

# THE MILITANT

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Cuban hijackers in Miami

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 57/NO. 2 January 15, 1993

## White House pardon of officials stirs debate

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

George Bush's Christmas eve pardons to former U.S. secretary of defense Caspar Weinberger and five other high-ranking government officials have sparked renewed controversy and debate about the six-year-old Iran-contra scandal, spotlighting the ongoing political crisis confronting the U.S. capitalist rulers today.

Disagreements about Bush's pardon decision run deep. An editorial in the December 29 *Newsday* describes it as "an action that undermines the very basis of the American constitutional system." What's really being posed here, concludes this New York City daily newspaper, is "whether our democratic form of government can be sustained."

Weinberger was scheduled to stand trial on January 5 on charges of having lied to Congress about secret arms sales to Iran in the mid-1980s and the use of these funds to back the mercenary contra army seeking to topple the Nicaraguan government. The trial was expected to focus on Weinberger's private notes that he concealed for three years from independent prosecutor Lawrence Walsh, who had been charged with investigating the Iran-contra affair. There was a strong possibility that Bush might have been called as a witness and forced to testify at this trial, further exposing Bush's stance that he was "out of the loop" on Iran-contra.

Bush's pardon "undermines the principle that no man is above the law," stated Walsh upon hearing of this decision. "The Iran-contra cover-up, which has continued for more than six years, has now been completed."

"Weinberger, who faced four felony charges," continued Walsh, "deserved to be tried by a jury of citizens."

Walsh also accused Bush of "misconduct" for having hid the existence of his own personal diary that contained information on these events. Bush had waited until December 11, 1992 to inform prosecutors about the existence of these diary notes, which he had been recording since the end of 1986.

Bush defended the pardons, stating that

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## U.S. planes shoot down Iraqi jet

BY NAOMI CRAINE

Washington escalated its course of threats and attacks against Iraq December 27, when U.S. fighter jets shot down an Iraqi plane over southern Iraq. The incident took place over a portion of Iraqi territory Washington has designated as a "no-fly zone" for Baghdad's aircraft. The pilot of the downed plane is believed to be dead.

The following day the U.S. aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk, which had been stationed off the coast of Somalia, began heading for the Persian Gulf. Eighteen jets from the carrier were sent ahead to Saudi Arabia, to bolster U.S. firepower in the region.

This is the first time an Iraqi plane has been shot down since the governments of the United States, Britain, and France unilaterally imposed the flight ban in August, 1992, supposedly to defend the Shiite

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## U.S. gov't extends scope of Somalia occupation

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

After nearly a month of military intervention into Somalia, which as of January 2 involves more than 27,500 troops under U.S. command, Washington has begun to take on political and military tasks far broader than a "humanitarian mission" designed to transport grain to starving Somalis.

U.S.-led forces rapidly seized control of eight cities and towns in southern and central Somalia with no military resistance. Washington now hopes to begin putting in place a longer-term sizable United Nations occupation force capable of carrying out the U.S. objective of setting up a stable client regime in Somalia.

With much fanfare, U.S. president George Bush paid a two-day visit to Somalia December 31-January 1. This marked the first time ever that a U.S. president had made an official visit to an eastern African country.

Taking stock of the progress made in reasserting the U.S. government's right to militarily intervene abroad, Bush exclaimed, "We're not only welcome here [but] they're going to be sorry to see us go."

"Bush is the president of Somalia now," stated 25-year-old Mohammed Abdi.

Although a sound truck in Mogadishu called on Somalis to assemble and greet the president, U.S. military officials made clear that there would be no meetings with the public. Instead Bush traveled by helicopter for brief visits to a hospital, feeding center, orphanage, and for meetings with U.S. troops.

In a short address prepared in Somali that was read on a new radio station set up by the U.S. military, Bush cynically proclaimed, "We cannot and will not impose a political solution on you."

### Display of U.S. military might

Bush's visit and the preparations for it provided another opportunity for a public display of U.S. military might.



U.S. marine searches Somali. U.S. military now controls eight cities in Somalia.

"Bush for his part, did not visit the orphanage so much as occupy it," wrote the *Washington Post* reporter on the scene in Baidoa. "Marines set up machine gun positions on the perimeter and the roof."

Razor wire barriers were strung at the sites Bush visited in Mogadishu, with sandbags to fortify new gun pits and machine gun posts. Marines also set up new roadblocks on major streets in Mogadishu in order to search Somali vehicles for weapons.

The stepped-up harassment of Somalis by the U.S. military forces is part of a broader campaign to implement what UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali has insisted all along is part of the U.S. role — to disarm

masses of Somalis and "pacify" the country, enabling a UN replacement force to maintain order.

"From now on we'll be doing more enforcement," said one U.S. official. "It's going to become more forceful and more active." According to Brig. Gen. Tony Zinni, the operations director for the U.S. military command in Mogadishu, U.S. forces will soon begin seizing armed vehicles wherever they are encountered.

The U.S. air force recently dropped 100,000 leaflets over Mogadishu stating, "Anyone aiming or pointing weapons directly at [U.S. military] forces will be shot."

"In deed if not yet word, the scope of the

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## Washington moves closer to military intervention in war-torn Balkans

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS  
AND GEORGE FYSON

Taking another step toward military intervention in the former Yugoslavia, U.S. president George Bush warned Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic that Washington is ready to use military force in Kosovo, a

### News Analysis

majority-Albanian region in southern Serbia controlled by the Belgrade regime.

"In the event of conflict in Kosovo caused by Serbian action," wrote Bush in a letter delivered to the Serbian government the last week of December, "the United States will be prepared to employ military force against the Serbs in Kosovo and in Serbia proper."

Following its invasion of Somalia, Washington has also taken the lead in pushing for military intervention in Bosnia-Herzegovina. This U.S. move toward war in the former Yugoslavia closely follows successful blows the U.S. rulers were able to deal their rivals in various European countries — especially France and Germany — in the first shots of a trade war over oilseed production.

The stepped-up belligerence by the U.S. government is reflected in opinion columns and editorials in major magazines and daily newspapers in the United States. "If Somalia, Why not Bosnia?" demanded a cover headline of *Time* magazine. "Saving [Bosnia]," said a December 18 editorial in the *Miami Herald*, "was yesterday's work, left undone while Europe's governments fretted over currency reform and oilseed subsidies." The *Herald* editors called for air strikes against Serbian ground forces and a "thorough blockade" of Serbia.

Such economic sanctions or military intervention are not in the interests of the people of the former Yugoslavia.

### 'All necessary means'

Negotiations are still unfolding between the U.S., British, and French governments over the wording of a resolution under consideration by the United Nations Security Council. Washington wants NATO forces in the region to be given full powers to enforce a no-fly zone over Bosnia through "all necessary means" — the same phrase used in the UN resolution prior to the U.S.-led bombing of Iraq during the Gulf war.

