "We've already held a number of clinic defense training sessions on campus and got people active. But it looks like we're just beginning to scratch the surface of the kind of participation we can expect."

A new coalition, Houston Defending Choice (HDC) is organizing and coordinating clinic defense, which runs from August 8 through August 22. Initiated by NOW, Planned Parenthood, and the Fund for a Feminist Majority, the coalition involves a wide range of women's rights and other groups, including the Houston Area Women's Center, the League of Women Voters, Jewish, Unitarian, and other religious women's groups, the National Lawyers Guild, Women's Political Caucus, Republicans for Choice, the Socialist Workers Party, the All People's Congress, Queer Nation, and Texas Abortion Rights Action League.

Many Operation Rescue leaders, including national spokesman Patrick Mahoney, have recently come to Houston to organize the abortion clinic attacks. The local media have been full of articles about the impending showdown.

Mahoney showed up at the weekly anti-abortion picket in front of the West Loop Clinic on Houston's west side. This clinic has been the target of many pickets and blockades by antiabortion forces in the past, often with little or no response from groups

defending abortion rights.

In recent weeks, the University of Houston NOW chapter has organized Saturday morning counter mobilizations to defend the clinic and the rights of women patients to seek abortions.

The student group outmobilized the anti-abortionists for the first time June 20, the day that operation Rescue leader Mahoney showed up at the clinic. The anti-abortion-rights group played religious hymns over a blaring radio and used a bullhorn and microphone to verbally assault women using the clinic. The young people defending the clinic drowned out the recorded hymns with chants such as "Pro-life, that's a lie, you don't care if women die" and by singing abortion rights songs developed by clinic defenders from around the country.

Jerry Freiwirth is an activist with Houston Defending Choice and is a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 4-367.

### Operation Rescue outmobilized in Boston

BY JOLEE ZOLA

BOSTON — "We booted 'em out of Buffalo, we'll boot 'em out of Boston!" was a rallying cry of hundreds of pro-choice activists during a successful month defending a Boston clinic from Operation Rescue (OR).

The antiabortion group had vowed to shut down a Boston area clinic every day in the month of June. This campaign was kicked off with much fanfare including a picket line around Governor William Weld's house in Cambridge and a memorial meeting at the alleged gravesite of fetuses that OR leaders said were found in the area of a clinic.

Operation Rescue began their campaign by targeting the Gynecare clinic in downtown Boston. On May 30, six OR members posed as patients at Gynecare. Upon entering the facility, they locked themselves together with the aim of intimidating patients and closing the clinic for the day. The cops refused to remove them and they did not leave until the end of office hours.

Continued on Page 16