

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
Conference discusses the
Communist Manifesto today

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Miami: gov't abets catastrophe

BY MAGGIE McCRAW

MIAMI — Just before 5:00 a.m. on August 24, Hurricane Andrew's 168 mile-per-hour winds ripped through south Florida, causing massive physical destruction.

The working-class communities of Homestead and Florida City, 25 miles south of Miami, were hardest hit. The storm left in its wake a social catastrophe causing unnecessary suffering for millions due to the fact that government officials on all levels went into hiding for two days.

As early as August 23, government officials and agencies knew what the magnitude of the storm would be. But the population had to rely solely on local media and National Hurricane Center broadcasts for information and advice on how to prepare. It was "every man for himself" to board up windows and stock food, bottled water, and emergency lighting. More than one million people had to find a way to evacuate.

Shelters were haphazardly organized in schools, many with no cots, few medical personnel, and scant supplies. The ill, elderly, homeless, and those with no transportation were left to fend for themselves or

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Socialist presidential candidate tours Barbados

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados — James Warren, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. president, received a warm response from working people during a three-day visit here August 27-29. Warren is conducting a four-nation tour of the Caribbean to learn more about working-class struggles in the area and to discuss recent political developments in the United States. His trip will also include stops in Grenada, Curacao, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Warren spoke to the media at a well-attended news conference August 27 held at the offices of the recently formed Clement Payne Labor Union (CPLU). Welcoming Warren to Barbados and sitting with him on the platform were leaders of the union's executive committee including President David Comission, Vice-President Leroy Harewood, Secretary-General Bobby Clarke, Assistant to the Secretary-General David Denny, Assistant Treasurer Gregory Noel, and researcher Trevor Prescott. Reporters were present from the country's two daily papers, the *Barbados Advocate* and *Daily Nation*, and from the *Tribune*, published in Canada.

"We're living in a depression that affects working people worldwide," stated Warren. "The problems of working people in Barbados, the United States, and throughout the world are directly tied to the crisis of the capitalist market system."

"Come over here," yelled one enthusiastic worker as James Warren and his support-

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'No-fly zone' a first step toward U.S. war on Iraq

BY SETH GALINSKY

According to a high-ranking Pentagon official, the U.S.-enforced "no-fly zone" in Iraq is "just a first step" in Washington's campaign against Saddam Hussein.

The anonymous official was one of several quoted in the August 29 *Washington Post* who outlined the next moves being

U.S. hands off Iraq! see editorial page 14

considered in the White House.

Among the measures:

- Bombing targets throughout Iraq.
- Establishing "a more aggressive security zone" — that is, not banning just Iraqi planes from southern Iraq, but all Iraqi armed forces.
- Using the stepped-up intervention to encourage a coup.

The no-fly zone for both military and civilian aircraft was instituted by U.S. President George Bush August 27, claiming that this was necessary to protect Shiites in southern Iraq from attacks by Hussein's forces.

In an August 29 interview on the Evans and Novak TV show, Les Aspin, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and a Democrat, made it clear that the U.S. government is encouraging Shiites to attack the Iraqi army.

Aspin cited "the latest reports from the intelligence field that the Shiites themselves have taken advantage of the air cover and are beginning to show a little more aggres-



F/A-18 fighter plane taking off from U.S. carrier *Independence* in Persian Gulf. Washington is using plight of Iraqi Shiites to justify intervention.

sion in attacking the Iraqi troops in the south." He also stated that Iraqi forces are preparing to counterattack.

If Hussein sends ground forces against the Shiites, "the right response would be to have the U.S. retaliate, from the air" against the Iraqi units, Aspin said.

In an appearance on NBC News "Meet the Press" August 30, Brent Scowcroft, Bush's national security adviser, said that Washington will respond militarily if Baghdad uses its ground troops rather than its aircraft to attack

Shiite rebels in the south.

The Pentagon currently has an estimated 24,000 U.S. troops in the region. Some 5,000 of the soldiers are stationed on the USS *Independence*, which is part of a fleet of 22 ships in the Persian Gulf. The *Independence* has 70 combat airplanes.

In the first 24 hours of the zone's establishment, the *Independence* alone sent out 200 sorties.

The area of southern Iraq below the

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General Motors workers on strike in Ohio

BY KIBWE DIARRA

LORDSTOWN, Ohio — Some 2,400 members of United Automobile Workers (UAW) Local 1714 went on strike August 27 against the General Motors Corporation metal fabrications plant here.

UAW members put up picket lines after talks broke down with GM over job security, outsourcing, and health and safety issues. Outsourcing by the company involves contracting out aspects of production to non-union companies where workers are paid less and have fewer benefits.

This is the first strike by the union local since 1975. Workers on the picket line were upbeat despite heavy rain.

At the union hall Barbara Thomas, chairperson of the Community Services Committee said, "We are preparing for every contingency. Right now we are keeping the picket lines set up; if this goes on long term we are prepared to help our membership through any problems they may have." Plans are going ahead on using the union hall as a relief center for sending 10 tons of aid to hurricane-ravaged south Florida.

"Our local has been involved in solidarity work before," Thomas said. "We have had gate collections for the Caterpillar strikers and some of our members walked the picket line in Peoria."

Charles Robinson, a press operator in the plant since 1983, said that he did not like the company outsourcing jobs to nonunion operations and that it was only being done because it was cheaper. "Workers are under attack and this has to be our response. We have to be ready to go all the way," he said.

The Lordstown plant makes key components needed at other GM operations. Production of floor boards and window posts for the Saturn line, and parts for Chevrolet Cavalier, Pontiac Sunbird, and Oldsmobile Eighty Eight will be stopped by the strike. Within a few days, more than a dozen plants in the U.S., Mexico, and Canada will have to stop operations.

The walkout has already caused GM to pare production of its hot-selling Saturn car

— which has more than tripled its sales of a year ago. The Saturn plant in Spring Hill, Tennessee, canceled production August 28 and was expected to do the same August 31.

The adjacent auto assembly plant at Lordstown, employing 7,800 members of UAW Local 1112, has also been affected by the strike, stopping production on August 28. The local sent a five-day notice to GM

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The U.S. war drive against Iraq and Yugoslavia

A series of special Militant Labor Forums will be held around the U.S. in September to alert working people to the growing danger of war in the Middle East and Yugoslavia. These forums will take place in conjunction with national meetings of socialist trade unionists in the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU), the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU), the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), and the International Association of Machinists (IAM).

Philadelphia Sept. 5, 7:30 pm

Speaker: Argiris Malapanis, *Militant* staff writer, recently returned from Sarajevo, Zagreb, and Belgrade in Yugoslavia

Newark Sept. 12, 7:30 pm

Speaker: Greg McCartan, chairperson, 1992 Socialist Workers campaign, editor, the *Militant*

Pittsburgh Sept. 12, 7:30 pm

Speaker: Derek Bracey, *Militant* staff writer

Seattle Sept. 12, 7:30 pm

Speaker: Ma'mud Shirvani, recently returned from Iran

See page 12 for more details

London conference: no solution to Yugoslav war — page 3



German rightists attack refugees

German police battled for a fifth night in a row with hundreds of right-wing youth who rioted and launched violent attacks against Romanian Gypsies and Vietnamese refugees in the eastern German city of Rostock. The refugees were being housed in a hostel in Lichtenhafen, a working-class section of the city, while seeking asylum in Germany. The attacks began August 22 at a rightist rally where speakers blamed the refugees for rampant unem-



ployment and other social ills facing Rostock residents. The official unemployment rate in the city stands at 17 percent, while some unofficial estimates put it as high as 50 percent.

Rightist thugs firebombed the hostel where refugees were staying as the immigrants were being evacuated to a heavily guarded barracks in another part of the city August 24. As many as 500,000 refugees are expected to come into Germany this year, double the number in 1991. A government report released in August showed that attacks against immigrants quadrupled to nearly 1,500 in 1991. Government ministers and opposition Social Democratic Party politicians called for a speedy constitutional amendment to slash the number of refugees coming into the country.

"Instead of thinking how this damage can be repaired, the politicians are trying to use the Rostock riots for their own party-political purposes," Franz Steinkühler, head of I.G. Metall, Germany's largest trade union, told the *New York Times*. The union has organized counter-demonstrations in the city. A march of 20,000 opposing the attacks on immigrants occurred in Rostock August 29.

Marches demand Collor's ouster

Hundreds of thousands took to the streets in 25 cities in Brazil August 25 demanding the impeachment of President Fernando Collor de Mello. A series of student demonstrations precipitated the August actions. "Youth is pulling the rest of the society," said Lindbergh Farias, a law student who is president of the National Union of Students. Collor, who has been accused of corruption as the economic crisis in Brazil has accelerated, is losing support among his own government and many ruling-class politicians. A congressional investigative panel concluded with a 16-5 vote August 24 that Collor's extra expenses were funded by a massive influence-peddling scheme allegedly run by his campaign treasurer. This decision paved the way for the opening of an impeachment procedure.

French opposition to EC treaty

A French opinion poll has revealed the highest level yet of opposition to the European Community's Maastricht treaty on political and economic union. A late August Ipsos survey found that 52 percent intend to vote against the treaty in the September 20 referendum. It was the second survey in two days to signal majority sentiment in France for rejection. Previous polls had found proponents of the treaty prevailing by 51 percent to 49 percent. A "no" vote in France "would doom the treaty," at a time when there are growing signs of opposition to the accord in Germany, commented an August 26 *Wall Street Journal* article.

Dollar plunges against mark

The U.S. dollar fell more than 2 percent against the German mark at the end of August, tumbling to another post-World War II low for a drop of nearly 7 percent over the past month. This sent tremors through the bond and stock markets in the United States and Europe. The drop comes after overnight interest rates have been cut to below 4 percent in the United States. Bonn has steadily pushed its interest rates up in an attempt to fight the inflationary effects of its effort to absorb the workers' state in east Germany. Other European governments who would like to cut their interest rates cannot because their currencies are tied to the German mark.

The low dollar makes imports to the United States more expensive, raising fears in London, Paris, Rome, and among other European imperialist governments that lower exports to the United States could exacerbate economic recessions in those countries. A similar tug-of-war over short-term interest rates rocked

the foreign exchange markets just prior to the 1987 stock market crash.

New York child labor on rise

One hundred and thirty children, including a seven-year-old, were found illegally employed in New York City factories during the first half of 1992, the State Labor Department reported August 18. Inspections of 505 companies throughout New York State during the first three months of the year uncovered 1,023 labor-law violations, including illegal employment of 554 children, pointing to a rise of illegal child labor.

U.S. productivity up, wages down

According to recent U.S. government statistics labor costs have risen in 1992 at the slowest pace in 17 years, while labor productivity posted significant gains for the third consecutive quarter this spring. Unit labor costs for nonfarm businesses inched up at an annual rate of 0.3 percent in the second quarter of this year, following an advance of barely 0.1 percent in the first quarter. Meanwhile labor productivity increased by 2.3 percent in the spring quarter, following increases of 3.8 and 2.5 percent in the previous quarters. This is a direct result of the economic depression. Widespread layoffs have pushed unemployment to its current official level of 7.7 percent, while wages have been driven down.

Quebec and Ottawa reach accord

The Canadian government reached an accord with the government of Quebec August 22 that guarantees that the majority-French-speaking province will remain within Canada. The agreement includes reforms of the Canadian Parliament and sharing out federal powers with the 10 provinces. Canada's appointed senate will become an elected body with equal representation for all provinces. Quebec obtained constitutional recognition as a distinct society within Canada, ensuring the survival and use of the French language. It also won powers to veto future changes to federal institutions and the creation of new provinces. Quebec will be apportioned 25 percent of the seats in the House of Commons. The accord must be ratified by Parliament and provincial legislatures before it can take effect.

Pretoria involved in violence

Following the June Boipatong massacre in South Africa more revelations have come out pointing to direct government involvement in the killings. South African Defence Force (SADF) general Andries Liebenberg disclosed that the SADF intelligence staff ran a training project for a 200-man squad organized by the Inkatha Freedom Party, which is accused of carrying out assassinations. Inkatha thugs carried out the Boipatong murders. On another front, President F.W. de Klerk conceded that he might have to appoint a commission to investigate the 1986 murder of Matthew Goniwe and three other anti-apartheid activists. The announcement came after a white farmer cooperating with the African National Congress in the investigation of the murders was found dead.

No apartheid anthem at rugby match

One week after apartheid supporters in Johannesburg interrupted a silent tribute to victims of violence during an international rugby match by bursting loudly into the apartheid national anthem, spectators in Cape Town held their tongues during another game August 22. The African National Congress had warned that if pro-apartheid fans repeated the outburst during the match against Australia, the ANC would demand that South Africa be banned again from the international rugby competition. Rugby officials drowned attempts to get the anthem going by loudly broadcasting a beer jingle. On the playing field the Springboks were smashed by the world champion Australians 26 to 3.

Dozens die in Georgia battle

Georgian government forces fought a fierce battle August 26 with troops from the Black Sea region of Abkhazia that were joined by 1,000 volunteers from the northern Caucasus region. Dozens died in the battle as 1,500 men attacked the western Georgian town of Gagra, near the border with Russia. The fighting followed the military takeover of Abkhazia by Georgian army troops August 18 after the region's parliament declared its independence from the former Soviet republic in July.

Palestinian prisoners released

Tel Aviv announced August 23 that it was easing some of the restrictions on Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza and releasing 800 Palestinian prisoners. A statement from the office of Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin said that Palestinian homes and streets that had been sealed by the army during violent clashes would be reopened. These minor concessions came as Israeli and Arab negotiators gathered in Washington for another round of Mideast peace talks.

Yeltsin offers Russians 'vouchers'

Seeking to win support for his government's "free-market" reforms, Russian president Boris Yeltsin announced a privatization plan that will provide vouchers worth about \$60 to every person in Russia. Speaking August 19, on the anniversary of last year's failed coup, Yeltsin called the coupons "a kind of ticket for each one of us to a free economy."

An August 20 *Wall Street Journal* article referred to the Russian president as "gently explaining the scheme to a public still wary of the concept of private property." Under the plan, to begin October 1, voucher holders could buy shares of state-owned enterprises or trade them for cash. Managers and employees of the affected enterprises are entitled to bid on 51 percent of the assets.

Meanwhile, industrial production has fallen by 30 percent, farm output by 27 percent, and unemployment has quadrupled to a total of 230,000 jobless since last year.

—ARGIRIS MALAPANIS

Shellia Kennedy from Sheffield, England, contributed to this column.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant's* views. These are expressed in editorials.

Imperialists disagree on Yugoslav crisis

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

Representatives of nearly two dozen governments met in London August 26-27 to discuss the war in the former Yugoslav republics but disagreed among themselves on a course of action.

Washington, Bonn, Paris, and London, alleging concern for the people of war-ravaged Bosnia-Herzegovina, all called for tightening the current sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro and sending "observers." They expressed tactical differences, however, over military intervention, which the United Nations Security Council voted to allow August 13.

German foreign minister Klaus Kinkel proposed establishing a war crimes tribunal against Serbian forces. Bonn, which openly backs the Croatian regime of Franjo Tudjman, has called for deploying multinational police and customs units to patrol the Danube River and the countries bordering with Serbia.

Paris suggested imposing a military air-exclusion zone over Bosnia. British prime

minister John Major called for stronger sanctions, while warning that he would not allow Bosnia "to be partitioned by conquest."

U.S. acting secretary of state Lawrence Eagleburger pressed for "sanctions monitors" to tighten enforcement of the embargo.

The day before the conference began, the official who ran the U.S. State Department's Yugoslavia desk, George Kenney, resigned to protest what he called the Bush administration's "ineffective" policy. Describing the former Yugoslav republics as "a vital U.S. national security interest," he dismissed the London conference as a "charade" and called for bombing Serbian forces.

Responding to this criticism, Eagleburger described the Yugoslav war as "a very terrible and messy situation" and raised the specter of a protracted Vietnam-like quagmire. "I think there's a real chance that this conflict can spread," he said, referring particularly to the Kosovo region, where ethnic

Albanians are fighting repression by the Belgrade regime.

On the eve of the conference, anticipating its failure, Lord Carrington of Britain resigned as the European Community's mediator in the war. He was replaced by former British foreign secretary Lord Owen.

The conference adjourned with a spurious agreement by Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic and Radovan Karadzic, head of the Serbian Democratic Party in Bosnia, to lift the siege of Sarajevo, dismantle concentration camps, and turn over heavy weapons to UN forces. Later, however, Karadzic asserted that his forces were not besieging Sarajevo and were therefore not bound by the accord.

Meanwhile, news reports indicate that resistance to the war by working people in the former Yugoslavia continues.

An August 23 *Los Angeles Times* report from Ruma, in the Vojvodina region in the north of Serbia, described a protest by local townspeople against the "ethnic cleansing" campaign that right-wing forces have unleashed against Croats and other non-Serb

residents. Slavica Rakos led a delegation 40 miles, from that farming community to Belgrade, Serbia's capital. "Nowhere in the world can you find ethnically clean territories, and I hope this town will not become one, either," she said. "We are not leaving from here until we are carried to the cemetery."

Rakos, undeterred by rightist threats on her life, explained that the movement she is spearheading includes Serbs as well as non-Serbs.

Ultrarightist groups like the Serbian Radical Party and the Serbian National Movement have recruited some refugees fleeing repression by the regime in Croatia. They are offered the homes of non-Serbs who are "cleansed" from the region. However, the thousands of dollars the rightists have extorted from refugees in fees for "liberating" homes for them has caused growing resentment. Refugees were part of the delegation of angry residents that went to Belgrade to demand an end to the chauvinist attacks.

Emergency aid needed for people of Somalia

BY SARA LOBMAN

One-and-a-half million people will starve to death in Somalia in the coming months without massive food aid, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross. The U.S. Agency for International Development says that as many as one in every four Somali children has already died.

Somalia is located on the Horn of Africa. Its population, variously reported as between 4.5 million and 6 million, is primarily nomadic, dependent on the trading of cattle, camels, and sheep. The current famine is attributed to the double crisis of a civil war and a long term regional drought, but the roots go deeper.

The opening of the Suez Canal in Egypt in 1869 increased the strategic importance, for the capitalist powers, of the area that is today Somalia. In the mid 1880's, the British moved in and by 1920 a British protectorate had been established in the north and an Italian protectorate in the south. Both parts of the country won independence and they were united as the Republic of Somalia on July 1, 1960.

Direct colonial domination at first, and the subsequent superexploitation by imperialism has led to the country's extreme underdevelopment. Somalia's economy is based primarily on livestock and agriculture. In most cases land is cultivated without the benefits of modern technology. The only industries are sugar and petroleum refining, and textiles. There are very few skilled workers. The per capita gross national product is among the lowest in the world, only \$156 per person. Life expectancy is 56 years.

In 1969, the army seized power and assassinated president Abdi Rashid Ali Shermarke. Maj. Gen. Mohamed Siad Barre was installed as the new president. The U.S. government began to develop a close relationship with the Somali dictator after a popular revolt in neighboring Ethiopia overthrew that country's emperor.