This would allow NATO forces to shoot

down Serbian planes and attack other targets on the ground. At Washington's initiative, NATO commanders had proposed December 17 to use their troops, ships, and planes in the Adriatic and elsewhere to enforce the United Nations ban on Serbian military flights in Bosnia.

London and Paris, with several thousand troops deployed in Bosnia and Croatia as part of a 23,000-strong UN force, have expressed hesitations over direct military intervention, fearing they will be bogged down in a quagmire.

Under pressure from Washington and worried that their own economic and political interests might be jeopardized, however, both governments have publicly shifted toward intervention.

British foreign secretary Douglas Hurd accused the Serbian government December 30 of "bloody-minded cruelty." In an article in the *Daily Telegraph*, Hurd said, "We can [now] imagine armed action against them to prevent a general Balkan war."

A recent poll showed 68 percent of French voters now supporting military intervention in the former Yugoslavia, according to the *Washington Post*. This shift fol-

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## IN BRIEF

### Canada tightens immigration law

The Canadian government is making its immigration procedures more restrictive in the biggest change in Canadian immigration law in 16 years.

The law, which received final approval December 17, will set new limitations on those seeking refugee status. It includes a provision that gives border guards the right to determine who is entitled to make a refugee claim, without any recourse for appeal. Under the previous law, a refugee who makes it to a border point is automatically given the right to a hearing before the government and independent adjudicators. According to immigration records more than 90 percent of the refugees are initially able to show a credible basis for staying and thus qualify for a second hearing.

Powers to deport have been broadened, and deportation will be possible not only of a person engaged in illegal activities, but also of a member of any organization alleged to be linked with illegal activities.

### Charges dismissed against woman who used drugs while pregnant

A New York appellate court has upheld a lower court decision dismissing charges of child endangerment brought against a woman who allegedly smoked cocaine shortly before giving birth. In January 1992, a trial court determined that New York's criminal law against endangering the welfare of a child was never intended to apply to a fetus.

### Cops set up checkpoint in Lawrence, Massachusetts

Police in Lawrence, Massachusetts, set up barricades in a section of town described by municipal authorities as being a high crime area and issued passes for city residents to come and go. The checkpoints, which began December 21, will be in place 18 hours a day for an indefinite period.

"This is not an occupation army coming in and setting up a police state; this is part of community policing," said Police Chief Allen Cole.

"This is martial law without the federal troops," countered John Roberts, director of



Palestinians in Israel bring food and medical supplies to border with Lebanon in an attempt to deliver them to Palestinian deportees stranded there. Israeli authorities refused to let them through. (see article on page 3)

the Civil Liberties Union in Massachusetts. He said the group would probably challenge the measure in court.

### Britain made secret deal with United States against Cuba

A secret agreement allowing United States bombers to launch air strikes against Cuba from a British base in the Bahamas during the 1962 missile crisis has been disclosed by the Campaign for Freedom of Information.

The papers released show that weeks after the bungled landing by Cuban exiles at the Bay of Pigs in April 1961 — and more than a year before Soviet missiles were deployed in Cuba — the U.S. State Department asked David Bruce, ambassador to London, to seek British permission to use a base on Mayaguana Island, in the British Bahamas, to mount air strikes against Cuba. The Brit-

ish government subsequently agreed, provided nothing regarding the deal be put in writing and it be consulted prior to the use of the facilities.

### Dominica: Rally organized to express Cuba solidarity

The West Indian island of Dominica was the site of a Caribbean-wide rally in solidarity with Cuba December 2. Special guest José Charon of the Communist Party of Cuba was the featured speaker.

Others in attendance included representatives of the Dominica Labor Party, the independence movement in the French colonies of Guadeloupe and Martinique, the Pan-Africanist movement of Barbados, Sinn Féin of Ireland, and the British Labour Party.

The rally was preceded by a November 28-29 conference of the Dominica Labor Party, which re-elected Rosie Douglas, a former political prisoner, leader of the organization. A recent poll broadcast by the Dominica national radio service shows the Labor Party running nearly even with the governing Freedom Party of Prime Minister Eugenia Charles, with elections scheduled for 1993.

### Colorado boycott broadens

After a vote by its board of directors, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force joined the boycott of Colorado and called on all businesses, associations, and tourists to cancel their convention and travel plans to protest the passage of Amendment 2.

Amendment 2, which was approved last November 3, mandates "no protected status based on homosexual, lesbian or bisexual orientation." The vote voided laws in Aspen, Denver, and Boulder that prohibited bias in jobs or housing based on sexual orientation.

The Task Force was joined by the Human Rights Campaign Fund and the American

Civil Liberties Union of Southern California in endorsing the boycott at a press conference December 22 in Washington, D.C. The National Organization for Women also released a statement announcing its board's decision not to hold any future meetings or events in the state of Colorado.

### China ups pressure on N. Korea

The Chinese government tightened the economic pressure on North Korea December 29 by announcing that all trade beginning in 1993 must be paid for in cash rather than through barter. This will put the Pyongyang regime in a bind since it has no hard currency to pay for oil and other products, and is already in arrears on its \$4 billion foreign debt.

China is North Korea's largest trading partner, followed by Japan, the former Soviet Union, and Iran.

### Ukraine workers protest price hikes on food and services

Thousands of workers in Kiev, the Ukrainian capital, protested sharp price increases that took effect December 26 as a result of deep cuts in state subsidies. Subsidies are being slashed on basic goods and services, quadrupling the price of bread and increasing the cost of a Kiev subway ride tenfold.

Under the increases, a loaf of bread that cost six to eight coupons or less than a cent in U.S. currency before, was selling for about 30 coupons or 3 cents in the capital. A factory worker earns up to 6,000 coupons a month or \$6.70 a month. The monthly inflation rate is 30 percent.

### Brazil president resigns as impeachment trial begins

Fernando Collor de Mello resigned as president of Brazil, minutes after the Brazilian Senate began an impeachment trial against him. Collor, who was elected to the presidency in December 1989, was impeached after being accused of taking millions of dollars in illegal payments. Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets of Brazil's major cities demanding his ouster.

### Omaha deportations reversed

Two youths yanked out of their high school in Omaha, Nebraska, November 6 and deported to Mexico, will be allowed back into the United States. On December 24 government officials announced that the U.S. Justice Department overruled the Immigration and Naturalization Service and will allow Ambrosio López, 17, and Augustín Antúnez, 16, to return to Omaha. Their parents have legal immigrant status in the United States.

The deportations had become a major embarrassment for immigration officials as protests were organized and widespread sentiment against the action was expressed by working people, youth, elected officials, and the media. Students at Roncalli High School in Omaha had hung a 12-by-3 foot banner inside their school demanding, "Return López and Antúnez."

— SELVA NEBBIA

## THE MILITANT

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### The Militant

Closing news date: January 4, 1993

Editor: GEORGE FYSON

Labor Editor: PAUL MAILHOT

Business Manager: Brian Williams

Editorial Staff: Derek Bracey, Naomi Craine, Estelle DeBates, Frank Forrestal, Martin Koppel, Sara Lobman, Argiris Malapanis, Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for next to last week in December and biweekly from mid-June to mid-August by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Telephone: (212) 243-6392; Fax: (212) 924-6040; Modem, 924-6048; Telex, 497-4278.

Pacific edition printed in Wanganui, New Zealand, by Wanganui Newspapers, Limited.

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

Second-class postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Subscriptions: U.S., Latin America: for one-year subscription send \$45, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first-class (air-mail), send \$80. Barbados: Send \$75Bds for

one-year subscription to P.O. Box 891, Bridgetown, Barbados. Asia: send \$80 drawn on a U.S. bank to 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Canada: send Canadian \$75 for one-year subscription to Société d'Éditions AGPP, C.P. 340, succ. R, Montréal, Québec H2S 3M2. Britain, Ireland, Africa: £35 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution, 47 The Cut, London, SE1 8LL, England. Continental Europe: £50 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution at above address. Belgium: BF 2,600 for one year on account no. 000-1543112-36 of IMei Fonds/Fonds du 1 mai, 2140 Antwerp. Iceland: Send 4,400 Icelandic kronur for one-year subscription to Militant, P.O. Box 233, 121 Reykjavík. Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark: 400 Swedish kroner for one year. Pay to Militant Swedish giro no. 451-32-09-9. New Zealand: Send New Zealand \$90 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand. Australia: Send Australian \$75 to P.O. Box 79, Railway Square Post Office, Railway Square, Sydney 2000, Australia. Philippines, Pacific Islands: Send Australian \$75 or New Zealand \$100 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

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# Tel Aviv under fire for mass deportations

BY SARA LOBMAN

Protests against the Israeli deportation of 400 Palestinians continue to mount among the 760,000 Arabs living in Israel, as well as Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. "The vigor and determination of the protests by Israeli Arabs in recent days is unprecedented," said Elie Rekhkess, of the Dayan Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Tel Aviv University. The Palestinians, deported by Israel on December 17, remain stranded on a strip of Israeli-occupied land in southern Lebanon.

Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin rejected an appeal December 27 from United Nations envoy James Jonah to allow humanitarian relief to reach the Palestinians who are suffering from lack of food, medicine, and heating fuel. Rabin also told Jonah that Israel would not back down from the expulsions.

Lebanon argues that Tel Aviv is violating its sovereignty by dumping the Palestinians in its territory and has also refused to allow supplies through. The Palestinians and their supporters have generally supported Lebanon's position, saying that Israel should be forced to allow those deported to return home.

Israeli Arabs, who carry Israeli passports but are denied some of the rights of citizenship, have organized demonstrations outside of the prime minister's office to protest the deportations, and many took part in a one-day strike on December 22. A convoy of Israeli Arabs tried to deliver food and medicine to the exiled Palestinians, but was turned back at the government-declared "security zone."

## Arab deputy suspended

One Arab deputy to parliament was suspended for five sessions for speaking against the deportations. Israel's attorney general has ordered the investigation of another deputy for possible violation of antiterrorist laws. "The Palestinian people must fight occupation by any means," said the deputy, Hashem Mahameed, in a speech in the Gaza Strip.

In response to continuing protests, the government has banned all Israeli contact with the deportees. Arab members of parliament responded December 27 by withdrawing their support for the Rabin-led coalition government.

Protests continue in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well. Palestinian merchants kept their stores closed for five days in a row to protest the deportations. Haider Abdel Shafi, chief negotiator of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, said the deportations have made it "impossible" for the negotiations to continue. The latest round of talks ended in mid-December, with no indication when they will resume.

The government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin claims the deportations are in response to the killing of five Israeli soldiers and cops, including one border policeman who had been abducted on December 13. The Islamic Resistance Movement, known by its Arabic acronym Hamas, took responsibility for the deaths, although no charges have been filed against any individual.

The *Washington Post* reports that government officials have discussed the possibility

of a mass deportation for some time, but have waited in order to get a pretext to get around Israeli laws. Israeli courts have the right to review orders issued by the military. More importantly, in the past, a person ordered expelled could appeal to an advisory committee, which would make a recommendation to the military commander. Before being expelled, the deportee was given 48 hours to appeal to the Supreme Court.

On December 16, after the kidnapped border policeman was killed, Rabin asked his cabinet to approve a new military order in which the right to appeal would come only after the deportation. The new order was approved by all but one member of the cabinet. The Palestinians were deported the next day. The Israeli government has announced that relatives of the expelled Palestinians have 60 days to file an appeal.

## Ten deported by 'mistake'

On December 21, Israel's supreme court upheld the deportations. The court accepted the government's argument that the exiled

Palestinians are now on Lebanese soil and that Tel Aviv is no longer responsible.

In the face of continuing protests, however, the army announced December 28 that 10 of the 415 Palestinians were expelled by "mistake" and would be allowed back into Israel. The government was quick to discourage the Palestinians, though, by claiming that there are charges pending against them and that "if they are convicted, they can expect periods of imprisonment that are longer than the deportation."

Meanwhile, Tel Aviv has taken the military steps necessary to ensure that the deportees cannot reenter Israel. When the Palestinians, under orders from Lebanese troops, started back toward Israeli territory December 21, the South Lebanon Army, Israel's client Lebanese militia, fired mortars and machine gun rounds at them. Five were wounded, one seriously. Rabin has said that he personally approved the attack.

The Israeli army has erected barriers and mined key crossing points between the security zone and the rest of Lebanon and has

readied the elite Golani brigade and paratroopers armed with clubs, riot gear, and tear gas in case the Palestinians attempt to return.

The army has also stepped up attacks on Palestinians in the occupied territories. At least 12 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli soldiers since the deportation took place. This includes 10 Palestinians killed in the Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis by an army reserve unit. The unit has been demobilized while military police investigate the incident.

International pressure against the deportations, and especially against Israel's refusal to allow aid for the stranded Palestinians through territory it controls, has continued to mount. Even U.S. secretary of state Lawrence S. Eagleburger said of the Palestinians, "you can't leave them wandering around in the middle of no place out there, being shot at from both directions."

In response to this pressure, Israel proposed to the Lebanese government a simultaneous shipment of aid by both governments to the deportees. Beirut has rejected the plan.

# New Los Angeles Pathfinder bookstore opens

BY SHERRIE LOVE

LOS ANGELES — An afternoon of food, fundraising, and a special slide show marked the grand opening of the new Pathfinder bookstore here December 13. More than 100 friends and supporters stopped by that day to attend a buffet dinner and program, and to buy books and see the new store. Some \$550 worth of books was sold. While many who attended were longtime readers of Pathfinder books, some were coming to the store for the first time. Oil workers, garment workers, and airline workers were among those who attended.

Pathfinder recently moved into the new location — the site where the bookstore had burned down last spring following the acquittal of the cops in the Rodney King beating. During the last seven months, Pathfinder has operated in a nearby location.

The exterior construction of the new store was completed in early November. Since then, dozens of volunteers have been working on building book shelves, completing plumbing and electrical work, painting, and laying carpet.