In 1977, with the backing of the U.S. government, Somalia invaded Ethiopia. Cuban volunteer troops came to the aid of Ethiopia. Although by 1978 Somalia had been decisively pushed back, Washington continued to provide it with considerable military aid.

The Siad Barre regime was noted for its brutality. It conducted a ruthless campaign against antigovernment rebels in the north that cost 50,000 civilians their lives. At one point, the army killed 5,000 unarmed civilians, members of the Isaak clan.

In January 1991, forces organized by the United Somali Congress (USC) overthrew the Siad Barre government and declared Ali Mahdi Mohammed president. A separate state, the Somaliland Republic, was created in the area that used to be controlled by the British. The current fighting began November 17, 1991, when army Gen. Mohammed Farah Aidid tried to overthrow Ali Mahdi. Both men are members of the USC, which is dominated by one of the country's major clans, the Hawiyes. As a result of the fighting an estimated 30,000 people have been killed, and the capital city, Mogadishu, is in ruins.

Both sides are using the weaponry provided to the Siad Barre regime over the preceding decades.

Somalia has an unusual religious and linguistic homogeneity for Africa. Most Somalis are Sunni Muslims and everyone speaks Somali. The divisions along clan and sub-clan lines were consciously encouraged by Siad Barre, as a way to maintain his dictatorial rule.

One result of the war is that more than two million Somalis have been pushed off the land, preventing farmers from planting crops. This, coupled with the drought, has brought the country's agricultural production to a halt. About 25 percent of the cattle and untold numbers of camels have died for lack of water.

There has been ample evidence for months that a famine was developing in Somalia. Tony Burgenur, a Red Cross spokesperson in Geneva, pointed out, "We alerted the international community to this eight months ago."

Government officials and spokespeople of other imperialist powers argued that the fighting made it impossible to deliver sup-

plies, and that once the food arrived it would be stolen by armed gangs. However, as early as February, the human rights organization Africa Watch issued a report that explained that making aid conditional upon an end to the fighting was to dismiss the role the food shortages themselves played in the conflict.

"It is imperative to flood the country with food, so that it ceases to be a high-stakes item, stolen by those with weapons," said Tony Braumann, president of Doctors Without Borders, which has had doctors in Somalia since January 1991. "Only by making food easily available will it be possible to ease the tensions caused by shortages."

It was not until mid-August that Washington announced that it would airlift food into Somalia, and it was the end of the month before the first airlift began. The U.S. government has donated \$77 million in food relief. The Red Cross has delivered 88,000 tons of food, and the United Nations 22,000. Mogadishu alone, with less than a quarter of the country's population, needs up to 20,000 tons of food aid a month.



Antiwar protest in Belgrade

Cuban youth leader speaks in Cleveland

BY SANDRA NELSON

CLEVELAND — "Young people in Cuba Today" was the topic addressed by Ibis Alvisa González, researcher at the Center for Youth Studies of Havana, Cuba, as she spoke to more than 50 participants at Cleveland State University August 20.

Cuban Youth Tour Committee member Amy Husk welcomed participants here to the second stop of a nine-city visit. She presented

a resolution welcoming Alvisa from the Cleveland City Council and letters of welcome from Congressman Louis Stokes, Congresswoman Mary Rose Oakar, and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 100.

Dr. Howard A. Mims, Director of the CSU Black Studies Program, opened the meeting. "I am happy and honored to welcome our neighbor from Cuba," he said.

Alvisa explained the importance that Cuba places on trying to meet the needs and interests of Cuban youth, who make up 55 percent of the population. The political, social, and recreational needs of youth are of great importance in advancing the revolution, she stressed.

Alvisa explained the "Special Period" that Cuba is living through. She said that with the breakup of the Soviet Union, a drastic decline in trade resulted, causing severe shortages in basic grains, oil, and machine parts. She cited examples of the difficulties faced by Cubans as they "confront increased U.S. aggression with its ongoing effort to strangle Cuba economically and try to make people give up." She said that the 34-year blockade, continued anti-Cuba legislation in the U.S. Congress, and the North American Free Trade Agreement have added greatly to the economic and political pressure that Cuba comes under.

Questions from the audience, which included students from South Africa and the Dominican Republic, workers from AFSCME Local 100, Latino students, and the vice-president of Student Government at CSU, ranged from, "Will the U.S. presidential elections make a difference for Cuba?" to "How do youth join the Union of Young Communists," and "What kind of relationship would Cuba have to a new South African government?"

Ione Biggs, a central leader of the tour committee and member of Women Speak Out for Peace and Justice (Cleveland branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom), called on participants to do what they could to put pressure on legislators to end the embargo against Cuba.

The CSU meeting capped a three-day visit by Alvisa to Cleveland. On August 10, prior to the tour start, a reception for González and Andile Yawa, National Executive Committee member of the African National Congress Youth League, was held at the Peace House in Cleveland.

A highlight of the Cleveland visit was a tour of Osborne Manufacturing Corp., which manufactures industrial steel brushes. Alvisa was received warmly by workers and officials of the United Automobile Workers union. One worker complimented her on an interview published the day before in a local newspaper. Another had heard her speak on a Spanish-language radio station the night before. The discussions about Cuba continued in the plant for several days after the visit.

Alvisa also met with a group of young abortion rights activists who organize weekly demonstrations to protect a local abortion clinic from right-wing protesters. The activists invited Alvisa to their meeting and some stayed afterward to talk further.

Don Ramos, professor of Latin American History at CSU, organized a faculty meeting with Alvisa which was attended by several professors.

During her visit Alvisa was interviewed by the Puerto Rican Community newspaper *Ohio Boricua*; WCSB radio, a CSU station with a wide Latin American audience; the *Plain Dealer*, Cleveland's major newspaper; and the West Side *Sun News*, a local paper.

Cuban youth leader visits United States

Ibis Alvisa González, a researcher at the Center for Studies of Youth in Havana, Cuba, is currently visiting the United States to speak on many campuses about young people and Cuba today. She will visit nine cities.

A second Cuban youth leader, José Antonio Concepción Ráñez, will join Alvisa in mid-September. He is also a researcher at the Center for Studies of Youth.

For more information on their visit, contact the Faculty and Students Coordinating Committee for Campus Lectures of Cuban Youth, Borough of Manhattan Community College in New York, which is sponsoring the tour, at: P.O. Box 1597, New York, NY 10011 or call (212) 346-8000.

September 1-6	San Francisco
September 7-12	Chicago
September 13-17	Pittsburgh
September 18-22	Washington, D.C.
September 23-30	New York

Fund to advance reconstruction effort

BY FRANK FORRESTAL

The George Novack Reconstruction Fund was launched at the International Socialist Conference last month in Oberlin, Ohio. The aim of the fund is to raise \$150,000 by December 1.

This effort is part of the International Expansion Fund that was launched in 1990, making possible major capital expenditures designed to strengthen the ability of the communist movement to produce the arsenal of books and periodicals needed by working-class fighters. Raising the \$150,000 is essential to guaranteeing that the reconstruction work continues this fall.

George Novack, who died July 30, was a long-time leader of the Socialist Workers Party. Raising funds for Pathfinder Press was one of the most important contributions Novack made to the socialist movement.

Novack strongly believed in the importance of studying and discussing Marxist ideas. During his

life, Novack popularized many of these ideas in books and pamphlets. He worked hard to get Pathfinder literature into the hands of fighting workers and youth. This took on a greater significance in the 1960s when a new generation of young fighters, hungry for revolutionary ideas, radicalized in response to the anti-colonial revolution in Africa, the freedom struggles in Vietnam and Cuba, and the fight for Black rights in the South.

In 1964 Novack played a central role in helping to raise the \$50,000 that set up the modern Pathfinder printshop. Commenting on this, Bob Chester, a long-time leader in the socialist movement, who also worked as a printer in the shop, said, "That was when George Novack once again proved his skill as a fund raiser."

In the early 1960s there was a shortage of Marxist literature. Marxist classics like Trotsky's *In Defense of Marxism* and James P. Cannon's *Struggle for a Proletarian Party* were limited to personal copies. At

this time, SWP member Howard Mayhew closed his small print shop in Chicago, donated his printing equipment to Pathfinder, and moved to New York to ensure that the movement's publishing efforts would continue.

This signified a major expansion. For the first time, Pathfinder had under one roof typesetting equipment, presses, and bindery equipment—the bare essentials to help produce weapons for fighting workers and radicalizing youth. The George Novack Reconstruction Fund builds on this tradition.

For the next three months, this column will describe the progress different areas are making in raising funds. As well, it will give weekly reports on the work of the reconstruction crew.

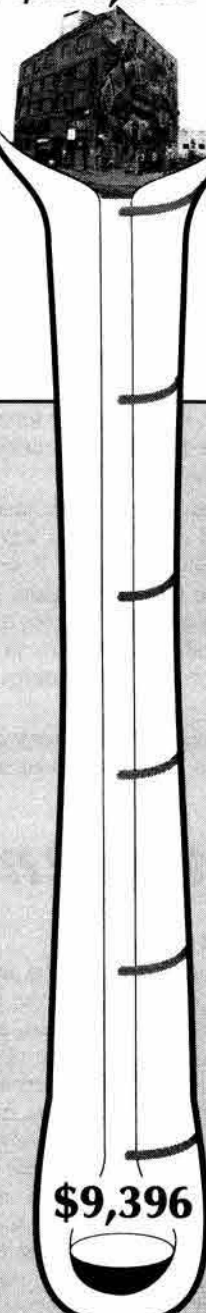
The chart shows that so far \$112,538 has been pledged and \$9,396 collected. Each local area now needs to begin collecting the pledges on a weekly basis. In addition, more pledges need to be made as we are \$30,000 short of the goal. Next week, the chart will carry goals for each area. Fund supporters should reach out to coworkers, young people, and friends. Every pledge, large or small, is important.

This week, the reconstruction crew started to pour the new floor in the building that will become the new Pathfinder bindery. Several stages preceded laying the new floor. It included deconstructing the previous floor, digging a pit for a lift table, moving an exit door, rebuilding the back factory wall, and

revamping the plumbing and electrical system that will lay underneath the new floor.

Each week, volunteers on the crew learn new skills and gain more confidence. Their sights are now fixed on finishing the entire floor by October 1.

\$150,000



United States	Pledged
Atlanta	\$2,725
Baltimore	3,575
Birmingham	2,050
Boston	3,293
Chicago	2,970
Cincinnati	1,000
Cleveland	2,700
Des Moines	2,575
Detroit	5,825
Greensboro	2,450
Houston	2,275
Los Angeles	5,970
Miami	2,725
Morgantown	1,800
New Haven	300
New York	12,539
Newark	8,595
Philadelphia	3,075
Pittsburgh	2,850
Portland	450
St. Louis	5,250
Salt Lake City	4,135
San Francisco	6,255
Seattle	4,520
Twin Cities	6,505
Washington, D.C.	3,300
Other USA	2,526
International	10,305
Total	\$112,538

I pledge...

☐ \$1000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$Other_____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____ COUNTRY _____

PHONE _____

Send to the George Novack Reconstruction Fund, 406 West Street, New York, NY 10014

Cops shoot young workers in Salt Lake, Toronto

BY DAVID ANSHEN

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — "When an officer sees a Hispanic his first thought is 'gang.' You think gang and you think gun. And you think gun and you think my life is in jeopardy. Well I'll tell you, when I see an officer I automatically think my life is in danger, too," said Marie Arnold, one of 200 participants at a protest meeting held at Centro Cívico Mexicano.

The meeting at the community center was called to discuss the recent shooting of Stevie Manzanares, an 18-year-old Chicano youth, by a deputy of the Salt Lake County sheriff's office.

The shooting took place in the parking lot of a supermarket in a Salt Lake City suburb, after three youths allegedly stole a case of beer that cost \$15.19. One of the three, Steven Early, was arrested after leaving with the beer. According to the police, his two friends, Stevie Manzanares and Chico Chavez, who were waiting in a car, attempted to leave.

Before they could move, Deputies Allen and Mattingly blocked the car with their vehicle. They got out of the police car, drew their weapons, and approached the car on each side. According to the police, they gave the youths two verbal warnings and then Deputy Allen shot Manzanares in the head at point-blank range with a 10mm semiautomatic handgun. The shot hit Manzanares under the right ear, destroyed his jaw, and severed an artery going to his brain.

Chico Chavez, who was sitting in the back seat, contradicted the officers' claim to have issued verbal warnings. He told the local press, "From the time we hit the car until the time Stevie was shot was about 10 seconds. I saw on the news the cops said they gave two verbal warnings, but they didn't... I thought they shot him on purpose. I thought they were going to shoot me."

Deputy Allen has been placed on paid leave pending an "internal investigation" by the sheriff's office.

When news of the shooting broke out, many people in the Hispanic community reacted with skepticism and anger to the police claim that the shooting was justified. This response prompted the Coalition of La Raza, a group of community activists, to call

the meeting at Centro Cívico Mexicano, which took place August 12.

The meeting became a forum for residents of Salt Lake City and surrounding suburbs like Magna to recount their experience at the hands of the Utah police and to discuss how to end police harassment.

There was discussion about what could be done to end police abuse and win justice in this case. Some participants spoke in favor of the idea of establishing a review board and volunteered to be on it.

The Coalition of La Raza explained their demands for reform of the police department at this meeting. These included a citizens' review board, "sensitivity training" for police officers, and better relations between the community and the police.

Protest actions needed

Eleanor Garcia, Socialist Workers candidate for Governor, stated, "There's no doubt in my mind that this shooting was racially motivated. I think that Deputy Allen should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

Patricia Grogan, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate, also spoke. She pointed out, "The acquittal of the cops in the Rodney King case sent a message to cops that they can get away with this kind of brutality." She also explained the need to organize public protests to demand justice in this case.

As the meeting ended, discussion continued on where to take the fight. Members of Manzanares' family have been pressing for continued protests and have called a planning meeting to discuss future actions.

The local media has sought to justify the shooting. An article appeared in the *Salt Lake Tribune* titled "Deputy suspended in shooting has heroic record." It pointed out that Allen received the Sheriff's Star, a high award, for successfully resuscitating a person on one occasion.

An editorial in the *Tribune* stated, "While Blacks and Hispanics comprise only 5% of the state population, police say more than half of the state's approximately 1000 gang members are Hispanic... Under these circumstances it would be no surprise if Salt Lake County Sheriff's Deputies approached Stevie Manzanares and Chico Chavez with

extra caution after catching a companion allegedly stealing a case of beer. Unfair? Probably. Unwise? Perhaps not."

Meanwhile Stevie Manzanares remains in critical condition.

Mike Shur contributed to this article.

BY CHRIS McNEIL

TORONTO — On August 9, Dominic Sabatino, a 32-year-old unemployed worker with a history of mental illness, was shot in the chest at point-blank range and killed by a member of the Toronto Metropolitan Police.

Joseph Sabatino, Dominic's brother, witnessed the killing. Dominic, who was upset, had chased Joseph for six blocks with a baseball bat. Dominic's family had called the cops, thinking they would help get him under control.

"My life didn't feel threatened by Dominic," said Joseph.

"The only time I felt my life threatened, and as well the life of my brother, was when the cop drew his gun," said Joseph.

Joseph described the events leading up to the fatal shooting of his brother.

Before killing Dominic, the cops struck him with the fender of their car. When they attempted to hit him with the fender a second time, Dominic broke the squad car mirror with his bat. The cops got out of their car and one fired a shot into the air. Joseph stepped between the cops and his brother and pleaded with them not to shoot.

"The police shot to kill Dominic," said Joseph. "I don't know why this officer is still working on the police force," he added.

The family is considering pressing charges against the cop who murdered Sabatino, pending results of an investigation by the Ontario Special Investigation Unit (SIU). The SIU is a body set up by the Ontario provincial government to investigate shootings by the police. It was established in response to the many protests against police shootings of Black youth in Toronto.

"The police do not need to be so gunhappy. They need to be restrained," concluded Joseph.

On August 14, the Black Action Defense

Committee (BADC) held a press conference to condemn the killing of Sabatino.

"There must be a coordinated effort by the community and the police to seek ways to stop these brutal and unnecessary killings," said Dudley Laws, the central leader of the BADC.

BADC is the leading organization in the fight to expose and fight against cop violence in Canada. Laws explained that BADC was willing to work with as many groups as possible against police violence.

Last June the BADC organized a demonstration against the murder of Raymond Lawrence, a Black youth, by the Toronto Police. The demonstration of 2,000 people also protested the acquittal of the Los Angeles police officers who brutally beat Rodney King.

Cops justify killings

On the same day Sabatino was killed, the Ontario Police Association, representing 22,000 Ontario provincial cops, threatened to campaign against the Ontario New Democratic Party government, which in the wake of protests against cop killings of Black youth has talked about bringing in restrictions on the use of "lethal force" by the police.

Speaking for the Toronto cops, Art Lymer, president of the Metro Toronto Police Association, said that because of the widespread criticism of the cops they are becoming "less zealous about doing their jobs."

"They're beginning to let stolen cars go by," said Lymer in the August 15 *Toronto Star*. "They say, 'I'm going to get charged myself and I've got a wife and children and a mortgage.'"

Responding to the campaign being waged by the cops, federal Solicitor General Douglas Lewis, in the wake of the Sabatino killing, declared that cops should have all the firepower they think they need as well as veto power over any suggested restrictions.

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Hands off Iraq and Yugoslavia

Communists in Britain, New Zealand issue statements

The drive toward imperialist military intervention in Yugoslavia and Iraq affects working people around the world. The two statements excerpted below, calling for opposition to the war moves, were issued by the Communist League of Britain and Patrick Brown, Communist League of New Zealand candidate for mayor of Wellington, at the end of August.

Open Borders to Refugees!

The British Government's decision, supported by the Labour Party leadership, to send Tornado warplanes to Iraq and 1,800 combat troops to Yugoslavia has nothing to do with "keeping the peace" or ending the killing in Bosnia-Herzegovina or southern Iraq, as Whitehall and its Labour backers claim.

On the contrary, these war moves by the British ruling rich increase the likelihood of further slaughter of working people in both countries and should be opposed.

Slaughter in Iraq

The crisis in the Gulf today stems from the bloody assault on the Iraqi people last year, launched under the cover of the United Nations, in which at least 150,000 people died.

Washington and London had bankrolled and armed Hussein's brutal capitalist regime for years, and others like it. Last year they cynically used his invasion of Kuwait as a pretext to go to war and attempt to advance their interests.

For the past several weeks, these same

warmongers have been working to create an excuse for another attack. The ploy of using force to support United Nations weapons inspectors has failed. So now they hypocritically pose as the humanitarian defenders of the Shia Muslims in southern Iraq, who are under attack from Hussein. But, not only will another imperialist bloodbath fail to protect the Shias, it will also deepen the crisis and instability in the entire region and increase the threat of other wars.