## Many made rebuilding possible

At the opening event, Eli Green, a member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-128 and spokesperson for the rebuilding effort, presented a slide show. It opened with pictures of the burnt-out store. "We want to thank all those who made this day possible. None of this would have been possible without the immediate help of supporters of the store and people in the community," Green said.

"A big boost to our efforts came at the American Booksellers Association convention held in southern California last spring. A special rebuilding fund was spearheaded by Gwen Feldman and Darcy Critchfield of the Southern California Booksellers Association," he noted. Their efforts helped to raise more than \$3,700. Ingram Books donated



Militant/Tim Elliot

## Newly rebuilt Pathfinder bookstore in Los Angeles

\$1,000 worth of books that it distributes. Random House is currently replacing its titles that were destroyed.

"A special thanks to Alice Walker and Dutton's Brentwood bookstore," Green said. Several of Walker's autographed books have been used in auctions to raise money. Other donations from area artists were also used to raise funds.

The slide show helped to demonstrate the Pathfinder bookstore's role as a center for political discussion, whether at the store itself or with literature tables set up at demonstrations. With the deepening worldwide economic crisis and military actions by the U.S. government, more working people and youth need the political ideas in Pathfinder

books. Green pointed to the importance of Pathfinder books to those putting up resistance, like the drywall workers.

Slides also showed Pathfinder book tables at international book fairs in Tokyo and Havana, and the six-story-high Pathfinder Mural in New York City.

A message was read to the celebration from Charles Taylor, executive director of the Multicultural Publishers Exchange, congratulating Pathfinder. He wrote, "Although I am unable to be with you (in person) on this joyous occasion to celebrate the grand reopening of your bookstore, please know that I am there with you in spirit. It was because of your commitment and energy that people in the book industry responded so enthusiastically to your need for assistance. As you show off your building today with pride, keep in mind that we all share your pride and joy."

Darcy Critchfield told the gathering, "The thing that really impresses me was that three days after the fire, you were on your feet and ready to go again."

Channel 11, the local Fox television network affiliate, ran a short piece on the opening on the 11:00 p.m. news. Other media interviews were held during the week leading up to the event. An article titled "Pathfinder Bookstore rises from the ashes" was featured in the *L.A. Independent*, a free newspaper with a circulation of 200,000.

The store now carries a full line of Pathfinder books, as well as books from 10 other distributors. About one-third of the titles are in Spanish.

So far, \$22,000 has been raised and spent to rebuild and resupply the store. A fund drive of \$3,500 to cover the remaining expenses was announced. A raffle raised \$150 and pledges at the event totaled more than \$2,000.

Donations can be sent to: Pathfinder Bookstore Fund, 2546 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90006.

# Fired British mushroom workers fight to be reinstated

BY JIM SPAUL

SHEFFIELD, England — Members of the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) at the Middlebrook mushroom farm in North Yorkshire have been fighting against the firing of 89 women workers who stood up to the company's demands.

Over the past two years, workers there had accepted 300 redundancies (layoffs), changes in work rules, and a pay freeze. Then in August 1992 the company demanded the right to hire "casual" workers. The union agreed, on the condition they be paid the same hourly wage as the regular workers, £3.74 (US\$5.65). Middlebrook would not agree to this, and hired the casual workers at a rate of \$4.70 per hour.

The unionists voted in favor of a moratorium on overtime work to protest the unequal wages. The company's response was to demand all workers sign a statement saying they would not take any industrial action.

The 89 who refused to sign were fired. One of those fired had a "green card," indi-

cating she has a physical disability.

The union and the fired workers organized mass pickets November 22 and 23. "It was the best day of my life" was a common sentiment among the pickets. The mass action took place at two farms, Whitley Bridge and Gateforth.

Middlebrook soon got a court injunction that bans the pickets at Gateforth, only permits six at a time at Whitley Bridge, and prohibits workers from handing out leaflets urging a boycott of the company's produce.

Conditions for the workers have worsened since the firings. The company has hired more casual labor and is only paying the new workers \$4.00 per hour. In addition, double pay for Sunday work has been ended. Middlebrook argued that "Sunday has become our busiest day" and could no longer be regarded as a special day.

The company said it would face financial trouble if it had to pay more in wages. Yet Booker, Middlebrook's parent company, made \$4.8 billion in profits last year.

One member of Parliament noted that

"Middlebrook could be setting a precedent; anyone taking industrial action in any other industry could be sacked."

After the court injunction halted the mass picketing, morale went down. The fired unionists are looking for help and solidarity from other workers.

Five days before Christmas, the injunction against leafleting was lifted and the boycott campaign started up again. The 89 fired women have been urging shoppers at Selby, Doncaster, and Wakefield supermarkets to stop buying Middlebrook's produce until they are reinstated.

Peter Brothers, a regional TGWU official, described the court's latest decision as a moral victory, which he hoped would eventually persuade the company to negotiate. "If this does not bring Middlebrook to the table we will step up to a nationwide campaign," he said.

Jim Spaul is a member of the National Union of Mineworkers at the Kellingley colliery in North Yorkshire.



# Asian youth denounce war moves, human rights abuse

BY FELICITY COGGAN

NEW DELHI, India — The 12th General Conference of the Asian Students Association (ASA) passed a resolution here December 15 denouncing military intervention in Somalia, and it called on the United Nations to stop giving cover to such actions which it said are aimed at preserving U.S. interests in the region.

This resolution, like many adopted by the conference, was the product of wide-ranging political discussions that took place both formally and informally, as participants grappled with the big questions facing working people and youth today. The conference, held from December 11-16, was attended by over 100 youth and student activists from 22 countries, including a large contingent from the Indian subcontinent.

## Campaign against Gulf War

A report detailing ASA's activities over the past three years provoked discussion of the drive to war and the military threat posed by the United States and Japan in particular. ASA's Peace Mission organized a campaign against the Gulf War, and in July 1992 organized a protest rally against further U.S. war moves against Iraq.

In late 1991, ASA began a campaign against the Peace Keeping Operations Bill (PKO), which was before the Japanese parliament and sought to legitimize the use of Japanese troops abroad for the first time since World War II. The ASA statement protesting the bill, which eventually became law, was read by a government opposition member during the parliamentary debate. Opposition to Japanese militarization was a key issue at the conference.

Delegates pressed to bring the fight for women's rights into the conference as well. A resolution was passed condemning the trafficking in women from Nepal for prostitution in India, and participants from India explained how the Bharatiya Janata Party promotes a traditional submissive role for women, including giving verbal support for the practice of *sati* or widow suicide.

Abortion is legal in India, but requires a husband's or guardian's consent. Young unmarried women are therefore often forced to go to one of the many illegal clinics. Abortion was legalized in India as a population control measure, a young woman delegate from India explained.

Participants brought with them experiences of the struggles they had been involved in, including materials that they dis-

tribute. A large group of Burmese youth, representing three organizations based both in the "liberated zones" now established inside the Burmese border, and in exile, brought leaflets calling for the release of Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest.

The delegate from Fiji brought a display of clippings from Fiji newspapers. They illustrated how, since the general elections of May 1992, the government has failed to implement its major election promise — to review the constitution which discriminates against ethnic minorities.

Robindra Rongpi, from the Karbi people of North East India, explained the Karbi's demand that the Indian government grant them autonomy rights provided for in the constitution.

Monina and Aneela, representing the Hong Kong Federation of Students, told how working people in that country have no say in the debate between the Chinese government and Hong Kong governor Christopher Patten concerning the agreement for the transfer of administration from Britain to China in 1997.

## Collapse of the Soviet Union

Many conference participants discussed their views on the impact of the collapse of the Soviet Union. Another topic of interest was what course the U.S. government will pursue under the newly elected Bill Clinton

administration.

Professor Rhandir Singh argued in a forum on "Challenges of Democracy and Socialism in the Post-Cold-War Third World" that the collapse of the Soviet regime dealt a blow to struggles of working people worldwide.

Young Socialist Alliance representative Greg Rosenberg from the United States replied that Washington lost the Cold War, and that "the Stalinist murder machine was an obstacle to working people and fighters all over the world linking up in common struggles." He said that the cheers for capitalism were fading out in Germany, where reunification has presented Bonn not with a new expansion but huge problems.

Rosenberg also pointed out that Washington is being driven to new wars by savage competition, and that the Clinton administration will continue on this course.

Three special days of protest were called by the conference. Actions against sanctions on Iraq were called for January 17. The conference decided to observe August



Delegates at Asian Students Association conference  
Militant/Greg Rosenberg

6, Hiroshima Day, as "Global Denuclearization Day" in protest of increased military spending. And a "Kick Out Multinational Corporations" Day will be held on December 3, the anniversary of the Bhopal chemical spill that killed thousands in India.

The conference expressed its solidarity with the Palestinian people. It passed a resolution saluting the five-year-old *intifada* and supporting the peace plan approved by the Palestine National Council. In line with this, delegates concluded with the goal that their next conference, in three years, be held in Palestine.

## Youth fight for democracy in Burma

BY GREG ROSENBERG

NEW DELHI, India — Young people in Burma are intensifying their fight against the military dictatorship in that Asian country, said two youth leaders in an interview here last month.

Naing Aung, chairman of the All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF), and Kyaw Kyaw Htut, vice-president of the Burma Students League (BSL), are both in their early twenties. Naing works out of offices in Bangkok, Thailand, and Kyaw is one of 90 Burmese students living in exile in Delhi who have formed the BSL.

Burma was a colony of Britain through World War II. Thousands of fighters lost their lives in the struggle against the British, and later against the Japanese who occupied Burma during the war. Burmese inde-

pendence was granted in 1948.

Since then Burma has been governed largely by military rulers. In 1962, General Ne Win took control and declared that socialism would be established in the country.

Working people and students began to organize resistance against the Ne Win regime. In 1988, an escalating series of struggles broke out. In March of that year, large student demonstrations in the capital, Rangoon, were suppressed by the military. Three hundred students were killed, and many of their bodies were thrown into lakes.

A rising wave of strikes, student protests, and other actions forced Ne Win's resignation. On September 18, General Saw Maung led a military coup and seized power.

Kyaw Kyaw Htut said that "after the 1988 crackdown, thousands of students fled to

neighboring countries. We waged a political and military campaign against the Burmese government."

Kyaw explained that following elections in 1990, the Rangoon regime, which titles itself the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), refused to turn over power to the National League for Democracy (NLD), which won in a landslide. The NLD's leading spokesperson is Aung San Suu Kyi, a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, who is currently under house arrest in Rangoon. The Burmese students are campaigning for her freedom. She recently began a hunger strike to demand a return to democratic rule.

"Burma is under martial law," said Kyaw. "The economy is largely in the hands of foreign capitalists — from Japan, Thailand, Singapore, South Korea, and also the United States and Canada. China is Rangoon's main arms supplier."

Economic conditions in the underdeveloped country have deteriorated since 1988. "For workers and peasants, things are very difficult. Unemployment is high. Prices of basic commodities are low, but there is almost no income. If you are a peasant, say with four acres of land, SLORC taxes 50 percent of the value of the rice you grow. Imprisonment is the alternative."

Naing Aung said "Our movement is for democracy and self-determination. We are fighting alongside the ethnic peoples of Burma for their self-determination too." For decades, the Karen and Mon peoples have fought guerrilla insurgencies against the central government. A recent conference of the ABSDF was attended by representatives of these and other groups.

"We want sanctions against the regime," he said. "The United States only gives lip service to human rights. Bush refrained from putting any sanctions on Burma following the 1988 crackdown."

Naing said that the students call the country Burma, despite the announcement by SLORC that its name was changed to Myanmar in 1989. "Myanmar only applies to the majority nationality" he said, and it is used to make the point that other nationalities inside the country don't have the same rights.

Kyaw, who told us that Che Guevara is the inspiration to many fighters in the border areas, asked working people and youth in the United States "to extend moral and material support to the struggle of the Burmese youth. We're fighting for democracy and peace."

## U.S. planes down Iraqi jet in 'no-fly' zone

Continued from front page

Muslim population of the southern third of Iraq from the regime in Baghdad. A similar no-fly zone was set up over the northern third of the country in 1991 after the U.S.-led war there, ostensibly to protect the Kurdish people. The latest U.S. action coincides with discussions in the United Nations Security Council that concern authorizing Washington and its allies to enforce a ban on Serbian flights over Bosnia.

In November, the UN Security Council rejected an Iraqi appeal to lift or ease the trade embargo that has been in place against the country since August 1990.

The military presence of the imperialist powers in Iraq has remained at a high level since 1990. In the last four months, U.S.,

British, and French warplanes have made more than 7,000 flights in the southern zone. In addition, 80 planes patrol the northern region. The U.S. military also has combat planes stationed at Incirlik, Turkey.

## Clinton supports aggression

President-elect Bill Clinton voiced his support for the military action in Iraq, declaring, "Our people are enforcing the no-fly zone, and that's exactly what they should be doing." He added that the U.S. rulers' "resolve is not going to weaken during" the transition in government administrations.

The *New York Times* gave its stamp of approval as well, saying in a December 29 editorial that the "U.S. pilots responded admirably, showing resolve but also pru-

dence," for not shooting down more Iraqi aircraft.

Less than two weeks before the downing of the Iraqi jet, Robert Gates, director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), claimed that the Hussein government may be hiding equipment and supplies that could produce "fissile material for a nuclear weapon in five to seven years." The accusation that Baghdad was working to develop nuclear weapons was one of the excuses used by Washington to justify the Persian Gulf War two years ago.

The allegations by Gates contradict the findings of UN investigators who have conducted dozens of searches for evidence of nuclear and chemical weapons programs in Iraq. John Scott, a UN official involved in the investigations, told the *Washington Post*, "We have not been able to find any residual programs of any size whatsoever."