War in Yugoslavia

John Major's decision to send ground troops to Bosnia is just as cynical. The government uses the horror which working people feel, watching the bloodshed in Yugoslavia, to justify Britain's military involvement. Major's real objective is to carve out space for the interests of British capitalism, as it competes with its main rivals in Europe, France and Germany. Like other imperialists, Britain is maneuvering to prevent its competitors from gaining any advantage from the situation in the Balkans.

At the same time as sending troops, for "humanitarian" reasons, the British government is preventing most of those trying to escape the slaughter from taking refuge in this country and recently deported 36 refugees who did make it to Britain.

The only force that can stop the war is the working class in Yugoslavia and its allies, not an imperialist intervention. There is massive opposition to the war amongst working people of all nationalities.

Working people here can stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our brothers and sisters in Yugoslavia by demanding the withdrawal of all British and foreign troops, and for Britain's borders to be open to all refugees who want to come here.

Working people should also demand that the UN sanctions against Serbia be lifted, not tightened as demanded by the Labour leadership. Like the murderous sanctions imposed by the imperialists against Iraq, which are still in force today, these measures are a weapon of war. They are aimed against the very working people who are taking to the streets to demonstrate against the war.

The Opening Guns of World War Three

All of these war moves have their roots in the world-wide crisis gripping the capitalist market system today. We are now in the opening stages of a 1930's-style depression.

The drive towards new wars and bloody slaughters, if unopposed by working people, will culminate in World War Three. The British cabinet decision to send military forces to Yugoslavia and the Gulf marks another step down the road. Working people should seek every opening to discuss, understand and protest against these war moves. It is by standing together, internationally, that we can push back the warmongers.

Communist League of Britain, August 21, 1992.

Stop War Threats Against Iraq

The United States government is once again threatening a brutal assault on the Iraqi people.

The U.S., British, and French governments have imposed an "air exclusion" zone in southern Iraq. Iraqi planes entering the zone will be attacked.

This hostile act comes on the heels of a succession of war moves. These include U.S. military exercises in Kuwait, naval maneuvers involving close to 40 warships, and the deployment of Patriot missile batteries in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Israel.

The U.S. media has revealed that Washington has already prepared, and then called off, two bombing raids on Iraq this year.

Washington claims to be defending the Iraqi people of the south against Saddam Hussein's repressive rule. But its motives are not humanitarian, but imperialist.

The United States and its allies are looking for a pretext to unleash massive military force in another attempt to install in Baghdad a more reliable regime that will be able to better advance U.S. corporate and political interests, both in Iraq and the region



The road to Basra after U.S. bombing in 1991. Thousands of Iraqi workers and peasants were slaughtered in the final 48 hours of the war as they fled Kuwait.

as a whole.

This drive to war is the most important political issue facing working people the world over today. It is a product of the increasing world disorder resulting from the crisis of the capitalist system.

Driven to greater conflicts with its imperialist competitors, particularly Germany and Japan, Washington will again and again attempt to use its military might to compensate for its declining economic power.

As the U.S., Britain, and France march to war, they will be counting on the support of New Zealand's rulers.

Working people and youth should oppose these war moves. We should remember the tens of thousands of fellow working people who died in the assault on Iraq 18 months ago. We should remember the bombs falling on helpless civilians. We should remember the massacres of unresisting Iraqi troops.

The Communist League candidates for mayor in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch will campaign against these war moves. We say stop the war against Iraq now.

Patrick Brown, Communist League candidate for mayor of Wellington, August 24, 1992.

Support growing for socialist candidate's right to campaign

BY TED LEIGH

SAN FRANCISCO — In a victory for democratic rights, the San Francisco Registrar of Voters announced that supporters of Milton Chee, a naval air station worker who is a socialist, had collected far more than the 2,000 signatures required to place his name on the ballot.

Chee is running for San Francisco Board of Supervisors in a nonpartisan election. The Socialist Workers California campaign has endorsed his candidacy.

As a result of his campaigning and ballot victory, Chee has received some coverage in the English- and Chinese language. Radio station KPFA aired part of an interview with him. *Asian Week*, which has a national circulation, ran a front-page feature on his campaign.

The response to Chee's campaign has been positive among his coworkers at the Alameda Naval Air Station (NAS), where he is employed as an aircraft sheet-metal worker. A number of workers, including some who often disagree with Chee's political views, welcomed the announcement of his candidacy.

One worker, for example, who strongly disagreed with Chee's opposition to the U.S. invasion of Panama in 1989, was happy to see a fellow worker running for office. "It's about time," he commented when he read about the campaign announcement in the newspaper.

Another coworker, after reading the *Asian Week* article, told Chee, "See me Friday, there's \$100 for your campaign." Other workers are also enthusiastic about his campaign and the media coverage it has received.

Discussions on Chee's campaign have also focused on an effort by the U.S. Navy and NAS managers to restrict the political rights of federal employees. The workers there are members of Local 1584 of the International Association of Machinists (IAM).

On April 30, NAS security personnel briefly detained Chee for distributing political literature at the naval air station. A couple of weeks later, Chee's foreman informed him that he would be charged with violating the Hatch Act, a federal law restricting federal employees' political activity.

Later he received a June 1 "letter of caution" stating that he had violated a ban on so-called contraband material, a long list

that includes the distribution of "political literature, pamphlets, and announcements."

The "contraband" list also lumps together weapons, drugs, explosives, gambling equipment and betting activities, alcoholic beverages and an unexplained category of "obscene, seditious, and espionage materials." This catch-all category highlights the arbitrary nature of the list, which management can use to single out workers for harassment.

IAM union representatives pointed out to management that the contraband prohibition went into effect May 13, two weeks after the April 30 incident for which Chee was cited. Management agreed to withdraw the letter of caution.

Another letter of caution was issued August 10, however, with the further warning that if Chee continued distributing political literature, he would be subject to an investigation by the Office of Special Counsel, to be ruled on by the Merit Systems Protection Board, a federal civil service agency.

The socialist candidate explained that "the letters of caution and invoking the Hatch Act are attempts to intimidate workers from reading about and discussing the social and political issues we face as workers at Alameda Naval Air Station and everywhere else in the world."

Chee's union has continued to represent him and is demanding that the letters of caution be lifted from his personnel file.

Part of Chee's response to the attack on federal workers' right to political activity was the launching of his campaign for a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, a "nonpartisan" election. Hatch Act restrictions don't prohibit federal employees from such elections.

Among the other 25 candidates for the six open seats on the Board of Supervisors is Richard Hongisto, a former Supervisor who was appointed as chief of police by San Francisco mayor Frank Jordan.

Hongisto and Jordan provoked opposition among many working people when they imposed a "state of emergency" following the widespread outrage over the April 30 acquittal of cops who beat Rodney King. They banned demonstrations and arrested people protesting the verdict.

Hongisto was subsequently fired after he was accused of illegally confiscating thousands of copies of a local gay newspaper condemning the police chief's repressive actions.

Join Youth for Warren and DeBates in campaigning for the socialist alternative.

James Warren and Estelle DeBates are the Socialist Workers candidates for U.S. president and vice-president. The campaign is a socialist alternative to the twin parties of war, racism, and depression.

Dozens of other Socialist Workers candidates running for federal, state, and local offices present the same perspective around the country.

Students, young workers, and other young campaigners for Warren and

DeBates join the struggles of today and help raise an internationalist and working-class voice in politics. On lines defending clinics and a woman's right to abortion, in protests against police brutality, and at strikes and union rallies, socialist campaigners are part of the struggle. They advance a perspective of building an internationalist working-class movement against the drive to World War III and the ravages of the capitalist economic crisis. Become a part of this campaign today!

- ☐ Yes! I want to join Youth for Warren and DeBates on picket lines, in women's rights actions, or other political activities.
- ☐ I want to help petition to put the socialist campaign on the ballot.
- ☐ I will help set up a meeting for socialist candidates at my school _____ union _____ community organization _____.
- ☐ I want to join other supporters at street-corner campaigning, plant-gate events, or fund-raising activities for the socialist candidates.

Name _____
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Send to Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign, 191 7th Avenue, New York, NY 10011 (212) 675-6740.
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UN holds hearings on Puerto Rico

Socialists condemn continued colonial subjugation of the island's people

The following is a statement by the Socialist Workers Party presented July 30 to the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization. While the committee decided not to discuss until next year the issue of Puerto Rico's right to self-determination, it did hear testimony on this issue from close to 20 speakers representing different organizations. The SWP statement was presented in Spanish by Martín Koppel, who was accompanied by Ed Warren, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in New York.

Distinguished Chairman:
Members of the United Nations Special Committee of 24:

This year marks the 500th anniversary of the Spanish arrival in the Americas. Humanity has made enormous advances since then. The vast majority of peoples in the world have broken the chains of direct colonial rule and become independent nations. But today, five centuries later, as others have documented so well in their powerful testimony, Puerto Rico remains a colony. Colonized by Spain for 400 years, this Caribbean nation has been a colony of the United States for almost a century.

In fact, Puerto Rico is today, in terms of its population of three and a half million inhabitants, the largest remaining colony in the world after Hong Kong.

While the U.S. government has tried to hide this reality, it is recognized by millions around the globe. The struggle for the self-determination and independence of Puerto Rico deserves the solid support of all the peoples of the world, including the United States.

What does colonial domination mean for the people of Puerto Rico? The facts speak for themselves.

The Puerto Rican people are denied the right to govern themselves. The U.S. rulers try to cover up this colonial status by calling the island a Free Associated State or Commonwealth. However, all the fundamental questions facing the people of Puerto Rico are decided not in San Juan but in Washington, D.C. The legislature in Puerto Rico can pass certain laws. But the United States Congress can overturn any decision it doesn't like.

U.S. laws, cops, military

The Puerto Rican people are subject to U.S. laws, courts, police, and military authorities over which they have no control. U.S. military bases occupy 13 percent of that island nation's territory regardless of the wishes of the inhabitants.

The U.S. rulers have made every attempt to displace Spanish as the language of the country's inhabitants and to impose English. But testimony to their dignity and tenacious resistance to colonial dictates is the fact that, in spite of a century of such attacks, the Puerto Rican people have successfully defended the right to speak their language.

Nonetheless, Puerto Ricans are still affronted by the fact that federal courts on the island conduct all their affairs in English. Even though most defendants, jurors, prosecutors, attorneys, and judges are Spanish-speaking, they must go through the ritual of only using English in the courtroom, even if it means going through interpreters.

Distinguished chairman:

The U.S. government, including both the Democratic and Republican parties, tries to present Puerto Rico as an economic showcase in the world. But what is the truth?

U.S. colonialism means that the economy is not in the hands of Puerto Rico's people and the vital economic and social decisions are not made by them.

Puerto Rico has undergone a huge social transformation since World War II, from being a principally agricultural nation to one of the most industrialized countries in the Caribbean. A large working class has developed, concentrated in manufacturing and other industries. Working people in Puerto Rico today therefore face, with greater intensity, the same basic problems as workers in the United States and other countries: growing unemployment, cuts in wages, deteriorating working conditions, attacks on union rights, and police violence.

This has made the struggle for Puerto Rico's self-determination completely inter-

twined with the struggle by working people against the social and economic conditions they face. These conditions are aggravated in Puerto Rico because of colonial domination.

Exploitation

Although Puerto Rico is rich in resources it must import 90 percent of its food, mainly from the United States.

While U.S. corporations there rake in \$9 billion in profits every year, colonial rule means the average income for working people in Puerto Rico is less than half that of Mississippi, the poorest U.S. state.

Officially unemployment is around 16 percent, but in reality it is 25 to 30 percent, while another 26 percent are underemployed. As a result, two out of three Puerto Ricans live below the poverty level. And 40 percent of the population has had to migrate to the United States to make a living. Under these conditions, youth, the hardest hit, face

a life with no future.

The government maintains laws designed to enforce this colonial situation. The legal minimum wage is lower in Puerto Rico than in the United States, allowing employers to superexploit hundreds of thousands of workers. Meanwhile, under Law 936, U.S. corporations pay almost no taxes. Lax environmental laws allow corporations to ravage the island's waters, land, and air. In addition, the government places big legal restrictions on the right of public employees — a large section of the work force — to organize unions.

Distinguished chairman:

Nothing illustrates more graphically the colonial relationship between Washington and Puerto Rico than the recently exposed record of FBI and police repression against tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans. The hearings earlier this year on the infamous Cerro Maravilla case not only offered vivid evidence of the role of the FBI in the police

murder of two young independence supporters in 1978 and the subsequent cover-up. The hearings also confirmed the existence of a death squad, headed by a top U.S. marshal and a Navy officer, that targeted political activists. The FBI knew of its existence for years but has never prosecuted anyone for the assassinations they committed.

Testimony was presented that police officials from Puerto Rico were trained in torture methods at the U.S. Army School of the Americas in Panama. The hearings demonstrated that the FBI and its trained cops have carried out a massive campaign to spy on, frame up, and persecute Puerto Rican individuals and organizations on the basis of their beliefs, not only independence supporters but many other citizens.

The outrage among the Puerto Rican people at this political repression against independence supporters led to the recent court order to release the massive spy files kept by the FBI-trained intelligence police on at least 135,000 people. The files show that the political police spied on and harassed independence activists, union fighters, students, and many others. Their crime, in the eyes of the colonial authorities, could be simply observing a pro-independence rally or sticking a decal of the Puerto Rican flag on their car window.

In the recent frame-up trials of the Puerto Rican patriots known as the Hartford 15, the FBI admitted it had carried out widespread wiretapping of private homes in violation of the Puerto Rican constitution. Today, more than 20 Puerto Rican independence fighters are locked up in U.S. jails because of their beliefs.

As the attacks on the living standards and rights of working people grow sharper, both in Puerto Rico and the United States, the need to unite in a common fight to defend our rights has become even more pressing.

Stakes for labor movement

U.S. colonialism in Puerto Rico makes it easier for employers to feed racist prej-
Continued on Page 7



Proindependence rally in Puerto Rico, 1989. "Workers in United States and people of Puerto Rico share a common enemy and a need for solidarity," said socialist.

Militant/Ron Richards

Eighteen organizations testify before UN committee

The United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization heard testimony on the colonial status of Puerto Rico July 30. Since 1972 the UN has repeatedly adopted resolutions supporting the right of the Puerto Rican people to self-determination and independence from the United States. The government of Cuba, a consistent defender of Puerto Rico's right to independence, has been instrumental in introducing these resolutions. Washington has always opposed the UN debate on Puerto Rico, refusing to cooperate with the committee.

This year, while no resolution was introduced for debate, the UN committee heard speakers from 18 organizations, representing the three basic positions on Puerto Rico's status. The proposal to schedule testimony was made by Venezuela, Cuba, Chile, and Trinidad-Tobago.

Only one speaker defended Puerto Rico's present status as a "commonwealth," advocated by the ruling Popular Democratic Party. Several groups, such as Citizens for the 51st State, testified that Puerto Rico was a U.S. colony and argued that the solution was statehood. These groups are tied to the opposition colonialist party, the New Progressive Party.

Most speakers testified on Washington's colonial oppression of Puerto Rico and supported independence. These included Puerto Rican senator Fernando Martín, the gubernatorial candidate of the Puerto Rican Independence Party; and Carlos Gallisá, general secretary of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party.

Civil liberties attorney and activist Michael Deutsch spoke on behalf of Luis Nieves Falcón, director of Ofensiva '92. This is an international campaign to free 23 Puerto Rican independence fighters jailed in the United States for their political beliefs, half of whom have already spent 12 years in jail. Minerva González of the Comité de

Afirmación Puertorriqueña also called for the release of the 23.

Several speakers pointed to the widely publicized government spy files on 135,000 Puerto Rican residents as an example of U.S. colonial rule. Linda Backiel, speaking for the Center for Constitutional Rights and the Puerto Rican Civil Rights Institute, cited other examples of U.S. political repression that were revealed during recent hearings in Puerto Rico on the 1978 police murder of two young proindependence activists.

The Committee on Decolonization put off

debate on the issue of Puerto Rico until next year. Proindependence groups decided not to press for a resolution this year. Vanessa Ramos, director of the Committee on Puerto Rico at the United Nations, cited developments in the world such as the collapse of the Soviet Union, saying proindependence forces feared they might lose a vote in the UN committee because of these political changes.

The committee also decided unanimously to adopt a resolution reaffirming its support to independence for the French colony of New Caledonia.

— M.K.

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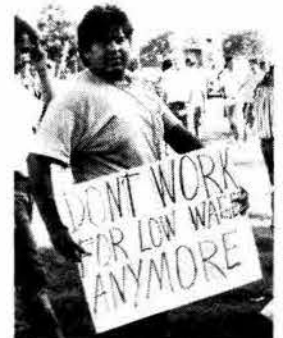
The September issue includes:

- The strike of drywall workers in Los Angeles;
- The life of George Novack, longtime member of the Socialist Workers Party who recently died in New York;
- The Third Conference of Movements and Political Parties of the São Paulo Forum held in Managua;
- Developments in South Africa;
- The fight for abortion rights in Houston;
- The unfolding war in Yugoslavia.

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International forum opposes imperialism in Latin America

BY SELVA NEBBIA

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Some 180 participants attended the "Third Conference of Movements and Political Parties of the São Paulo Forum" here, hosted by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). They represented 61 organizations and political parties from 17 Latin American and Caribbean countries. Sixty came as observers from Africa, Asia, Europe, the United States and Canada.

The gathering was the third such meeting named after the site of the first one held in July 1990, in São Paulo, Brazil, at the initiative of the Workers Party (PT) of that country. The second meeting was held in Mexico City, Mexico, in June 1991, and hosted by the Revolutionary Democratic Party (PRD) of Mexico.

"Our forum was born and continues to advance at a time when imperialism wants the peoples to believe that there is no possible alternative to neoliberalism and to the new world order based on the political and military hegemony of the United States," said Abel Prieto, addressing the opening of the conference.

Prieto, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba, headed the party's delegation to the gathering.

"By holding a dialogue around the alternatives of development and integration outside this system," Prieto continued, "at this conference we again challenge, like we did in São Paulo and in Mexico, this fatalistic vision. What this gathering is about is an indispensable and enriching exchange of ideas, from multiple and diverse political points of view and experiences."