The hypocrisy of the U.S. government is illustrated by a recently obtained Defense Intelligence Agency report that shows Washington knew of massive human rights abuses toward the Kurdish minority by the Hussein government in early 1988. Andrew Whitley, director of the group Middle East Watch, said, "The document shows that the administration made no effort to follow up on evidence in its own hands about the existence of what they called concentration camps. . . . The administration continued to support Saddam Hussein's regime right up till the invasion of Kuwait."

## Funds needed to cover reporting trips

Militant reporters have traveled the world lately to provide first-hand accounts of major events in India, Germany, Mexico, Ireland, and Cuba.

Harvey McArthur from Seattle recently visited the U.S. military base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, where 274 Haitian refugees are being detained by the U.S. government. His article for the *Militant* was reprinted recently in the *New York Amsterdam News*.

Reporting trips such as these are paid for by the generous contributions of our readers.

Supporters of the *Militant* have begun making donations to cover the trip to Haiti. Sixty dollars was raised at a meeting of the Alliance of Workers of the Community in Miami for McArthur's trip. A supporter in St. Louis kicked in another \$125 to cover the costs. And Seattle *Militant* readers have begun organizing to get donations.

More contributions to help cover the substantial costs of these reporting trips are needed. Donations can be sent to: *Militant*, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.



# U.S. officials welcome Cuban hijackers

BY NAOMI CRAINE

A Cuban pilot who hijacked a commercial airliner to Miami, and his accomplices who tied up the co-pilot and knocked out a security guard, will likely not face any charges for their crimes, according to U.S. government officials.

The pilot, Carlos Cancio Porcel, diverted the Cuban domestic flight to Miami December 29, where he and 47 others aboard the plane asked for political asylum. A security guard was knocked out by the kidnappers and found in the back of the plane with a swollen eye, his hands and feet bound. The co-pilot, Rolando Vila, opposed the hijacking and was also tied up by some of the passengers. Angry about the illegal skyjacking, Vila punched Cancio after the plane had landed. U.S. officials quickly handcuffed Vila, though they said he was not being arrested.

Those claiming political asylum were detained for 36 hours — a length of time denounced by rightist Cuban exile leaders as excessive.

Rafael Dausa, a spokesman for the Cuban Interest Section in Washington, D.C., denounced the hijacking and pointed out that those responsible were "stimulated by the American government who receives these

kind of people with open arms."

Less than two weeks earlier, U.S. officials and media gave a hero's welcome to Orestes Lorenzo Pérez, another Cuban defector, after he flew a small plane from Florida to Cuba, landed on a highway, and picked up his wife and two children.

## International accord

Dausa said Cancio should be returned to Cuba to stand trial. The United States and Cuba have both signed an international hijacking convention requiring that each country afford the others "the greatest measure of assistance in connection with criminal prosecution of hijackers." The accord requires signatories to punish or extradite hijackers and to return passengers.

Despite these international commitments, U.S. officials immediately stated that the passengers on the hijacked plane would be granted asylum and began combing legal documents for language on hijackings that would describe this one as something else.

The chairman of the right-wing Cuban American National Foundation, Jorge Mas Canosa, said that after talking to State Department officials he felt confident "that nothing is going to happen" to Cancio and

his associates. Other rightist Cuban-Americans have made similar statements, although the State Department insists it has made no such public promises.

There are many laws that could be applied to the case, including those against air piracy, transport of stolen property, and kidnapping. Yet most lawyers doubt there will be any charges. No one in recent memory has been prosecuted for hijacking boats or bringing stolen Cuban aircraft to Miami.

## Dangerous precedent

The hijacking has caused concern among airline companies and others. "This is a very dangerous precedent that runs in the face of international law," said a lawyer for a major airline. "Once a pilot diverts his craft from its lawful journey and enterprise, I don't see

any difference between him and a pirate. This was a hijacking, no matter what you call it."

Washington has encouraged this kind of activity, most recently in the case of Lorenzo, who had stolen a Cuban military jet and defected to the United States two years before the well publicized "rescue" of his family in December. Lorenzo's flight was organized and financed by the Valladares Foundation, a group set up by Armando Valladares, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Human Rights Commission who says he was a political prisoner in Cuba.

Lorenzo was received by President George Bush at the White House, named grand marshal of a New Year's Eve parade in Orlando, and has U.S. movie producers bidding for rights to his story.

## Miami press hails pilots as heroes while Haitians remain in detention

BY ERNIE MAILHOT

MIAMI — This city's big-business press has sunk to new lows in its recent anti-Cuba coverage. Virulent attacks on the Cuban revolution and so-called concern for refugees leaving Cuba have been the focus of numerous articles on the recent criminal hijacking of a commercial plane and the flight of a former Cuban Air Force pilot to the island to get his family.

At the same time little or nothing is being said about the plight of over 200 mainly Haitian refugees being held at Krome Detention Center. Most of these Haitian, Dominican, and other detainees went on a hunger strike December 31 to demand equal treatment. The 44 Cubans who had been part of the hijacking were released a few hours after having arrived at Krome. The Haitians have been there for many months awaiting political asylum hearings.

The Haitian prisoners pointed out that two Haitians who hijacked a plane from Haiti in 1989 were arrested and put in federal prison where they later died.

Orestes Lorenzo Pérez, the former Cuban Air Force pilot, and Carlos Cancio Porcel, the pilot and main organizer of the hijacking, have been on talk shows and in the press continually. Lorenzo was featured wearing Mickey Mouse ears as the grand marshal for Disney World's New Year's Eve parade.

The press coverage and statements by officials here treat Lorenzo and Cancio as heroes. Like those Cubans who come to south Florida on rafts, they are said to have no choice but to take extreme measures to get themselves and their families out of their country since the Cuban government sup-

posedly holds them all prisoner.

Some of the real truth, however, came out in the *Miami Herald's* reporting of the death of José Acosta, a young Cuban-American, killed just before Christmas.

## U.S. policy stops free travel

The December 26 *Herald* explained: "Acosta, 23, is dead, a victim of Wednesday's Christmas party massacre that claimed four lives. His father, José Acosta, 49, still lives in Havana."

"The father wanted to visit. He fought for a visa for more than 20 months. The United States said no."

"Until Christmas Day. In response to an appeal to President Bush by Acosta's mother, Violeta Pérez of Hialeah, the State Department changed its mind. The father was granted permission to pick up his visa at 10:00 a.m. today, so he might come to Miami before the body is laid to rest."

While government officials are speaking with one voice in attacking the Cuban revolution, this is not the case among many workers and others in Miami. Of four letters to the editor in the January 2 *Herald* concerning the hijacking and Lorenzo's flight, three were critical.

"There is something very wrong that can be seen in two pictures. One, on the front page of the *Herald*, showed a Cuban pilot with the word 'hero' under it, explaining how he had just arrived in Florida. The other was a week earlier, on the front page of the *Palm Beach Post*. It was two Haitian women in handcuffs, explaining how they had just arrived in Florida," read one of the letters.

## Cuban economist to tour Canada



Carlos Tablada speaking at meeting in Malmö, Sweden, in 1990. Militant/Margrethe Siem

BY ANDRÉ LAPLANTE

MONTREAL — Cuban economist Carlos Tablada will tour Canada January 18-31, speaking at meetings in eight cities on "The Challenges Facing the Cuban Revolution Today."

Tablada is the author of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*, initially published in Cuba in 1987. The book was awarded the Ernesto Che Guevara Special Prize in the literary competition of the Havana-based institution Casa de las Américas that same year. It has been translated and published both in English and French by Pathfinder Press.

Carlos Tablada has worked for more than 15 years in the management of Cuba's state enterprises. He is an associate of Cuba's Center for the Study of the Americas and of the Center for Research on the World Economy.

His book explains how Che Guevara, a central leader of the Cuban revolution in the 1960s, sought to help Cuba's working people take increasing control of the country's economic and political institutions and transform themselves in the process. Guevara's insistence that socialism could not be built by utilizing capitalist market methods, nor by following a narrow nationalist course, remains highly controversial today.

Over the past few years, Carlos Tablada has toured Latin America, North America, and Europe. He has spoken at public meetings, seminars, and at universities in dozens of countries, including Harvard and Yale in the United States and Oxford in Britain.

## New French-language edition

His tour in Canada is organized by Pathfinder and coincides with the recent release of the French edition of his book.

This will be Tablada's second visit to Canada. In the fall of 1989, he conducted a successful two-week tour from Halifax to Vancouver, speaking to about a thousand people at meetings in eight cities. His Canadian visit will be followed by a speaking tour in Europe in which he will address meetings in Britain, Sweden, France, and Belgium.

Carlos Tablada has received 37 letters of invitation from university and college departments, professors, student associations, trade unions, and from Cuban solidarity, antiapartheid, and other organizations across Canada. He has also been invited to address the January 19 meeting of the Vancouver and District Labour Council.

In addition to the various presentations that Tablada will give on campuses, city-wide meetings are organized in Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal by the local Pathfinder bookstores in collaboration with a range of individuals and forces including the Vancouver and District Labour Council, the African National Congress section in British Columbia, and the Jesuit Center and the Communist Party in Toronto.

Supporters of Pathfinder in Canada have launched a campaign to sell an additional 100 copies of Tablada's book in French, English, and Spanish by the end of his tour. Supporters who are members of several industrial trade unions have also set a goal of selling 47 copies of the pamphlet *Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism Today*, by Mary-Alice Waters. The pamphlet is available in French, Spanish, and English.

Individuals and organizations interested in helping to build the tour, or in more information on Tablada's speaking engagements, can contact the Pathfinder bookstore in their area (see page 12).

## Carlos Tablada tour schedule

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Nanaimo**  
Mon., Jan. 18  
12:00 Malaspina College

**Victoria**  
Mon., Jan. 18  
University of Victoria

**Vancouver**  
Tues., Jan. 19  
1:30 p.m. Simon Fraser University  
8:00 p.m. Vancouver and District Labour Council meeting

Wed., Jan. 20  
12:00 University of British Columbia, Woodward  
8:00 p.m. Vancouver City College, King Edward Campus

### ONTARIO

**Toronto**  
Fri., Jan. 22  
Sat., Jan. 23  
7:30 p.m. University of Toronto

Mon., Jan. 25  
1:00 p.m. Ontario Institute for Studies in Education  
York University

**Hamilton**  
Mon., Jan. 25  
7:00 p.m. McMaster University

**Ottawa**  
Tues., Jan. 26  
2:00 p.m. Carleton University

### QUEBEC

**Montreal**  
Wed., Jan. 27  
11:00 a.m. McGill University, Leacock 26  
4:30 p.m.

Fri., Jan. 29  
2:00 p.m. Cégep du Vieux-Montréal Room A-4.82

Sat., Jan. 30  
7:00 p.m. Centre St-Pierre

**Quebec City**  
Thurs., Jan. 28  
11:30 a.m. Laval University De Sève Hall  
7:30 p.m. Confederation of National Trade Union



# Canada farmers rally to defend livelihoods

BY HOWARD BROWN

NORTH BATTLEFORD, Saskatchewan — Some 3,000 farmers braved bitter cold to fill a hockey arena in this rural Canadian city December 17 in a rally to demand government action on the farm income crisis. The action followed on the heels of an outdoor rally of 500 in the neighboring town of Spiritwood a week earlier.

Depressed prices at the farm gate as a result of the international grain wars have combined with crop damage from heavy frost and a wet harvest here this fall to tighten the cost-price squeeze on farmers.

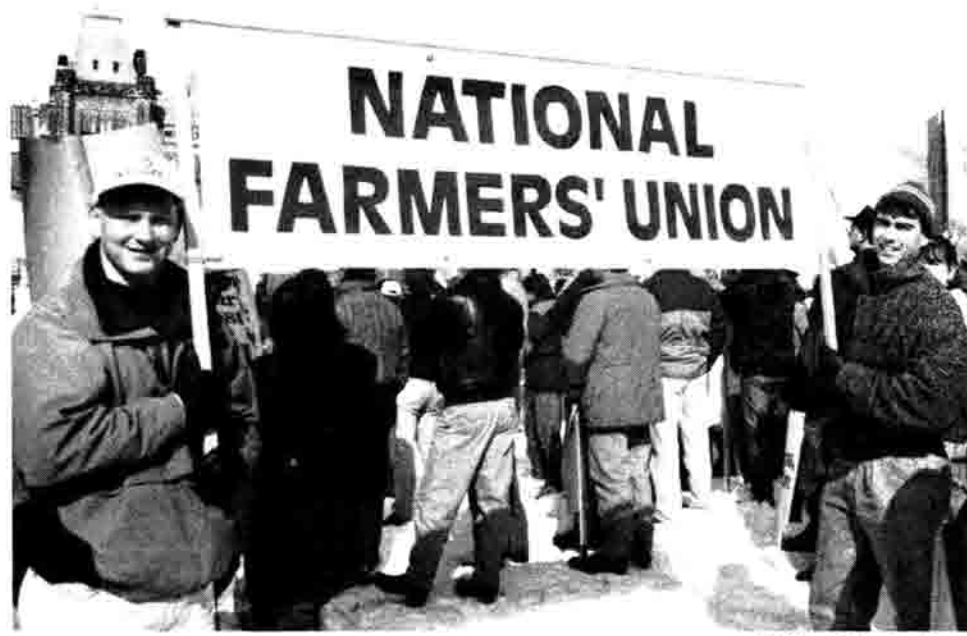
Policies introduced by the Tories in Ottawa and the New Democrats in Regina have compounded the crisis. Each is now scrambling to pass the buck to the other in diverting farmers' demands for relief.