Among the parties and organizations present at the conference, which took place

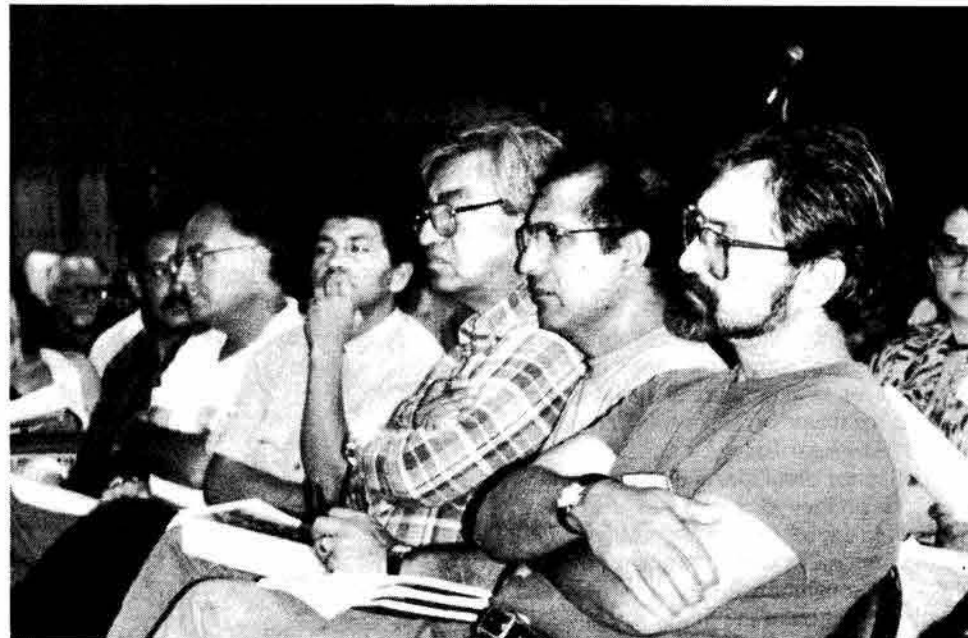
July 16-19, were the PT, the PRD, the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC), the Party of Mariateguista Unification (PUM) of Peru, the FSLN, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) of El Salvador, Broad Front of Uruguay, Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP), Communist Party of Argentina, the Party of Intransigence of Argentina, the Sovereignty Group of Costa Rica, the Socialist Party of Ecuador, the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union (UNRG), the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT) of Mexico, the Dominican Workers Party (PTD) of the Dominican Republic, and the Simón Bolívar Guerrilla Coordinator (an umbrella organization of guerrilla groups) in Colombia.

There were no delegations present from the French, Dutch, or English speaking Caribbean.

During his remarks at the opening session, Javier Diez Canseco, senator for the United Left and a member of the PUM of Peru, explained that those gathered in Managua came "because we are convinced that our peoples need not only a new program" but also need to "reaffirm and recreate the socialist utopia linking socialism with the direct democracy of the masses."

During his opening remarks, Prieto said, "Who doubts that capitalism has failed in the Third World, when to enrich a few, this system forces 4 billion people to an average life expectancy of 50 years of age, an infant mortality rate of 76 per thousand, and 40 percent of the population of the south to illiteracy?"

Over the next couple of days the delegates met in a plenary session. The subject for discussion was "Alternative integration and



Delegates at Managua conference. During plenary sessions many participants expressed solidarity with Cuba and spoke against the U.S. blockade.

development in Latin America," based on a position paper that resulted from a working meeting held in Lima, Peru earlier this year that was organized from the Mexico gathering.

Several of those who spoke presented an electoral perspective as the way forward for working people in the region. Marco Aurelio Pereira of the Brazilian PT said left organizations and parties should concentrate on elections over the next period. There exists in several countries real possibilities for winning electoral posts and not just doing propaganda work, he said.

Plague of senderismo

Diez Canseco explained the enormous human cost of the economic and political crisis in Peru. He noted that on top of all the problems being faced in Peru, Peruvian working people also face the "plague of senderismo" [referring to the organization known as Sendero Luminoso, or Shining Path].

The PUM leader appealed to the Forum

to condemn the "terrorist actions" of Sendero Luminoso, which he defined as a "totalitarian" movement that "in the name of the revolution" tries to "prevail through the use of terror to lead the country towards a Pol Pot type alternative."

While the plenary session went on, the organizing committee, known as the "working body," was also meeting to draft a resolution to be presented as the final conference declaration. The working body, elected at previous gatherings, is made up of representatives of the PCC, the PT of Brazil, United Left (IU) of Peru, the PRD of Mexico, the FSLN of Nicaragua, and the FMLN of El Salvador.

The final resolution, known as the "Managua Declaration," was approved by participants on the last day of the event.

"The Forum gives proof of the willingness that exists to continue the struggle for the definitive economic and political liberation of Latin America and the Caribbean, which are currently threatened by new mechanisms of domination of imperialist

Continued on Page 12

Socialist speaks at UN hearings on Puerto Rico

Continued from Page 6

udices and national chauvinism in the United States. This racism is used to keep working people divided and to maintain the most oppressed and militant sections of the working class in the most vulnerable position.

Puerto Ricans, like Blacks, Mexicans, other immigrants, Chicanos, Asians, and Native Americans, are treated like second-class citizens in the United States. They are pushed into lower-paying and less unionized jobs, and into the worst housing and schools. This allows employers to lower the wages and living standards of all workers. Their resistance to these conditions makes Puerto Rican workers in the United States among the strongest fighters for social justice.

The protests by the Puerto Rican community in New York against police brutality have set an example for all those fighting police violence. The support won by the Hartford 15 among working people in the United States was clearly reflected in some of their recent trial victories. And the victory won by the Puerto Rican people against FBI spying and repression has strengthened the hand of all those fighting harassment by the political police.

It is in the interest of the labor movement and working people of all nationalities in the United States to oppose unconditionally the colonial subjugation of another people. Only by beginning with the defense of the rights of the most oppressed can the labor movement successfully defend itself. Working people in the United States and the people of Puerto Rico share a common enemy, common struggles, and a common need for solidarity.

Working people in Puerto Rico as well as the United States face a world today in which the rulers are dragging us deeper into a worldwide economic depression and toward more wars like the slaughter in the Persian Gulf. As battles in the labor movement — like the newspaper workers' strike in Pittsburgh today — and other fights develop among youth and workers to resist these conditions, growing numbers of these

fighters will be won to the cause of Puerto Rican independence. Similar struggles in other parts of the world are making millions of working people more favorable to the fight for Puerto Rico's independence.

Distinguished chairman:

The world recognizes Puerto Rico as an integral part of Latin America and the Caribbean. But the U.S. rulers have used their military bases in Puerto Rico to attack its neighbors, including Panama, Grenada, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Nicaragua. Thousands of Puerto Rican youth have been drafted to serve as cannon fodder for Washington's wars of domination, from World War I to Vietnam and last year's Gulf War. And the next war will come rapidly, as the weakening empire lashes out in an attempt to protect its interests.

Example of Cuba

At the third meeting of the São Paulo Forum, held recently in Managua, the representatives of 43 political parties and organizations adopted a declaration supporting the Puerto Rican people's right to independence and demanding that the U.S. bases there be closed.

Cuba, Puerto Rico's sister nation in the Caribbean, has made an enormous contribution by explaining before the world why U.S. colonialism in Puerto Rico is a threat to the progress of all humanity. Cuba, which shares with Puerto Rico a common history of colonial and imperialist oppression, shook off this subjugation with its revolution of 1959. It has shown the enormous advances in social and human rights that can be won when a people conquer their full sovereignty.

Cuba's record of international solidarity with people around the world includes its role as a consistent champion of the fight for Puerto Rico's independence.

Distinguished chairman:

As you and other members of the committee know, the U.S. government, from one administration to another, has systematically opposed the efforts of the United Nations to take up the colonial case of Puerto Rico and to place its moral weight behind

the fight for that nation's independence. Washington's justifications have been various. It first claimed that by calling Puerto Rico a "Commonwealth" the island should be taken off the United Nations list of non-self-governing countries. More recently it claimed to be considering a plebiscite on Puerto Rico's future status.

But none of these moves can obscure the fact that Puerto Rico remains a U.S. colony today. The United Nations is opposed to colonialism and the Special Committee on Decolonization has consistently reaffirmed "the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico

to self-determination and independence."

The condemnation by this committee of colonial rule in Puerto Rico will be a boost to all those who are committed to the fight proclaimed by the United Nations, which has called this the international decade for the total eradication of colonialism. Wiping this disgraceful blot from the face of the earth is in the interests of the people of Puerto Rico, the people of the United States, and the people of the entire world.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of this committee, for the opportunity to appear before these hearings.

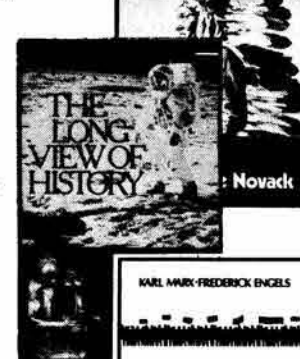
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The 'Communist Manifesto' today

International socialist conference discusses road forward for working people

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

OBERLIN, Ohio — More than 800 workers, youth, and other revolutionary-minded political activists gathered here August 5-9 for an international socialist conference, the theme of which was "The Communist Manifesto Today."

Conference participants discussed working-class politics at a time of deepening worldwide capitalist depression, the accelerating imperialist war drive against Iraq, an unfolding revolution in South Africa, and the disintegration of the Stalinist regimes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union that for decades had imposed their counterfeit socialism.

They met at a time when workers and a new generation of fighters, in uncoordinated but unrelenting efforts — from the streets of Los Angeles to abortion clinics in Houston and Buffalo; at plants from Lordstown, Ohio, to Peoria, Illinois — are resisting the assaults on their rights and living standards by the employers and the employers' government.

In classes, workshops, and meetings of industrial trade union members, as well as over meals and during numerous social engagements, the most important fact participants discussed was the increasing scope of the opportunities worldwide for communists to gain a hearing among fellow working people for revolutionary ideas.

The participants discussed the heightened urgency to get out the socialist alternative through the campaign of James Warren and Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers candidates for U.S. president and vice-president. Many youth at the conference signed up to join with all the socialist candidates around the country in an effort to win other young fighters to campaigning for the socialist message.

Those present came from 23 countries. In addition to those from the United States, the participants included members and supporters of communist leagues, as well as a number of their coworkers, from Australia, Belgium, Britain, Canada, France, Iceland, New Zealand, and Sweden.

Representatives of the leaderships of a number of organizations affiliated to the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) addressed and took part in the conference. They included Peter Mokaba, president of the African National Congress Youth League of South Africa; Ibis Alvisa González, a member of the Union of Young Communists of Cuba; Andile Yawa, president of WFDY and a leader of the ANC Youth League; David Denny, president of the League of Progressive Youth of Barbados; and Mussa Abbasi of the Jordanian Democratic Youth Union. Young socialists in Britain and the United States are also affiliated to WFDY, and young socialists from Canada, Sweden, New Zealand, and Australia are in the process of becoming members.

Also present were Veronica Villamor of the League of Filipino Students of the Philippines; Yves Richard, general secretary of the General Confederation of Workers of



Militant/John Charbonnet

April rally of striking Steelworkers in West Virginia. During conference, participants attended celebration of workers' victory over Ravenswood Aluminum Corp.

Haiti; James Millette of the February 18 Movement of Trinidad; and Frida Pasanea, member of the Revolutionary People's Movement of Maluku (South Moluccas), Indonesia.

Two organizations in Brazil, unable to send delegations — the Workers Party and the Movement of Rural Landless Workers — sent greetings to the international socialist gathering. (Excerpts from these messages will be printed in the next issue.)

Simultaneous translation of the event was provided in Spanish, French, and Swedish.

The conference was opened by Chris Nisan, a member of the United Transportation Union in Minneapolis and Socialist Workers candidate for Congress. Naomi Craine, a young socialist leader, and Argiris Malapanis, a member of the Political Committee of the Socialist Workers Party, welcomed the participants and international guests.

Craine has just joined the *Militant* writing staff, having been a member of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union in North Carolina for the last three years. Malapanis, a *Militant* staff writer, had returned a few days earlier from a reporting trip to Sarajevo, Zagreb, and Belgrade in the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Revolutionary, not suffering, class

In the opening talk on "The Communist Manifesto Today," SWP national secretary Jack Barnes described that document, written by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, as "a weapon, a tool of the working class" that is even more relevant today than when it was written in 1847. This is especially true with the shattering of the Stalinist parties and the regimes they dominated in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. These parties, defenders of the petty-bourgeois ruling castes in those countries, acted as the biggest obstacle to a communist perspective in the

world for more than six decades.

Like today's new generation of communists, Barnes pointed out, the two revolutionaries who wrote the *Manifesto* — both in their late twenties at the time — "were recruited to the international revolutionary movement, and educated in the norms and values of the workers' movement of the day, by revolutionary workers of earlier generations."

After writing a series of drafts, they drew up a political document that clearly describes the historic line of march of the working class. At the same time — and in parallel discussion within the international Communist League — they drew up a set of rules to guide the work of the newly formed Communist League on the basis of working-class norms of functioning and organization. Both of these accomplishments were new to human history.

The SWP leader pointed out how Russian revolutionary leader V.I. Lenin explained that Engels was the first to describe the working class, not as a suffering class, but as a revolutionary class. Communists are not outside advisers, but above all, are known as the "most advanced and resolute section" of the working class, as the *Manifesto* explains. It is this fact that precedes and makes possible the consideration of their ideas within the politicizing layers of the working class and its fighting allies.

The *Communist Manifesto* and other writings of Marx and Engels, Barnes explained, present a working-class approach to such timely questions as the centrality of trade unions to the working-class struggle; the fight of the working class to forge a popular alliance with farmers; the debate over free trade and protectionism; the fight for jobs; the interconnection of the property question, the family, and women's oppression; and much, much more.

In the late 1970s, he said, when the SWP turned once again toward organizing the big majority of its members in industrial trade union fractions, something that had not been possible since the early 1950s, it also began to rearm itself politically through a systematic study of Marx and Engels.

The party was convinced "that capitalism wouldn't get through the 1980s without the opening of a major world economic and social crisis, a crisis which would mark all politics for the rest of the twentieth century," he said.

"Now the conditions we talked about have begun to unfold," Barnes emphasized. "Depression has gripped the capitalist world. Political polarization has sharpened, and class tensions can't seem to find release. Meanwhile, capitalism's march toward a third world conflagration — far more devastating than the two we have already lived through in this century — is unambiguous."

Washington and its allies are again moving rapidly toward war in Iraq, he stated. Both capitalist parties in the United States are beating the war drums. Democratic presidential spokespeople are determined to

demonstrate their nationalist credentials in supporting war moves, while Bush's strategists are looking for every opportunity to accelerate the war drive in the hopes of reversing the sharp slump in his re-election chances.

As the spokespeople for both wings of the ruling two-party system in the United States push bourgeois politics to the right, Bonapartist, incipient fascist, and other radical rightist currents get a wider hearing.

Shift in attitudes of youth

In response to these political developments, "there has been a shift over the last several years in the attitudes of youth," Barnes said. Youth have been among the first to react against the capitalist rulers' drive toward war, their attacks on working people, and their racist and antiwoman probes.

The U.S. bosses have been picking fight after fight with workers, Barnes noted. In most cases, from the recent strike at Caterpillar to the prolonged lock-out at Ravenswood Aluminum Corp., workers continue the fight even after they return to their jobs. They gain a very small part of what their willingness to fight would allow if they had class-struggle leadership. But the conflict doesn't end with this or that strike, he



Militant/Sara Lobman

Jack Barnes

stressed.

The conference took place as the communist movement began steps to strengthen its political work in the trade union movement and its involvement in these working-class fights. During the gathering, members of the Socialist Workers Party who are active in the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) and the United Auto Workers (UAW) unions each held meetings.

These meetings discussed how to build on the strength the party had gained almost two years earlier during the Persian Gulf war. Socialist workers presented a working-class and internationalist perspective to fellow workers who faced the broader implications of the employers' war drive. At the same time, like all class-conscious workers, they marshaled their determination and ingenuity to strengthen the unions' resistance to pressures and assaults.

The socialist unionists noted that the youth who today are joining the communist movement are attracted above all to a party of industrial workers that is organized through branches and national industrial union fractions. They are attracted to the norms of a workers party that is organized to lead workers to power.

New recruits, they remarked, closely follow how the party's union fractions involve workers and youth in reaching out in solidarity to strikers, in selling the socialist press at plant gates, and in other political activities. These young fighters are drawn to the books that offer the communist perspective, such as *The Struggle for a Proletarian Party*, *In Defense of Marxism*, *Rev-*



Militant/Dave Wulp

Some 850 people from around the world participated in socialist conference



Mary-Alice Waters (right) spoke on Communism and the Foundations of Women's Liberation. Following conference, dozens of participants, including vice-presidential candidate Estelle DeBates (center left), helped defend abortion clinics in Houston, Texas.

olutionary Continuity, and *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics*.

Resistance by workers

The meeting of socialist coal miners, which included miners from Britain as well as the United States, discussed the continuing resistance to the attacks by the coal bosses. Miners have also joined recent fights like the newspaper delivery workers' strike in Pittsburgh, the Caterpillar strike, and the Steelworkers' struggle at Ravenswood.

As upcoming contract talks approach, discussions by miners on the defense of their union and social issues like health and safety are increasing. Socialists remarked on how, as they take part in these struggles, the *Militant* has become better known among UMW fighters.

The meeting of socialist auto workers discussed experiences such as the five-month-long UAW strike at Caterpillar and the importance of the coming battles with General Motors as GM keeps pushing on job conditions and union prerogatives. Some of the participants described their recent trips to East Peoria and Decatur, Illinois, and to York, Pennsylvania. There they discussed politics with Caterpillar workers, who are still without a contract. The workers told them of their continuing determination to push back the company's attacks since the end of the strike in April.

In both meetings of unionists, socialists discussed the fact that communist workers have increasing opportunities to present revolutionary ideas among their coworkers and win a hearing. They stressed the need to pay greater attention to discussions, trends, and struggles in their unions and to see how broader world politics and economic con-

licts as are reflected through the unions and industries they are part of.

The participants decided to step up their use of the *Militant*, other socialist publications, and the Socialist Workers election campaign to reach out to fellow fighters with an internationalist working-class perspective. They reaffirmed the value of weekly meetings of local fractions that respond to developments in the labor movement in a timely and consistent way.

In the course of the conference, leadership meetings of socialists who are active in other unions were held. Plans were set for rapid meetings of socialists who are active in seven other unions: the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; International Association of Machinists; International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; United Food and Commercial Workers; United Steelworkers of America; and United Transportation Union.

A related step toward strengthening the party's political work was a meeting of the members of the SWP branches in Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington, D.C., held the weekend before the international conference. They decided to establish a Baltimore-Washington district, which will include joint trade union work by socialists in the region. This will make it possible for socialists in the two cities to reinforce their common activities both in the unions and broader political work.

Collapse of Stalinist regimes

In his talk Barnes explained that the biggest change in the world in the past three or four years has been the crumbling of the Stalinist regimes and parties.



Militant/Holbrook Mann

For decades these misleaders had taught workers that factionalism, bureaucracy, the murder of opponents, and a political and financial reliance on an apparatus in Moscow or elsewhere was the way to fight. That was "the opposite of communism," Barnes said.

As a result of these world developments, "political space has opened up within the working class for communist ideas to get a hearing" in a way never seen since the decade following the Russian revolution of 1917. For fellow working-class fighters and revolutionists to exchange ideas and begin judging each other on the basis of their proven merit is a historic change, he noted. But the importance of this change has been missed by those outside the working-class movement.

The big-business media reports how capitalist politics is shifting to the right. It falsely asserts, however, that the political views of working people are likewise shifting to the right.

Communist workers who fight together and discuss with fellow workers on the picket lines and in the plants — as the meetings of socialist unionists confirmed — know how wrong this is. But this is a big secret to anyone who sees politics only from outside the plants, the unions, and the working-class movement itself. It is the most important fact of all for revolutionists.

Barnes warned not to confuse this with the idea that revolutionists themselves as yet have any significant social weight today that can be brought to bear to influence the outcome of working-class struggles.

Growing opportunities

It is true that the misleadership of the labor officialdom will continue its tendency to collapse — or lash out in a bureaucratic manner and then collapse — in the face of the employers' offensive, Barnes said. But that is not new or surprising.

What is decisive for communists today, he pointed out, is to "turn our eyes to the young fighters who are stepping forward in labor and other social struggles, through whatever openings exist, to fight for their interests and discuss with each other." That is how to measure progress: in relation to each other in preparing to more effectively fight the rulers, but not yet in relation to the trade union bureaucracy.

Barnes pointed to this changing situation as primarily responsible for the larger size of the socialist conference this year compared to the last previous years — particularly the presence of more young people and women from around the United States as well as other countries.

As part of looking toward the future battles, conference participants enthusiastically contributed nearly a quarter of a million dollars toward the reconstruction of the printshop that produces the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *New International*, Pathfinder books, and other political weapons for working-class fighters around the world.

Of this amount, \$120,000 was raised for the newly launched George Novack Reconstruction Fund, named in honor of the veteran SWP leader who died July 30. Novack's contributions as "a soldier of the revolution" in the communist movement were celebrated on the last evening of the gathering, when Barnes presented a sum-

mary of the previous four days' discussions. (See accompanying column on the fund on page 4. The *Militant* will carry extensive coverage on Novack's life and contributions to the communist movement in an upcoming issue.)

The hunger for revolutionary books was seen in the more than \$10,000 in Pathfinder literature that participants purchased during the socialist conference.

The interest in many of these books was sparked by the 40 classes that were held at the conference. The topics covered different aspects of the *Communist Manifesto*, the history of the SWP, lessons from Marx and Engels, and recent political developments.

They included classes such as "The *Communist Manifesto* and Women and the Family," "The Socialist Workers Party in World War II," "Marx and Engels on Columbus, Capitalism, and Spain," "Che Guevara and Communist Continuity," "Political Polarization, Jew-Hatred, and Rising Anti-Catholic Prejudice," "The *Communist Manifesto* and the Trade Unions: Their Past, Present, and Future," "After Pittston and Eastern: Trade Union Struggles Today," "The International Monetary Fund's Attack on Barbados," and "Cuba and the Special Period."

In addition, a dozen workshops were held on subjects ranging from the fight to defend abortion rights, to organizing sales of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, to the work in defense of framed-up union and political activist Mark Curtis.

Another major talk, "Communism and the Foundations of Women's Liberation," was given by Mary-Alice Waters, editor of the Marxist magazine *New International*. Waters is also the editor of a set of three new "Education for Socialist" bulletins published by Pathfinder for release at the conference, which reproduce SWP documents from 1971 to 1986 on the communist movement and the fight for women's liberation.

Referring to the successful defense of abortion clinics last April in Buffalo, New York, Barnes said:

Continued on Page 10



Militant/Dave Wulp

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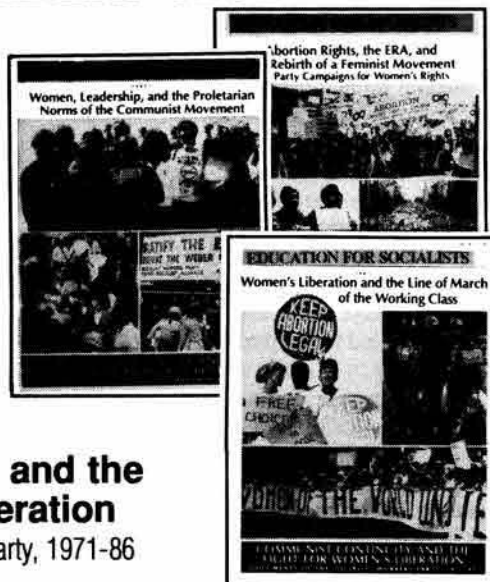
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Socialist conference

Continued from Page 9

York, by women's rights supporters against the attempts by Operation Rescue to shut them down, Waters said, "That is the most important victory the working class has won this year. In fact it is the most important victory we've won in a good number of years."

She explained that the action in Buffalo was an example of "thousands of young women and men taking to the streets to prevent a hard-won conquest from being lost. It showed a new generation of fighters beginning to learn in that process why the defense of women's rights is inseparable from defending the democratic rights of the great majority and the historic interests of the working class."

"Something new is happening in the numbers, energy, determination, confidence, and strength" of the young generation of fighters for women's rights that has begun to emerge, Waters emphasized. And communists are in that fight as part of the vanguard layers of the working class.

In every struggle, she noted, the *Communist Manifesto* explains that communists not only fight for the immediate interests of the working class, they "bring to the front... the property question." And that's what we do as we fight for women's rights. "We explain to fellow workers and fighters the fact that the oppression of women is not a question of biology, laws, religion, or sex, but is a question of property — and today that means profits," Waters said.

Because of this, the capitalist rulers have a vested interest in maintaining women's oppression, which rose together with class society. This oppression "won't disappear until the working class takes its destiny into its hands to destroy this capitalist system of private property and begins to remake society in the interests of the vast majority of humanity," she added. "And then the fight for women's liberation will really begin."

Waters encouraged conference participants to study the set of three new "Education for Socialists" bulletins. She explained

that to fight effectively, defenders of women's rights must understand the material foundations of women's oppression and of the road toward their emancipation, as well as learn from the struggles that have come before.

The SWP leader emphasized the fact that "underlying the growing combativity in the battle for women's rights — after a hiatus of more than a dozen years paralleling the labor movement's retreat since the late 1970s — is the enormous economic and social progress registered by women in the United States and internationally in recent decades."

Today more than 53 percent of all working-age women are part of the labor force, as compared to just under 34 percent in 1950. Women have broken into "nontraditional" industrial jobs in sufficient numbers, and have remained there long enough, to have a greater foothold than ever before — despite the current layoffs. For example, during the recent recession, Waters noted, "for the first time unemployment for women wasn't higher than for men — this reflects a historic shift."

"The changes in the economic status of women, and the accompanying shifts in social attitudes," Waters pointed out, "are the product of historic changes of over half a century that began with the final preparations for U.S. entry into World War II." The war, and then the post-war capitalist expansion drew millions of women into the work force at an accelerated pace. This was a process that continued up through the 1980s, and its central results can not be reversed short of a cataclysmic defeat of the working class as a whole.

More women in the work force

Today women make up 45 percent of the work force in the United States. One of the biggest changes is the fact that almost 60 percent of women with children under the age of six are working, compared to only 10 percent before World War II. As a result of the bosses' offensive in holding down real wages and living conditions, a two-income family is now the norm. This trend cannot be reversed, Waters emphasized, because "the capitalist market needs women's labor. The oppression of women remains a source of extra profits for the employers."

In turn, the steadily rising proportion of women in the labor force increases their economic independence as well as their confidence and consciousness of themselves as workers and of their ability to fight.

Waters remarked that such changes in the status of women and the weight of the women's liberation struggle are not limited to the United States. They are international in scope. This is registered, she noted, in the demand by the African National Congress for a "democratic, nonracial, nonsexist South Africa."

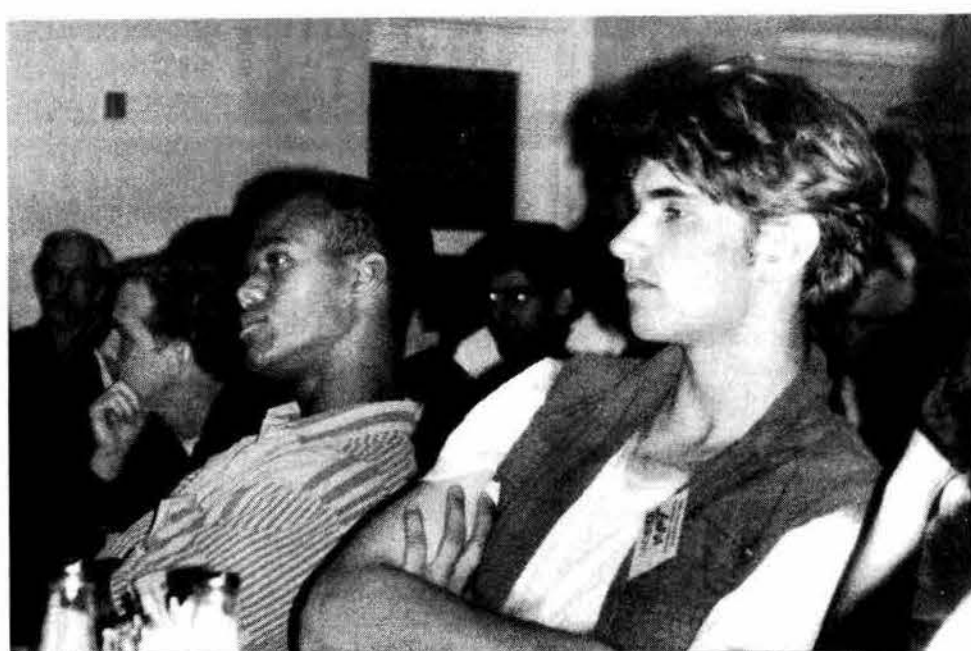
In the struggle for women's right to abortion in the United States, despite some blows, "supporters continue to win the battle of public opinion," Waters said. "We are moving forward, not backward."

The 1973 Supreme Court *Roe v. Wade* ruling that decriminalized abortion was a tremendous victory for the working class and all women, won in struggle in the streets. Nonetheless, that decision "doesn't enshrine a woman's right to choose," she pointed out. *Roe* also rules that the state has a "legitimate" interest in "the health of the woman and the life of the fetus." The weight of restrictions and the balance of these contradictory aspects of the ruling at any given time reflect the relationship of forces; they are continually determined in struggle.

The June 29 Court decision on a restrictive Pennsylvania abortion law did not overturn the 1973 ruling, despite the panicked reaction of the middle-class leaders of major women's rights organizations whose immediate cry of relief from the enormous social tensions was that "*Roe* is dead." The majority of judges made a decision that consciously took into account the relationship of forces around the question of abortion.

Waters explained that the abortion rights battle is heating up today because it is "an integral part of the sharpening class tensions and of the political polarization. It won't go away."

The issue is simple, she said. The right to choose abortion is fundamental for women to be able to control their lives. It is a



Militant/Sara Lobman

Every day, discussions were held for those attending their first conference.

precondition for advancing toward equality. "Having this control increases our confidence, our consciousness of ourselves as equal human beings who think, act, and above all fight. It effects the confidence and unity of the working class. That's what the ruling class is concerned about, why the forces of reaction are so tenacious on this issue, why it's such a crucial question for the working class."

Waters noted that beginning with Marx and Engels the communist movement has explained that the road to women's liberation lies in workers and farmers taking power out of the hands of the exploiters and creating a society that is not based on private ownership of the means of production. Key to this is the incorporation of women into social production and the development of the social services necessary to free women from domestic chores in order to participate equally in social and political activity.

Waters called on conference participants to grab the chance the following weekend to bring coworkers, schoolmates, and friends to Houston to defend abortion clinics there from planned attacks by Operation Rescue and other rightist groups during the Republican Party convention.

Social revolution in South Africa

Militant editor Greg McCartan presented a report on the South African struggle today. In July he conducted a fact-finding trip to South Africa together with socialist vice-presidential candidate Estelle DeBates.

McCartan noted that the two-day general strike called by the African National Congress August 3-4 was "the largest, most disciplined strike in the history of South Africa. It signaled the determination and ability of working people there to bring down the white minority regime and establish a democratic, nonracial, nonsexist republic."

The strike, 4 million strong, was held under the banner of "Democracy Now." This slogan, he pointed out, reflects the revolutionary struggle by working people in South Africa to win the battle of democracy — the replacement of minority rule with the rule of the laboring majority.

McCartan described the launching of the ANC-led mass action campaign last month as a turning point. "Politics in South Africa today is involving tens of millions of people," he said.

The revolutionary democratic movement clearly has the initiative and is showing that it is the government and its allies who are trying to forestall history, McCartan explained. He cited as an example the massive march of 100,000 that ANC president Nelson Mandela led to the doors of the government building in Pretoria August 5.

The revolutionary democratic movement has launched a campaign of protests to expose the government and right-wing forces as responsible for the violence there. It has organized the population in a number of areas into self-defense units.

The ANC leadership has promoted widespread discussions on the Freedom Charter, which presents the scope and social character of the line of march of the national democratic revolution. This has sparked debates on the land question, nationalization, majority rule and other aspects of the Charter. A real debate on a woman's right to abortion has begun.

Through these mobilizations and discussions, the ANC's demand for a constituent

assembly to replace the minority regime "has become a mass demand," McCartan said.

Above all, he stressed, "the mass action campaign shows the revolutionary perspective that has made millions look to themselves" as the transformers of society. "It has reduced the tendency to look to another force to do the job."

As a result of this revolutionary upsurge, "tens of thousands of youth and workers in South Africa today want to be communist." There is a hunger for communist literature and the ideas of revolutionary leaders like Che Guevara and Malcolm X, he reported.

In his summary of the conference, Barnes said, "A social revolution is being put together in South Africa." Pointing to the kinds of developments described in McCartan's report, he added, "This is what a modern revolution looks like."

"A victory in the South African revolution would at the same time be a huge victory for revolutionary Cuba," Barnes said, supporting Peter Mokaba's earlier insistence on this point.

Nelson Mandela and other prominent leaders of the revolutionary democratic movement in South Africa, in leading masses of working people toward power, are demonstrating their qualities as modern revolutionary leaders of the highest caliber, Barnes underlined. Their deeds and their course are what must be emulated by those aspiring to communist leadership.

These facts about the character and advances of the democratic revolution need to be widely explained, McCartan stressed. It is important for revolutionaries around the world to "take the time to get the *Militant* and the truth about South Africa into the hands of workers and youth who want to fight."

"The revolution in South Africa shows what working people are capable of doing."

An evening session of the socialist conference was devoted to a panel discussion on South Africa. It featured ANC Youth League leaders Mokaba and Yawa. Also on the panel were McCartan and DeBates.

Crisis in Europe

"The Changing Face of Europe" was the topic of the fourth major talk. It was given by Sven Carlson, a leader of the Communist League in Sweden and a member of the Metalworkers Union at the huge Saab-Scania automotive assembly plant outside Stockholm.

He explained how Europe is marked by the historic changes taking place in the world today — growing competition between imperialist powers, the drive toward imperialist war in Yugoslavia and Iraq, widening economic depression, and sharpening class struggle in each country.

Carlson described what was known as "Swedish socialism." He noted that for several decades the social-democratic government in Sweden had presented it as "a third road between the laissez-faire capitalism of the United States and the Soviet Union."

"But Sweden is not socialist," Carlson emphasized, "and Swedish 'socialism,' while very Swedish, has nothing to do with socialism or the working-class leadership of a popular social movement." During the post-World War II prosperity, working people won health care, social security from cradle to grave, and other gains. However, he said, "Social Democracy was the biggest political obstacle for working people, in-

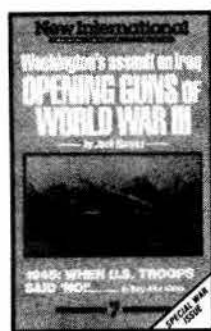
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New International no. 7

Opening Guns of World War III

Washington's Assault on Iraq

by Jack Barnes



\$12

Available from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12, or by mail from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Please include \$3 handling, \$.50 for each additional book.

"In *Opening Guns of World War III: Washington's Assault on Iraq*, author Jack Barnes maintains that Washington's devastation of Iraq did not mark the opening of a new world order, it held a mirror to the declining world order of capitalism and to its accelerating conflicts and contradictions. With President Bush's management of the Gulf conflict coming into question from conservative as well as liberal sources, and with his decisions before, during, and after the Desert Shield and Desert Storm operations entering the current political arena for charge and counter-charge, *Opening Guns of World War III* with its unique perspective offers valuable insights into this and possible future conflicts as we play out the final decade of the twentieth century."

—The Bookwatch,
Official Newsletter of
The Midwest Book Review

Why opposing trade pact is not the way forward

BY JOHN STEELE

On September 7 thousands of unionists will be marching in the annual Toronto Labor Day parade. One of the parade's themes will be opposition to the new North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) promoted by the Canadian, U.S., and Mexican governments.

Many, if not most, of my coworkers support the position of the trade union leadership against NAFTA and believe that one of the main causes of the more than 11 percent official unemployment rate is the existing Canada-U.S. free trade deal.

"NAFTA will make it worse," they say. "We can't compete with a Third World country like Mexico with its low wages and bad working conditions. Our jobs are going to the nonunion U.S. south and now to Mexico."

UNION TALK

In the absence of any real working-class leadership, many workers echo the views of the union bureaucracy. Speaking to the delegates at the June convention of the Canadian Labour Congress held in Vancouver, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union President Jack Sheinkman said that defeating NAFTA is the most important issue facing the labor movement.

In my opinion this view is dead wrong because it doesn't deal with the cause of unemployment: the unfolding economic depression of the world market system.

The root causes of economic crises, unemployment, poverty, homelessness, and other social evils produced by capitalism were first explained 147 years ago by working-class fighters from a number of countries in Europe who formed the Communist League. Two young people, Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, became leaders of this organization and drafted its platform, the *Communist Manifesto*.

These fighters had to think through these questions at a time when the rising British industrial capitalist class was extolling the virtues of free trade and promising jobs for workers if they would support this position. Landowners in Britain, who were for the maintenance of protectionist economic barriers, used similar promises to convince workers to support them.

Communist workers refused to be taken in by the false promises of the free- and anti-free-trade factions in the ruling classes. They explained that any objective consideration of

how the capitalist economy works shows that under either trading arrangement workers "will go to the wall." They argued that workers should put forward a fighting perspective on economic and political questions starting from their own interests as a class in the world.

This scientific assessment of capitalist trade policy is even more true today.

Falling profit rates and trade wars

The vicious trade wars developing between the major capitalist powers are driven by falling industrial profit rates. Under the rallying cry of "free trade" the ruling rich in Europe and North America are trying to form huge trading blocks — a form of protectionism — to buttress their position in these commercial wars.

They urge us to help them become "competitive" in the world market in order to defend "our country," "our company," and "our jobs" against foreign competition — especially competition from oppressed countries like Mexico where workers and farmers suffer because of the wealth siphoned from their country to Canadian, U.S., and other imperialist banks through the mechanism of the foreign debt.

Canada's rulers are particularly panicky because they rank 11th in "productivity" in relation to other major capitalist powers. "We have to be more productive to be competitive," they wail — meaning workers need to work harder to produce more commodities in less time, while receiving less in wages and social benefits.

These nationalist and patriotic catchphrases mask their efforts to weaken and break our unions, divide working people along national lines at home and abroad, drive down our wages, and roll back gains in working conditions and social benefits won over the last few decades. The result, as in all depressions, is an unemployed army of millions, which forces workers to compete for jobs by selling our labor power at the lowest price.

The employers' campaign to divide workers has had some success. The spectacle of auto workers in Canada competing with U.S. auto workers for jobs by accepting concessions to prevent General Motors from closing their plants is a good example. Racist anti-Mexican cartoons that have appeared in some union papers opposing NAFTA are another example of the logic of this campaign.

From trade wars to shooting wars

NAFTA is only one aspect of the new world disorder of capitalism. Mass starvation, disease, poverty, the im-

perialist slaughter in Iraq, and the military threats by imperialism to the people of Yugoslavia, North Korea, and Cuba all have their roots in the unfolding depression and sharpening competition between the United States, Germany, Japan, France, Canada, Britain, and other imperialist powers. The ultimate logic of this competition, as in every other capitalist crisis of this scope, is an inter-imperialist world war.

The experience of the class struggle over the past century and a half proves that it is a fatal mistake for working people to take sides in the trade wars of the class enemy as a way to ride out the crisis. This false road — advocated by the leadership of the trade unions today — ties our hands, making it impossible for working people to unite to defend our interests against those of the ruling rich.

Today, forging unity in struggle by working people across borders is the first step we can take to prevent another world war. In Canada, the United States, Mexico, and around the world, working people are resisting the effects of the capitalist crisis. Our unions need to take the lead in promoting an action program that can unite working people. Instead of fighting NAFTA we should fight to:

- force governments to shorten the workweek without cutting our pay. Combined with massive public works programs this would create millions of jobs throughout the world and unite employed and unemployed workers.
- force the wealthy families in the imperialist countries to cancel the Third World debt. This could unite workers and farmers in a struggle to use the wealth we create to build schools, hospitals, homes, and irrigation systems and clean up the environment.
- win government-enforced affirmative action measures to overcome the effects of the inequalities inherent in capitalism so that workers who suffer from national oppression, racism, and sexism have access to jobs, education, and health care.

It is along this road that our unions can be transformed into the fighting machines we need to defend the interests of working people — everywhere.

John Steele is a material handler at the Coats Patons textile mill in Toronto and a member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 836.

Conference on 'Communist Manifesto Today'



July 13 march of 30,000 in Pretoria. "A social revolution is being put together in South Africa," Barnes said.

Continued from Page 10

creasing divisions among workers and farmers, weakening union power, and blocking independent political action by the labor movement." While posing as "neutral" in international conflicts, Sweden also pursued its interests as an imperialist power in the world and one of its largest arms exporters.

Particularly since the 1987 stock market crash, the economic crisis has hit Sweden as well as other European countries. "This was the end of Swedish socialism," Carlson said. The government cut social programs. Unions made concessions such as wage freezes. Rents were raised by as much as 25 percent.

Since 1989 the Swedish rulers have launched a major attack on the rights of immigrant workers. The government has passed anti-immigrant legislation. It has deported Turkish, Bulgarian, and other immigrants. This has emboldened physical assaults on immigrants by ultrarightists. In response there have been significant antiracist protests.

Carlson explained that similar conditions are developing in other European countries, many of which are afflicted with high unemployment. Political polarization has led to the growth of rightist currents and racist

attacks, as well as protests against them in France, Belgium, Italy, Denmark, Germany, and elsewhere.

The Swedish rulers have more and more dropped their pretense of neutrality, engaging in sharper competition with their rivals. Like their counterparts in Britain, they are seeking a position as a junior partner of U.S. imperialism to counter the strength of imperialist Germany.

Meanwhile, despite the talk of European unity, "a single Europe with a single currency and economic policy is further away, not closer," Carlson said. "In reality it's everyman for himself," as the rival national ruling classes defend their own interests. This is deepening the bourgeois nationalism, couched in "European" terms, which marks the increasing interimperialist conflicts.

These competing interests are reflected in growing moves toward military intervention by the various imperialist governments in Yugoslavia and Iraq. At the same time, the war in the former Yugoslav republic has uprooted millions of working people, Carlson said, bringing a wave of refugees to other parts of Europe, unlike anything since World War II.

With the crumbling of the Stalinist regimes in Eastern Europe that had blocked off working people there from politics, communists throughout Europe have unprecedented opportunities to spread working-class ideas. "We can use this greater political elbowroom to get the *Militant* and other communist literature into their hands," Carlson explained.

Youth for Warren and DeBates

At the end of the international conference, supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign held a special gathering where Youth for Warren and DeBates was launched and young people signed up on the spot to be part of the campaign effort.

Warren described how socialist campaigners around the country have met and been involved shoulder to shoulder with young fighters at abortion rights protests, marches against police brutality, and anti-war actions.

"We have placed the question of imperialist war — and now the accelerated bipartisan drive by Washington toward another slaughter in Iraq — at the center of every meeting we've done during our campaign. We've explained why it is a central question facing humanity," he said.

The day before his talk, Warren and a group of other participants in the conference drove to Ravenswood, West Virginia, to join a rally by members of the Steelworkers union who waged a 20-month battle against union-busting.

Workers in Ravenswood welcomed them, he said, because over the months "campaign supporters were involved in this fight, being a part of the picket lines and the political activities these fighters carried out." They used the *Militant* and campaign literature to present the socialist perspective.

Heading to Houston

DeBates explained, to cheers from the conference audience, that she and other partisans of the socialist campaign were heading to Houston to join the fight by women's rights defenders against the planned assault on abortion clinics by Operation Rescue.

"More wars, more police brutality, more attacks on our rights — that's the future under the Democrats and Republicans," DeBates said. "Our campaign represents a

fighting working-class perspective against those horrors of the capitalist system. Young people are fed up with that system and many are looking for the type of internationalist campaign that we are running."

Young activists have joined petitioning teams around the country to put the socialist candidates on the ballot in some 20 states. "These teams will also be winning more fighters to campaign as they show the same spirit that Youth for Warren and DeBates have," she said.

Laura Burleson, a recent high school graduate from Waupaca, Wisconsin, and a new supporter of Warren and DeBates also spoke. She described how she recently went to Fargo, North Dakota, to take part in a high school debate match. She took a walk downtown, where she met socialist petitioners who had set up a literature table, and she immediately joined in the campaign effort.

Burleson announced that when she starts college in Fairbanks, Alaska, this fall she plans to set up campaign meetings and recruit more youth to support Warren and DeBates.

Martin, a young Irish worker from Manchester, Britain, explained that he helped organize DeBates's recent visit to that country. "It was refreshing to meet a real live worker from the United States," he said.

He explained how a young woman in Manchester invited DeBates to speak at her school and 60 students came to hear and discuss the socialist alternative. He added that supporters of the Communist League's campaign in Britain were continuing to attract young fighters.

The confident spirit of the participants was captured on the last evening of the international conference at a rousing rally to raise money for the George Novack Reconstruction Fund. The rally was led by Craig Gannon, who heads up the volunteer work brigade that is rebuilding the printshop in the Pathfinder Building.

At the end, Mokaba took the microphone from Gannon and led the hundreds of people in the audience in shouting "Viva ANC!" and other chants. Then he and other South African participants invited dozens of enthusiastic revolutionaries to join him onstage to do the toyi-toyi, the dance that is popular at mass demonstrations in South Africa.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Why the Drive Toward War Against Iraq? Sat., Sept. 5, 7:30 p.m. 2552-B W. Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

IOWA

Des Moines

Revolutionary Legacy of Malcolm X. Speaker: Chris Nisan, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in Minnesota. Sat., Sept. 5, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Hear Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. President James Warren. Sat., Sept. 12, 7 p.m. 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$5. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Iran and Neighboring Republics of the Former U.S.S.R. Speaker: Ma'mud Shirvani, recently visited Iran. Sat., Sept. 5, 7:30 p.m. 1622 S Broadway. Donation: \$5. Tel: (314) 421-3808.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

The U.S. War Drive Against Iraq and Yugoslavia. Speaker: Greg McCartan, director Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign and editor *Militant* newspaper. Sat., Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$5. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

Los Angeles

George Novack, Soldier of the Revolution

Speakers: Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party National Committee; John Evenhuis. Fri., Sept. 11, 7:30 p.m. 2552-B W. Pico Blvd. Proceeds to go to the Pathfinder Building Reconstruction Fund. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

The U.S. War Drive Against Iraq and Yugoslavia. Speaker: Argiris Malapanis, *Militant* staff writer, recently returned from Sarajevo, Zagreb, and Belgrade in Yugoslavia. Sat., Sept. 5, 7:30 p.m. Midtown Holiday Inn, 1305 Walnut St. Donation: \$5. Tel: (215) 546-8196.

Pittsburgh

What's Behind the Campaign on Family Values. Speakers: Arnold Weissberg, Socialist Workers candidate for Pennsylvania Attorney-General; Joanne Kuniansky, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress, 14 C.D. Sat., Sept. 5, 7:30 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

The U.S. War Drive Against Iraq and Yugoslavia. Speaker: Derek Bracey, *Militant* staff writer. Sat., Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m. Holiday Inn, 1406 Beers School Road, Coropolis. Donation:

\$5. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

The U.S. War Drive Against Iraq and Yugoslavia. Speaker: Ma'mud Shirvani. Sat., Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m. West Coast Sea Tac Hotel, 182 20 Pacific Highway south (at the airport). Donation: \$5. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

BRITAIN

London

How Millions Fight Apartheid Today: Eyewitness Report from South Africa. Sat., Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £2. Tel: 71-928-7993.

Sheffield

The Famine in Africa. Speakers: Hassan Haffan,

Somali living in Sheffield, John Smith, Communist League. Sat., Sept. 5, 6:00 p.m. 1 Gower St., Spital Hill. Donation: £1. Tel: 0742-765070.

Stop War Threats Against Iraq. Sat., Sept. 12, 6 p.m. 1 Gower St., Spital Hill. Donation: £1. Tel: 0742-765070.

CANADA

Toronto

Is Capitalism Being Restored in Russia? Speaker: Brigitte Groulx, Communist League. Sat., Sept. 5, 7:30 p.m. 827 Bloor St. West. Donation: \$3. Tel: (416) 861-1399.

NEW ZEALAND

Wellington

South Africa: The Mass Action Campaign. Sat., Sept. 12, 4 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Donation: \$3. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

Anti-imperialist forum in Managua

Continued from Page 7
oppression," it stated.

The document "reaffirms the relevance of the struggle for national liberation, for social justice and for democracy in all its breadth. . . . It represents the rejection on the part of the great majority of Latin-Americans of the attempts to identify democracy with capitalism, modernization with submission, and the giving up of all autonomous development with social justice."

During the plenary sessions many participants spoke against the U.S. blockade against Cuba and for solidarity with that Caribbean country. This also was reflected in the Managua Declaration.

"The growing hostile policies of the U.S. government against the people and government of Cuba, including the new attempts to extend the economic embargo against that sovereign nation, represents an insult to Latin-American and Caribbean sovereignty and an offense to the dignity of its peoples. "In light of this, we reaffirm our support to the right of the people and government of

Cuba to defend its determination to continue forward with the construction of socialism in their country."

The continued colonial status of Puerto Rico was also taken up at the gathering, and a resolution was passed reaffirming the Forum's "active support to the self-determination and independence of Puerto Rico."

Few of the speakers raised the need for a social revolution as the alternative to the devastation caused by what was referred to as the "neoliberal" policies being carried out in the region. As with the declaration that came out of the 1991 Mexico gathering, the Managua resolution, while noting that any "program of political action must take up the damaging role of the interventionist policies of the United States," did not in general allude to the role of U.S. imperialism and of the devastating results of the normal functioning of world capitalism on the world's toilers.

Instead the resolution and many of the oral contributions by conference delegates were crowded with such vague terms as "ties of dependence between the South and the North," and calls for "national programs for the construction of social justice, democracy and national liberation" and a "culture that is counterposed to the culture of domination."

During the final plenary session a debate took place on whether the gathering should take positions on questions pertaining to struggles outside Latin America or the Caribbean. Some two-thirds of the voting delegates favored this, with a third opposed.

A resolution was proposed calling on the cessation of hostile acts and the blockade against Iraq. The PT representative, Marco Aurelio Pereira, proposed amending this to include a denunciation of the Iraqi and Turkish governments' repression of the Kurds. Several delegations who supported the resolution expressed their opposition to this

amendment.

An observer delegate from the ruling Iraqi Baath Party was given the right to speak and claimed that the Kurds in Iraq are treated well and that Washington dishonestly used the Kurdish question as the main justification for its continued attacks against Iraq.

As a compromise, Alejandro Bendaña of the FSLN proposed a resolution calling for an end to the attacks on Iraq and support for the right to self-determination for the Kurds. This was overwhelmingly approved by the delegates.

Among the international observers present at this gathering, there were a number of social democratic parties, as well as parties formed out of the disintegration of the Communist Parties in Eastern Europe. A number of U.S. organizations were also represented at the gathering, including the Socialist Workers Party, the Committees of Correspondence, the Rainbow Coalition, Center for Democracy in the Americas, and Crossroads Magazine, as well as the Rainbow Lobby, which is associated with the New Alliance Party. Also present were delegations from the Workers Party of North Korea; the Vietnamese, Chinese, and Indian Communist Parties; and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

A number of special guests, introduced as "experts in economics" gave greetings to the gathering. These included Ernest Mandel from Belgium, a member of the Fourth International; Francois Houtard from the Tricontinental Center in Belgium; and Bernard Tchnigona from the Third World Forum, in Cameroon.

The working group's mandate was extended and it was instructed to work out a proposal to renew itself. Participants voted to hold a fourth São Paulo Forum next year in Cuba.

Socialist campaigning in Barbados

Continued from front page

ers arrived for discussions with sanitation workers at their worksite. The workers are preparing for a fight in light of mounting rumors of impending layoffs.

One of the workers explained to Warren that the Sanitation Service Authority is combining jobs, forcing mechanics to do work normally done by tire repairmen.

On the docks operated by the Barbados Port Authority 300 stevedores and longshoremen were recently laid off and replaced by others who support the ruling Democratic Labour Party. "We want to make sure this doesn't happen here," one of the sanitation workers told Warren. The overwhelming majority of the 150 sanitation workers have joined the CPLU.

Barbados is an island country with a population of 240,000. Working people here are suffering from the effects of austerity measures, demanded by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which have been imposed by the Democratic Labour Party during the past year. This has included an eight percent wage cut for all public employees and the layoff of thousands of workers in both the public and private sectors.

Warren's visit coincided with Washington's announcement of its "no fly" zone over southern Iraq. In interviews with the media, Warren blasted Washington's renewed war moves against Iraq. "They're threatening once again to slaughter thousands of working people inside Iraq with their decision to take command of Iraqi air space and tell the government of Iraq that it cannot fly its planes within certain territories inside its country," stated Warren.

Warren also had a lively exchange of opinion on U.S. politics and how the capitalist economic crisis is affecting working people worldwide at a public meeting held August 29 at the Clement Payne Cultural Center.

Warren made a half-hour appearance on the popular Voice of Barbados radio call-in show entitled, "Tell It Like It Is," which is broadcast throughout the island.

"Our campaign counters the 'America First' rhetoric of our Democratic and Republican Party opponents with a program and perspective of international working-class solidarity," stated Warren in his open-

ing remarks.

"We present the perspective of the fight to cancel the Third World debt. This debt results in billions of dollars of resources from the Third World going into the banks of the richest countries throughout the world. We think these resources should be made available to working people inside these Third World countries," explained Warren.

Warren taped a 15-minute interview with the Caribbean News Agency (CANA), which is sent to radio stations on a number of islands throughout the Caribbean.

The socialist candidate was also interviewed by CBC television and the *Weekend Investigator*.

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How about baggage compartment? — Under Japan's medical



Harry Ring

insurance system, fees are uniform and assertedly, reasonable. Grouched one dermatologist: "You have first class, business class, and economy class on airplanes, why not in a medical system?"

Bet they love 'family values' — Sexual abuse of women didn't

begin at last year's navy pilots Tailhook convention. A regular attendee said a popular diversion has been "ball walking," where officers walk around with one testicle hanging out. Another longtime favorite is the "butt rodeo." A pilot on all fours sneaks up behind a woman, biting her rear end and hanging on as long as he can.

Crackdown — Federal officials announced August 20 that General Motors had agreed to pay a \$57,000 fine for illegal emissions from paints and primers at its Van Nuys, California, plant, which is closing down. Even more important, the feds stressed, GM agreed that, until the plant does close, it will abide by

emission regulations. The shutdown was slated for August 27, one week after the announcement.

Color them green — California's Air Resources Board is fretting that if highway congestion is reduced and mass transportation is increased, it will add to air pollution. Why? Because, they assert, less congestion and less cars on the road will mean that cars will go faster, and higher speeds mean greater pollution.

We're stumped — If less cars on the road for shorter periods of time would mean more pollution, what if there was an extensive and efficient mass transit system that left only a relative handful of cars

on the road? Would that mean we'd all choke? Or just GM?

Monday Morning Live — "Humor experts" are peddling laugh programs to corporate offices. With a straight face, one such expert says successful companies "have one thing in common: they care about their people. The managers have two things in common: they have a sense of humor about themselves and a willingness to laugh about things."

P.S. — Fans of the Marx Brothers may recall Chico's line: "Some joke, eh boss?"

"Ready, aim..." — "Once the news has been delivered, arrange-

ments should be made to get the dismissed employee off the premises as soon as possible... having an employee who has just been fired and is very upset in the office can be demoralizing to remaining employees." — *Jobs & Business Opportunities* on "A Better Way to Say 'You're Fired!'"

Thought for the week — "It is about a socialist antifamily political movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism and become lesbians." — Right-wing evangelist Pat Robertson, opposing a proposed Iowa Equal Rights Amendment.

Massive aid necessary after Hurricane Andrew

Continued from front page

depend on help from friends and neighbors. As August 24 dawned, one in twelve Dade County homes were destroyed, leaving 250,000 people homeless. 1.3 million were without power. All transmission wires at the Turkey Point nuclear power plant blew away when "hurricane-proof" pylons collapsed. As temperatures soared to 90 degrees, tens of thousands had no food or water.

After Hurricane Andrew hit south Florida, a second disaster struck, the feeble relief effort. From the beginning it was stymied by bureaucracy, bottlenecks, and feuding among those responsible. While dozens of aircraft shuttled politicians and officials into the area, aid could not reach those in need.

On August 25 the few government or service agencies out on the streets were turning away relief trucks because of "distribution problems." By noon, Florida Governor Lawton Chiles had mobilized 3,300 National Guard troops and 500 cops to guard malls and wealthy areas, and to "keep the peace" in Black communities like Miami's Liberty City.

The help that did come was from ordinary people, community organizations, unions, and small businesses.

But throughout the week, shelters stood empty 25 miles to the north while families

slept outdoors or in unsafe homes. Tractor-trailers and pick-ups filled with free ice, food, medicine, clothing, and volunteers were turned back north, or sat unloaded while people went hungry and thirsty.

Distribution, transportation, and communication systems were paralyzed not only by storm damage, but also in large part by government inaction and incompetence. Contributing to this was the competition among those who would benefit from this catastrophe. The *New York Times* reported on August 29 that, "Another reason for the delays is that the Administration went through a cumbersome procedure" of soliciting bids for "contracts for delivery of water tankers and electric generators and the purchase of plastic sheeting."

By mid-week the depth of the crisis was becoming clear. Local media, relief and utility workers (thousands themselves homeless), and, in particular those left devastated, mounted a pressure campaign calling for federal troops.

Worried about growing criticism and anger, the federal government began to take some measures four days after the hurricane hit. More than 3,000 troops, mobile kitchens, medical units, and tents were airlifted in on Friday, August 29. Many of the soldiers reported that they had been ready to

move days earlier.

On August 28, a *Militant* reporting team visited south Dade County. In Homestead 500 people stood in a grocery store parking lot waiting to receive food and supplies. They expected the wait would be up to eight hours.

Florida City, the 10th poorest city in the country, was the worst casualty. Many of its 6,000 residents are Mexican farmworkers who live in trailers. Every labor camp was destroyed, the avocado and citrus fields flattened, and dozens of produce-packing houses wiped out. The vegetable crops will probably go unplanted, they explained. Three women

told us they were certain a number of elderly men were buried in the rubble. The bosses had not appeared to say whether there would be work in the future.

The crisis in Dade County is just beginning to unfold. The full extent of unemployment, already at 10 percent before Monday, is unknown. Officials can't say whether the half-million people currently on public assistance will get their checks or food stamps. Doctors predict that hundreds may face severe dehydration, typhoid, tetanus, and even cholera because of unsanitary conditions.

UAW on strike in Lordstown, Ohio

Continued from front page

setting its own strike deadline for September 4. Assembly workers are concerned about several unresolved issues concerning health, safety, and work standards along with production arrangements.

David Kimmel, president of Local 1714, said that job security and outsourcing were two of the main issues that led to the strike. Eighty-five percent of the union members voted for the strike, Kimmel said.

An August 28 *Wall Street Journal* article characterized the strike as "the first blow in what's expected to be a bruising battle over job security between the auto maker and the United Auto Workers union." Another arti-

cle in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* said GM was proposing elimination of 240 jobs in the die-making operations as part of the company's efforts to reorganize and become more competitive.

"No one has lost a job yet," Kimmel said. "The local understands the effects of its actions and they are not out to hurt anyone. We want the company to live with the national contract and local arrangements reached in 1990. We are not asking for more."

Wayne Camacci, who has worked for GM 24 years, expressed the view that "the strike was a union stand" and he was giving it his total support.

'Repressive climate' in Miami

Continued from Page 16

the Cuban government have been subjected to harassment and intimidation.

Dangerous Dialogue reports that in November 1990, for example, Miami city commissioners approved the installation of a star for Mexican singer Verónica Castro in the "Walk of Fame" sidewalk. But after her performance in Cuba in December 1991, "a mob of approximately 100 people surrounded the star, urinated on it and hacked it apart with hammers, while police looked on and did nothing." The next day, the city voted unanimously to bar any replacement of the star without its approval.

Other examples that the report cites include:

- A 1989 bill introduced in the Florida state legislature to set up a Cuban studies institute at Florida International University in Miami. Six of the nine members of the Board of Trustees would be nominated by the CANF. The legislature rejected the proposal for an institute, but gave \$1 million to the CANF to provide research grants for scholars.

- Attacks and threats against Vladimir Ramírez, a clinical psychologist, who says he was a political prisoner in Cuba for 19 years. Ramírez advocates a "non-violent" approach to Cuba. His office has been broken into twice, his files stolen, his car windows smashed, his computer and fax destroyed. There have been no arrests in any of these incidents.

- A Bay of Pigs veteran, who called for negotiations with Cuba, was rushed by a mob in 1990 while police looked on. The Bay of Pigs was the site of a failed invasion of Cuba by rightist Cuban exiles with U.S.-backing in 1961.

- In 1991 the city refused to grant permission for a Haitian group to use a city

park to celebrate the inauguration of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide unless they could guarantee that Fidel Castro would not be invited to the inaugural festivities in Haiti.

The report emphasizes that no one has been prosecuted in recent years for the numerous bomb threats and other "terroristic acts." Americas Watch finds this "extremely disturbing."

Laura Garza, socialist candidate for U.S. Congress in Miami, explained, "As the capitalist economic crisis deepens, the bosses will more and more attack the example of the Cuban revolution. This encourages right-wing attacks like those outlined in the Americas Watch report. It is worthwhile to note," the socialist candidate said, "that it is those who scream the loudest about the supposed lack of democracy in Cuba, who prevent a free and democratic discussion at home."

"Working people who are looking for a road out of this crisis are open to looking at what Cuban workers and farmers have accomplished," Garza said. "We need to demand the right to a discussion free from intimidation."

Nelson Mandela: Speeches 1990

Intensify the Struggle to Abolish Apartheid

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THE MILITANT
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CHICAGO — The Socialist Workers presidential campaign was a very visible factor at the Palmer House where the New Politics convention was held [attended by 3,600 people].

An SWP campaign headquarters was set up in the hotel where a steady stream of conference participants came for coffee, doughnuts, campaign literature and an opportunity to meet the candidates. The number of people visiting the campaign headquarters increased daily.

There was a good-sized contingent of Halstead-Boutelle campaigners and they did a thorough job of promoting the ticket. Campaign brochures were distributed to the delegates. More than a thousand copies of the special election issue of *The Militant* were sold. A hundred campaign posters were sold in the SWP campaign headquarters at the entrance to the convention ballroom.

Merit Publishers had a literature table at the conference, which did a very brisk business. Nearly 200 copies of a new pamphlet on "Zionism and the Arab Revolution" were sold. An ample supply of literature on Malcolm X was sold out before the conference ended. More than 300 copies of the *Young Socialist* were sold.

Indicative of the wide interest in the campaign was the fact that more than 750 of the people at the convention gave their names for further information about the campaign and/or indicated a desire to participate.

Several prominent individuals at the con-

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ference gave their endorsement to the Halstead-Boutelle ticket.

September 12, 1942

Nominating petitions for Geo. Breitman, Socialist Workers' Party candidate for United States Senator, were today filed with the Secretary of State in Trenton. 800 signatures are required for a place on the ballot in the coming November elections, and almost twice that number were submitted on behalf of Breitman's candidacy.

Immediately after the petitions had been filed, Breitman issued the following statement:

"I am running as a candidate for the U.S. Senate because my party believes the workers should have the opportunity to vote for a socialist alternative to imperialist war and oppression, fascism, Jim Crow and increasing attacks on labor's rights and standards."

"This war is not a war to destroy fascism. The only way to destroy fascism in Europe is by taking the economic and political power away from the capitalist class."

"Nor is this a war for lasting peace. Peace cannot be maintained by the rule of the bayonet, and the administration's promise to 'police the world for the next hundred years' is proof that World War II will be followed by other wars unless the basic cause of imperialist war is done away with by the laboring people of the world."

"Only a Workers' and Farmers' Government will seek to destroy fascism, for only such a government will make a socialist appeal to the German masses to overthrow Hitlerism."

U.S. hands off Iraq!

The United States government is heading to war against the people of Iraq — getting “ready to use limited but ruthless force,” in the words of one Republican strategist. During the past several months President George Bush has sought a pretext for taking military action to achieve the goal that eluded him after the Gulf War: the establishment of a U.S. protectorate in Iraq.

Bush thinks his best chance — and only chance — of getting elected is to launch a new war. Certainly the depression-like economic conditions will continue to worsen, thus weakening Bush’s reelection bid. His only solution is the much-talked about “surprise” — a war against the people of Iraq. If anything, Bush’s Democratic Party opponent, Bill Clinton is more of a war-monger.

Once again U.S. aircraft carriers, air-to-air missiles, 1,000 lb. bombs, “smart” bombs, and U.S. troops are massed, waiting for attack, although this time in smaller numbers than before. So far, Washington has sent 24,000 troops, compared to the half a million soldiers dispatched last year under the pretext of expelling Iraq from Kuwait. It is clear that Bush hopes the no-fly zone will lead to divisions in the Iraqi Army and a coup that will overthrow Hussein.

“We must strike at targets crucial to [Hussein’s] regime and do serious damage even if it means military and civilian casualties,” writes Anthony Cordesman in the *New York Times*. “We must be prepared to strike again and again despite Iraqi claims that we are killing the innocent.”

To anyone with an ounce of humanity, Cordesman’s blunt statement seems cold-blooded, blood-thirsty, and crass. But he accurately reflects the views of U.S. rulers who seek to find a way to keep their crises-ridden imperialist world order together. Washington is driven to strike “again and again,” to bury more soldiers alive in their trenches, to shoot more fleeing workers and peasants in uniform in the back, to drop more bombs on fallout shelters full of civilians — all of which they did in the so-called Gulf War. It wasn’t a war; it was a slaughter.

But if the allies’ half million troops and massive firepower couldn’t remove Hussein and establish an imperialist protectorate in Iraq before, will they be able to achieve their aims this time around?

If anything, the relationship of forces for Washington is less favorable now. The story of how the U.S. government helped build up the Hussein regime as a counterbalance to Iran and turned a blind eye to his massacres of the Kurds

and his repression of working people is now known by millions. The hypocrisy of the claims to institute the “no-fly zone” to protect the Shiites is transparent. Washington’s no-fly zone in northern Iraq, where Kurdish groups recently held elections, has prevented Hussein from bombing, but Washington gives Turkey the green light to bomb the same people.

Bush has so far been unable to put together a new coalition anything like what he assembled after Hussein invaded Kuwait. But this won’t prevent Washington from lashing out militarily against Iraq or any other country that the U.S. government considers a threat to its interests. The economic crisis of the capitalist system and the political price they will pay when they go to war helps fuel the debate in ruling circles. Reflecting one wing of the ruling class, the *New York Times* has taken a distance from Bush’s air security zone in southern Iraq. “Won’t this lead to the division of Iraq? ‘Won’t this strengthen Iran? Isn’t this a military adventure,’ it asks.

But whatever their tactical differences, the U.S. rulers’ ultimate goals are the same: defending U.S. imperialist interests. Neither their debates nor Washington’s weakening position in the world will stop the coming wars. Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton’s, and his would-be Secretary of Defense Les Aspin’s, wholehearted support of Bush’s war moves proves the point.

The war drive is the central issue facing working people around the world today. As Bush steps up his military preparations, workers who are part of the resistance to the employers’ offensive must be prepared to explain to their coworkers what is at stake and to organize the largest number of workers and youth possible to protest the war moves every step of the way.

In opposing imperialist war, class-conscious fighters must turn more deeply to other workers and farmers and join with them in fights, on and off the job, against exploitation and oppression at home and abroad.

Circulating as widely as possible tools such as the *Militant* newspaper, the “Opening Guns of World War III” in *New International* no. 7, and the Pathfinder book *The Changing Face of U.S. Politics: the Proletarian Party and the Trade Unions*, is one of the best ways to prepare working people to resist the coming imperialist onslaught.

U.S. hands off Iraq!

No blood for oil!

Miami: gov’t-created calamity

“The criminal inaction of the local, state, and federal governments has turned Hurricane Andrew, a natural disaster, into a massive social catastrophe for millions,” a statement released by the Florida Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign begins.

The hurricane that hit southern Florida and other parts of the Southeast last week left in its wake at least 22 people dead; more than 250,000 homeless; 40,000 living in shelters; 1.3 million without power; and an estimated \$30 billion in damage. As the socialist campaign statement points out, “Those with little to begin with, like the farm workers, were hit the hardest.”

The extent of the suffering is not necessary. An Aug. 29 article in the *New York Times* states, “Army officials routinely track hurricanes, and had been following the storm for two weeks, since it began swirling off the west coast of Africa. And Pentagon officials said the armed forces were ready to send troops, food, equipment, shelter and medical supplies to Florida even before the storm hit.”

Yet it was not until the fourth day after the hurricane hit that either President George Bush or any other civilian officials made even a token effort to meet the needs of the people affected by the disaster. This response only occurred, as the *Times* article notes, when the “victims’ anger at the delay burst into the national news media, creating a serious political problem for [the] president.” The widespread recognition that the government’s response had been late at best, and criminally negligent at worst, did not prevent Bush from declaring, “I am satisfied that we responded properly.”

While the federal government was taking bids on contracts for delivery of water tankers and electric generators, Florida Governor Lawton Chiles was mobilizing 3,300 National Guard troops and 500 cops — not to distribute food or construct shelters, but, as the socialist candidates point out, “to guard wealthy areas and shopping malls, to

enforce a curfew, and arrest ‘looters’, including parents seeking food for their children.” Meanwhile, relief trucks filled with food, medicine, clothing, and volunteers were being turned away because of “distribution problems,” and shelters within 25 miles of the hardest-hit areas stood empty.

The socialist campaign statement adds, “All decisions, from where power is restored first to how aid and loans are distributed, are being made along class lines. The rich and powerful come first — the working class last. This is the way all government decisions are made.”

To the degree that relief was provided in the first days of the disaster, it was through the efforts of volunteers, community organizations, unions, and some small businesses. The Socialist Workers statement notes, “The potential for human solidarity and collective action was shown during the storm and should be put to use today.”

The Socialist Workers candidates — James Warren for U.S. president, Estelle DeBates for vice-president, Dan Fein for Senate, and Laura Garza and Jill Fein for Congress — issued demands that place the needs of working people first. They say:

- Put people to work, at a living wage, in a massive public works program to rebuild the infrastructure, housing, schools, and hospitals. Full unemployment compensation for all lost work time.
- Make government resources available for immediate aid to devastated areas.
- Shorten the workweek with no cut in pay to spread around the available work. No forced overtime while workers go hungry and need jobs.
- Housing for the homeless. Vacant property should be turned over to the homeless.
- Lift the curfew and release all those detained for curfew violations.

‘No-fly zone’ first step to U.S. war in Iraq

Continued from front page

32nd parallel now declared off limits to Iraqi planes and helicopters encompasses about 47,520 square miles, roughly the size of New York State.

The latest measures come on top of the continuing United Nations embargo on Iraq, which has led to shortages of food and skyrocketing prices. U.S. naval forces board 350 cargo ships each month in the Red Sea searching for goods that violate the UN sanctions.

Implementing the no-fly zone is an essential piece of Bush’s effort to salvage his faltering re-election campaign. Bush figures the best way to get reelected is to start a war against Iraq. Democratic Party presidential contender Bill Clinton immediately endorsed the move calling it the “appropriate thing to do.”

The British and French governments are also backing Bush, primarily with symbolic forces. Six British Tornado warplanes sent to Saudi Arabia as part of the allied forces had yet to be sent out over Iraq as of August 29. France’s 10 Mirage 2000’s have yet to join the 200 U.S. aircraft in the area.

This is far fewer forces than the coalition Washington put together for the assault on Iraq last year. At that time some 32 governments fell in line behind the U.S. attack.

Washington is having difficulties with other regimes in the region including many of its former anti-Iraq allies.

Only Kuwait has publicly supported the U.S. actions. Saudi Arabia is allowing its bases to be used by the allies and is flying air tankers to refuel the U.S. forces. Oil-rich Bahrain, which was a major command center for the United States during the Gulf War, ignored a request by London to base its Tornado planes there.

Syria, Libya, Algeria, Yemen, and Sudan, have all condemned the air exclusion zone. Even Egypt, one of Washington’s biggest backers in the previous war, has refused to back the zone.

Trouble with Turkey

The Turkish government has ruled out the use of its Incirlik base — where 50 U.S., British, and French military aircraft are stationed — in the current conflict in southern Iraq.

Turkey, which in the past was a major sales route for Iraqi oil, has been “exploring the possibility of restoring trade ties to the extent that sanctions permit,” the *Christian Science Monitor* reported August 25. And although the Turkish Embassy in Baghdad remains closed, a foreign ministry official recently visited the city, the *Monitor* said.

One of Turkey’s main concerns is preventing the U.S. dispute with Iraq from exacerbating conflicts in Turkey.

Ankara has been involved in a bloody war against guerrilla groups fighting for independence for Turkey’s 13 million Kurds. Several million Kurds also live in Iraq. Kurdish groups in northern Iraq, taking advantage of the “security-zone” established there by Washington and its allies, have held elections and pushed forward their demands for autonomy from Baghdad.

The Ankara regime fears that the moves by Iraqi Kurds will inspire Kurdish people in Turkey to accelerate their struggle.

While the U.S. government claims that its ban on Iraqi air flights in northern Iraq is designed to protect the Kurds — just as it claims its latest no-fly zone is to protect Shiites in the south — Turkish planes conduct numerous bombing raids against Kurdish villages in northern Iraq virtually without any objection from Washington. Turkey says it is targeting Kurdish guerrilla camps.

Expanding Iranian influence

Turkey has another concern, one which it shares with neighboring Arab regimes and with sections of the U.S. ruling class: expanding Iranian influence in the region.

UPI news service reported that “the United States early this week sent a message to Tehran . . . warning Iran not to take advantage of Western plans to protect the Shiites in southern Iraq.” Iran has been arming the Shiite rebels.

Although Tehran issued some vague statements opposing the division of Iraq, Iranian president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani made only passing reference to the new situation in a radio speech August 28.

The establishment of the no-fly zone has unleashed a debate in U.S. ruling circles.

The *Wall Street Journal* has wholeheartedly endorsed the war moves. A prominently placed column in the August 25 issue of the paper backs the idea of a “federated Iraq.” Washington should arm the Shiites in the south and encourage them to rise up against Hussein, Albert Wohlstetter argues in the column.

If President Bush carries out this policy, “that can and should improve his chances for re-election in a way that decisions on the economy cannot,” Wohlstetter writes.

The *New York Times* in a series of editorials, however, has come out against the no-fly zone as too risky.

Criticizing the holding of elections by Kurdish groups in northern Iraq and their moves toward autonomy, the *Times* warned August 28 that “if a similar process developed under allied air cover in the south, Iraq would be reduced to a landlocked stump, cut off from its oil and vulnerable to Iran. Other Arab states fear this result, and no compelling U.S. interest justifies such meddling.”

Nationair flight attendants block airport entrance

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

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines to

protest the use of Nationair planes and crews, including scab flight attendants, to ferry members of the Canadian armed forces between Ottawa and the Canadian military base in Lahr, Germany.

Two busloads of flight attendants from Montreal and one from Toronto made the trip to Ottawa.

During the action at the airport, the flight attendants locked arms,

Lyttelton near Christchurch, New Zealand, walked off the job August 13 in protest of their working conditions.

The workers are nonunionized and employed only on a casual basis through the New Zealand government's employment service. Many had been unemployed for several years before getting this job.

As casual workers, they have no job protection. They do hard physical work for eight hours, with no breaks, for only NZ \$9.89 [US \$5.34] an hour. Sometimes they are called back to work another full shift only eight hours after they have finished.

Harbour Workers Union secretary Paul Corliss described their wages and conditions as "atrocious." He offered support to the workers from maritime unions and the Council of Trade Unions.

Joan Shields, the Communist League's candidate for mayor of Christchurch, called on other Independent Fisheries workers and the union movement as a whole to support the action taken by the coolstore workers.

"The exploitation of these workers is part of the mounting offensive by the employers against the wages, conditions, and union rights of us all," Shields said. "By rallying to the support of these workers the union movement can deal a blow to the employers' attempt to pit employed and unemployed workers against each other."

The coolstore workers returned to work August 17 after a meeting at which the company agreed to investigate their grievances on work conditions.

Tentative contract reached between Steelworkers, LTV

A tentative agreement has been reached between the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) and LTV Steel. If approved by the union rank and file the pact will end months of negotiations that saw company threats to tear up the existing contract, citywide union meetings, and union strike votes. The local press carried regular stories claiming LTV could not survive a long strike and that thousands of jobs could be lost in the Cleveland, Ohio, area.

On July 16, USWA negotiators voted 15-3 to approve a two-year pact, one year before the LTV-

USWA contract was due to expire.

The proposed contract imposes a two-year freeze on wages and elimination of 218 jobs. The contract also includes minimal improvements in pension payments and offers of \$300 cash bonuses to workers and retirees who enter a management health-care plan. A union representative will get a seat on the company board of directors. Workers will vote by mail on the pact.

While many expressed relief that a tentative agreement was reached without a strike or lockout, others simply said, "It stinks. We got nothing."

The USWA represents 13,000 workers at LTV mills, the majority in Cleveland; 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.

The company has been using the cover of bankruptcy proceedings to demand cuts in wages and benefits. They have pressed their demands for concessions through letters to Steelworkers and a steady flow of articles in the local press. Central to the four year contract LTV called for earlier was: a 50-cent wage reduction over the life of the contract; elimination of Sunday premium pay; a health-care deductible increase from the current \$200 to \$3,000; and ending the company's 50 percent payment of retirees' major medical insurance.

Hundreds of Cleveland-area Steelworkers and retirees attended citywide union meetings in April to discuss the company's demands. Workers were firm in their opposition to a takeback contract.

In late June, after LTV announced its intent to ask the bankruptcy judge to throw out the contract, Steelworkers voted overwhelmingly to authorize strike action. Union officials called the company's announcement "an official declaration of war," and pulled out of labor-management cooperative programs.

On July 13, hearings began before U.S. bankruptcy judge Burton Lifland in New York on LTV's request for permission to reject the contract. This prompted renewed negotiations between the company and the union, resulting in the tentative agreement.

Steelworkers are glad the

company's initial demands were not imposed, but see little to celebrate in the proposed contract.

Marguerite Barnett explained at the plant gate in Cleveland that while the contract was probably as much as they could get, "I don't necessarily like it. I'm angry!"

SAS demands exorbitant fines from strikers

Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS), owned by Scandinavian governments, has sued 447 of its Swedish employees in the Labor Court. SAS demands that these workers pay 7,000 Swedish kronor (around US \$1,300) each in fines for their participation in a two-day wildcat strike August 5-6.

This is the first test of employers using substantially higher fines to deter workers from striking. The level of fines that can be levied against strikers was raised on July 1 to 2,000 kronor or more from the 200 kronor that had been the level since 1928.

The company will also keep a record of the fines in each worker's file.

SAS recently bought a domestic airline in Sweden, Linjeflyg, and intends to eliminate 1,500 jobs. The striking Swedish SAS employees demanded that this should only affect those working at Linjeflyg. A few days before, Danish SAS employees went on strike demanding that only those employed in Sweden should lose their jobs. The strike in Sweden was followed by new strikes in Norway and Denmark. About 350 employees in those countries will also be sanctioned by SAS.

In June, 230 airplane cleaners at Arlanda airport outside Stockholm went on strike against layoffs. The strike won support from other airline workers and overcame divisions in the work force. It also started a discussion about how to wage a common fightback against attacks by the employers.

The following people contributed to this week's column: Jim Upton, a member of International Association of Machinists Local 869 at Rolls Royce in Montreal; Joan Shields, a member of the New Zealand Meat Workers Union in Christchurch; Michael Italie, a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 14919 in Cleveland; and Inge Hinnemo from Sweden.

ON THE PICKET LINE

let other *Militant* readers know about what is happening at your workplace or in your union. If there is an interesting political discussion going on at work, we would like to hear about that too.

Chanting "Nothing in, nothing out" and "Nationair be fair! No scabs in the air!" 100 Nationair flight attendants blocked cars from entering the Ottawa, Ontario, airport for 45 minutes August 12.

Earlier in the day, they picketed the home of Canadian prime minister Brian Mulroney, the federal Parliament building, and the Department of National Defence.

The actions were organized to

blocking off both lanes of traffic. Despite demands by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to allow cars to pass, the demonstrators refused, and sat down in the road. Micheline Durivage, a 19-year-old flight attendant, said the demonstration was very spirited. Despite being out nine months, it was as if "we were in the first week of our lockout," she said.

The more than 400 flight attendants, organized by the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), have been locked out since November 1991 by Nationair, the country's third largest airline. They have been without a contract since December 1990. In January the workers launched a national campaign to boycott Nationair.

The locked-out flight attendants are young. Eighty percent of them are women and a majority are also Quebecois, who speak French as their first language.

For most of the flight attendants this is their first unionized job and their first labor conflict. As a result of her experiences, Durivage explained, "I'm much more interested in other strikes or struggles now."

She traveled to Buffalo last spring to help defend abortion clinics against attempts by anti-choice forces to shut them down. Participating in the clinic defense in Buffalo was "a great opportunity, a great experience."

"I no longer think in terms of when I'll go back to work because there have been so many ups and downs over nine months," she explained. "Now I only think in terms of the need to fight back day by day."

Fishery workers strike over working conditions

Twelve workers at Independent Fisheries coolstore at the port of



Nationair flight attendants block Ottawa airport. Workers have been locked out since November.

LETTERS

Not the gun that talks

Over 60 people attended a public forum in St. Louis August 12 at the St. Paul AME Church to hear Andile Yawa, a member of the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress Youth League and president of the World Federation of Democratic Youth. The meeting was chaired by Rev. Samuel Bradford, who welcomed the audience of auto workers, steelworkers, church members and others.

Andile Yawa described the stepped-up violence in South Africa over the past 4 years and the struggle for peace and democracy led by the ANC.

In a lively discussion period, Yawa explained where armed struggle fits into the history and strategy of the ANC and the current campaign to form self-defense units; "it is not the gun that talks, but the person behind the gun." He also talked about the government's prosecution of Winnie Mandela and her continuing relationship with the struggle, and the ANC's call for a mixed economy with the nationalization of mining, transportation, and other monopolies.

The audience contributed over \$200 toward expenses for the tour.

Before the forum, a dozen young people participated in a dinner where Yawa discussed the politics and structure of the ANC. He was also interviewed by the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and several local radio stations.

Fred Stanton
St. Louis, Missouri

Freedom of Choice Act

I think it would be useful to have a little more discussion about the stance socialists should take towards the "Freedom of Choice Act" now before Congress. Lobbying to pass this legislation, and campaigning to elect Democratic or Republican candidates who supposedly would support it is the major orientation presented by leaders of groups such as NOW and NARAL.

I think socialists should clearly support passage of the act as a codification of the right to abortion.

Such support should be sharply counterposed to the electoralist strategy of many proponents of the Act. They actually wind up acquiescing in chipping away at the right to choose in their efforts to get more Congress people to vote for the Act. According to local NARAL leaders, the draft has been amended to allow the states to decide if young women

shall be required to give parental notification before getting an abortion, and if states shall pay for abortions along with other state-funded medical care. These concessions to anti-abortion forces were presented as a good thing, since they allegedly convinced one more Washington representative to support passage of the act.

Socialists, on the contrary, should explain that these concessions hurt the fight for abortion rights since they restrict the access to abortion and, unless they are challenged, give credence to arguments advanced by opponents of a woman's right to choose.

Harvey McArthur
Seattle, Washington

Struggle for Democracy

"The struggle is one of democracy," said Peter Mokaba, the president of the African National Congress Youth League, August 13 at a meeting hosted by Local 1199 of the Hospital Workers Union in New York.

James Webb, president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, opened the meeting of about 60 people.

Mokaba spoke to the crowd about the coming revolution in

South Africa, where the forces of democracy face the forces of the past and the apartheid regime. He explained that only through mass actions will the people of South Africa free themselves from apartheid's chains.

Mokaba stated that the truth is that the arrest and imprisonment of Nelson Mandela, the carrying out of the Security Laws, and the banning of the ANC were done by De Klerk while he was a technocrat within the apartheid regime. It was only through the demonstrations in the street that the forces of democracy compelled De Klerk to make changes.

During the discussion, Mokaba was asked what he thought the chances are that the struggle in South Africa can be resolved without armed warfare against the government. He responded that, "the ANC does prefer a peaceful negotiation of the end of apartheid. Not because we are cowards. But, because if a peaceful negotiation does happen the chances of reconciliation will be greater for South Africans."

Mokaba stressed that the "ANC has never believed the solution to the apartheid system will come with the death of all white people." South

Africa must be governed by the will of all people in order to maintain power. "We are waging a nonracial war to build a nonracist, nonsexist, democratic South Africa."

Barbara Kairson, of District Council 37, gave greetings to the meeting pledging "to continue our support of the fight in South Africa." The Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) sent greetings to the meeting and pledged support to the ANC.

Tony Michelle Jackson
New York, New York

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

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. To help this important cause, send your contribution to Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

California strikers protest arrests

BY JAVIER DEL CID
AND CRAIG HONTIS

LOS ANGELES — More than 300 striking drywall construction workers and their supporters participated in a march and rally through downtown Los Angeles on Tuesday, August 18. The rally was successful in drawing support from other unions and in placing before the public an important struggle for wages and union recognition, a struggle primarily by immigrant workers. The rally called on the police to drop the charges against strikers arrested in earlier picket lines.

As the strikers marched with their families and supporters to the police station, the streets rang with shouts of, "Unión sí, policía no!" (Union yes, police no!), "No más abusos!" (No more abuses!), and "Sí se puede!" (Yes, it can be done!).

José De Paz, spokesperson for the California Immigrant Workers Association, stated at the rally, "We are trying to meet with Willie Williams (the new Los Angeles police chief). He should drop the charges facing arrested strikers. We are not criminals and should not be treated that way. We are workers in the struggle for justice." More than 100 arrests have been made in San Diego County, in addition to approximately 69 in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

Other speakers at the rally included local union officials from the International Association of Machinists and the Service Employees International Union. Hotel and Restaurant Employees Local 11 president María Elena Durazo stated at the rally, "We are fighting for dignity, and unions are the only way to get dignity. Drywallers have been of great inspiration to other immigrant workers and to the labor movement as a whole."

The work drywallers do involves erecting

slabs of plasterboard in the interior of buildings. The work is heavy and the pay is declining. The workers have to cut and fit sheets of drywall weighing up to 100 pounds and they

drywallers in southern California are of Mexican origin. Many are undocumented. In spite of a difficult situation in a depressed industry, some 4,000 have walked off the

walked off the job, and joined picket lines.

The strikers are winning support from the working-class community. This was dramatically shown at the August 18 demonstration when marchers displayed the Drywallers banner on the overpass above the downtown Hollywood Freeway. As thousands of rush hour commuters jammed the highway, a roar of honking horns, expressing solidarity, greeted the strikers, and large numbers of commuters blinked their headlights, raised their fists out their windows, and gave the strikers the thumbs-up sign.

Juan Villagómez, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in the 30th District of California, said in a campaign statement, "The attacks on these workers are an example of the assault by the bosses on the entire labor movement to lower our wages and our standard of living and to restrict our rights. It is important for the entire labor movement to support these workers, who are struggling for union recognition and better working and living conditions."

Villagómez added, "The fight of the drywall workers and other struggles around the world, like the heroic fight of working people in South Africa to end apartheid, is an inspiration for all of us and is part of a larger struggle of workers for justice."

Contributions and solidarity messages for the drywall workers can be sent to: Carpenters Union Local 2361, 1916 W. Chapman Ave., Orange, CA, 92668. Telephone: (714) 978-2361.

Javier Del Cid is a student at Los Angeles Community College and Craig Hontis is a member of United Transportation Union Local 1700.



Drywall workers at July rally. "We are not criminals and should not be treated that way," said José De Paz of the California Immigrant Workers Association.

are paid no more than 5 cents per square foot.

During the 1980s construction companies nearly succeeded in eliminating the union sector of this industry. Six years ago drywallers earned \$600 a week for 40 hours work. Their wages have now been cut to less than \$300 for a 60-hour work week.

The drywallers' strike is now in its thirteenth week. The majority of the 7,000

job. The strike stretches from the Mexican border through San Diego and Los Angeles and north as far as Oxnard.

The strikers meet daily in various Carpenters Union halls in the region and go out in groups to construction sites to persuade other drywallers to join the strike. In groups of 10 and 20, construction workers throughout southern California have put down their tools,

Right wing in Miami creates 'repressive climate'

BY SARA LOBMAN

Right-wing Cuban-American political and business leaders in Miami, with the support of the local, state, and federal government, are guilty of creating a "repressive climate for freedom of expression," according to a report released by the well-known human rights group, Americas Watch.

Using various methods, "ranging from shunning to violence" and including economic pressure, these forces try to intimidate those in the Cuban community in Miami who speak in favor of normalizing relations with Cuba.

Americas Watch, which is financed mostly by donations from groups like the Ford and MacArthur Foundations, has frequently accused the Cuban government of human rights abuses. The report comes at a time when there is increased interest among many Cubans in Miami in opening a dialogue with Havana and in establishing normal relations with Cuba. There is also growing interest among many working people in learning more about the Cuban revolution.

The report, which documents harassment by city authorities and right-wing Cubans of artists, members of the academic community, a radio station, the *Miami Herald*, and many political activists, has provoked a huge debate. Miami mayor Xavier Suarez has threatened to sue if Americas Watch doesn't retract two comments attributed to him. The report says that Suarez made statements "that contribute to an impression that the city government is not ardently interested in the prosecution of terroristic acts." Domingo Moreira, a director of the Cuban American National Foundation (CANF), accuses Americas Watch of issuing "a politically motivated attack."

Attacks on 'Miami Herald'

The examples given in the report *Dangerous Dialogue: Attacks on Freedom of Expression in Miami's Cuban Exile Com-*

munity, span 20 years. The most recent attack, directed against the *Miami Herald* and *El Nuevo Herald*, occurred this year.

On January 18 the *Miami Herald* ran both an editorial opposing the Torricelli bill and a column criticizing radio commentators who advocate the use of force to overthrow the Cuban government. The Torricelli bill, currently being discussed in Congress, aims to intensify aspects of the U.S. trade embargo against Cuba.

Jorge Mas Canosa, CANF chair, launched an attack against the *Herald* in radio appearances and in a column published in the paper. "Why must we consent to the *Miami Herald* and *El Nuevo Herald* continuing a destructive campaign full of hatred for the Cuban exile," he said on a radio broadcast.

The CANF leased billboard space and

bought ads on Dade County buses that proclaimed, "I don't believe the *Miami Herald*."

In the following weeks, *Dangerous Dialogue* reports, "*Herald* vending machines were stuffed with feces and silicone gel, and there were bomb threats against the newspapers' offices." The newspaper publisher received numerous death threats.

Americas Watch takes up the relationship between verbal attacks over the radio against those deemed to be "soft" on Cuba and physical intimidation. "Virtually every incident discussed in this report," it says, "from the cancellation of a play to the bombing of a professor's home — has been preceded by virulent criticism of the person or persons involved over the Spanish-language radio airwaves."

One example is the ongoing attempt by the Miami city government to evict the Cuban Museum of Arts and Culture from city-owned property. In 1991 a federal judge blocked the eviction, citing examples of improper government conduct. The city had, he said, "fallen victim to the local community's intolerance for those who choose to provide a forum for controversial artists."

In 1988 death threats were made against museum officials when a radio station reported that six of the artists represented at a museum-sponsored art auction had either lived in Cuba or once supported Fidel Castro.

Actors and entertainers who have performed in Cuba or who favor dialogue with

Continued on Page 13

1,000 march in Britain against racist attacks

BY BRIDGET ELTON

MANCHESTER, England — Led by black flags of mourning and the families of two of the victims, 1,000 people marched through South Manchester August 22 to protest racist murders.

Mohammed Sarwar and Siddik Dada were murdered in separate attacks by racist thugs last January. A convoy of more than 800 cars, mostly taxis, accompanied Sarwar's body last February when it was taken from a local mosque to the airport to be flown back to Pakistan. Sarwar had been a taxi driver and many taxi bases stopped work.

After what the *Manchester Evening News* described as "the largest funeral procession the city has ever seen," the Mohammed Sarwar and Siddik Dada Memorial Committee was set up in response to demands for a militant and effective response to racist attacks. Sarwar's nephew said, "If my uncle's murder can unite people to stop racist mur-

ders, then I believe his blood will not be in vain."

Speaking at a rally in front of the Town Hall at the end of the march, Memorial Committee representative Mukhtar Dar said, "We have brought under the banner of the Memorial Committee many organizations which previously would not work together." This was evident on the march where banners from a wide range of Black, Asian, and antiracist organizations were carried, as well as a number of trade union banners. Bus loads came from London and several other cities.

The march was predominantly young — Asian, Black and white, although there were many older people, especially Asians, as well. Militant and well-disciplined young people led the chants of "Racist attacks — we fight back," "They say get back, we say fight back," "No justice, no peace," "Too Black, too strong," and in Urdu, "Give an answer!" (for the blood spilled).

As the march passed along Wilmslow Road in the heart of the Asian community, workers and shop-keepers, most of them wearing stickers supporting the march, came out to line the street. They joined the marchers in observing a minute's silence.

Speakers at the rally said the march marked a new stage in combating an estimated 6,500 racist incidents that occur in Britain each year. Several people have been charged with the murders of Sarwar and Dada. Calling on people to attend a picket at the opening of the trial next January, Dar said, "Justice: we want at least the minimum justice we can get in this society. We are not just talking about two murders in Manchester."

Bridget Elton is a member of the Transport and General Workers Union at Brooke Bond Foods in Manchester.