A string of big farm rallies across Saskatchewan in the fall and early winter of 1991 produced a token \$800,000 payout from Ottawa. Farmers this year are "absolutely worse off" with frost- and snow-damaged crops, says Ken Arsenault, deputy reeve of the Rural Municipality of Medstead, one of the rally organizers.

"We've had a natural disaster which has lowered our incomes and we have programs provincially and federally funded that are not working."

## 'Money for helicopters,' not farmers

With both federal agriculture minister Bill McKnight and his provincial counterpart Darrel Cunningham set to address the rally, farmers came here looking for a cash commitment. But the ministers had nothing



Ten months after February protests in Ottawa (above), farmers face squeeze from depressed grain prices combined with severe effects of frost and wet harvest damage.

but rhetoric to offer, pleading that their own "debt crises" prohibited a payout to farmers.

Heat has been on the federal government from farm organizations to provide promised "third line of defense" funding, but, said McKnight, the federal cupboard is bare.

"You have money for helicopters," shouted one heckler, in reference to Ottawa's multi-billion dollar "defense" spending plans.

From a floor microphone another farmer contrasted federal politicians' lucrative pension plan to McKnight's pleas for farmer belt-tightening.

Cunningham, however, took the brunt of farmers' anger, with persistent boos and heckling punctuating his remarks.

Farm protest rallies in the fall of 1991 contributed to the defeat of the former provincial Tory government and election of the

social-democratic New Democratic Party (NDP) led by Roy Romanow. But one of the first initiatives of the new NDP administration was to cut benefits under the Gross Revenue Insurance Plan (GRIP), set up in the spring of 1991 and jointly funded with the federal government.

The NDP action sparked protest rallies of 1,000 or more in Regina and 2,000 at Shaunavon in the drought-prone southwest of the province last spring. At a demonstration of 400 at the opening of the provincial legislature, Berny Wiens, then NDP agriculture minister, was hung in effigy.

With the GRIP changes, farmers were required to pay higher premiums for lower insurance coverage. Now, in the midst of a crop disaster, farmers in Saskatchewan are receiving even lower payouts than farmers in Manitoba and Alberta, both governed by the Tories. GRIP parity with neighboring provinces was a recurring demand from the parade of farmers at the rally microphones.

However, neither the 1991 nor 1992 versions of GRIP provide the answer for farmers, argued Gil Pederson, a National Farmers Union activist from Cutknife. The NFU has opposed the widely unpopular GRIP because of its failure to ensure farmers their cost of production in allotting program payouts. The union has also called for a cap on GRIP to prevent big farmers from disproportionately reaping plan benefits.

## Farmers denounce cuts

Pederson aimed his fire at the federal Tories' 1988 abolition of the "two-price system" for wheat, which provided farmers a premium on the 10 percent of production sold domestically for human consumption. The program was eliminated as a consequence of the Canada-U.S. Trade Agreement, without either compensation to farmers or the least benefit to consumers.

Veteran farm activist Ted Strain of North Battleford was among farmers at the floor mikes who condemned the federal government for its cuts to the grain freight subsidy, the "Crow benefit," as part of a December 2 austerity package.

Strain also protested a federal initiative to remove exclusive Canadian Wheat Board jurisdiction over sales of barley into the U.S. market. Undermining the government marketing agency, to the disadvantage of smaller producers, has long been sought by monopoly grain traders and capitalist farmers.

## 'We got nothing here'

"I don't know what you're feeling, but I'm feeling like we got nothing here," said Paynton farmer Vicki Dutton, one of the day's organizers, bringing the crowd to its

Continued on Page 10

# Detroit meeting calls for labor party, but keeps 'America first' framework

BY CINDY JAQUITH

DETROIT — Two hundred people attended a December 5-6 conference here on "After the Elections — Where Does Labor Turn Now?" The gathering was cosponsored by Labor Party Advocates chapters in Detroit and Cleveland.

The majority of participants were members of trade unions, with the largest turnouts from the United Auto Workers (UAW), United Steelworkers of America (USWA), and Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW). Most came from locals in Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago, or Toledo. Many attending the gathering were officials or union staff members, but there were also rank-and-file unionists, including a group from a USWA local at the LTV plant in Cleveland and two members of USWA Local 5668, which waged the recent successful strike in Ravenswood, West Virginia.

Labor Party Advocates (LPA) was founded in 1991 and is led by Anthony Mazzocchi, former secretary-treasurer of OCAW and currently a presidential assistant in the union.

LPA organizers describe the group as an organizing committee for "an independent party of working people." The LPA is made up of dues-paying members. The majority of those attending the conference here were LPA members.

The idea of a political party that is independent from the Democrats and Republicans and their antilabor policies certainly attracts the attention of workers who hear about it. That was the case with this gathering. It was held in an airport hotel, and a number of airline workers on layover approached the registration table to find out more about the discussion.

## No real break from two-party system

But the LPA is not in fact a break with the decades of collaboration by union officials with the two-party system of the Democrats and Republicans. This was confirmed by the December 5-6 conference.

The conference format was a series of panels featuring union officials and a few professors.

Held as the first U.S. marines were on their way to Somalia, the conference never took up military intervention, much less came out in opposition to it.

The only panelist at the conference who raised any perspective of labor in the United States uniting with working people in other

parts of the world was Baldemar Velásquez, president of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), which is based in the Midwest. Velásquez criticized "labor officials in Washington" for what he called "Mexican bashing" in relation to the North American Free Trade Agreement between the governments of the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Velásquez called for a different approach to the question of the employers' attempts to divide U.S. and Mexican workers and deepen competition between them. He pointed to FLOC's efforts to join with workers at Campbells in Mexico in their fight for a better union contract, a step he said strengthened FLOC's hand here in the United States against the soup giant.

During the discussion, USWA Local 1358 member Candace Wagner, who works at Whittar Steel in Detroit, underscored Velásquez's remarks and said that labor should side neither with the free trade nor the protectionist wings of big business, but rather "seek ways to unite working people across borders against the employers' attacks worldwide."

None of the LPA organizers nor any other panel speakers chose to address Velásquez's comments. An LPA recruitment brochure available at the conference echoed the "America first" arguments of both Democrats and Republicans, bemoaning the fact that "the market share of U.S. corporations is down."

Panelists and those recognized to speak from the floor stated that they favored the formation of a labor party independent of the Democrats and Republicans but avoided discussing what its program would be.

## No discussion on labor struggles today

There were many suggestions on tactics — whether to run candidates now, convene a national conference, etc. — but no speakers raised any of the recent examples of labor resistance that point in the direction of the transformation of the labor movement needed to make a labor party a reality. James Gibbs, president of United Mine Workers of America Local 2490 in Virginia, briefly mentioned the Pittston strike. But no mention was made of the recent string of GM strikes, the Caterpillar strike, or the strike by USWA members at Trinity Industries in Alabama. Nor did any of the panelists speak about labor's response to the police murder of Malice

Green, an unemployed steelworker in Detroit, whose murder has evoked outrage among working people.

The final session of the conference was a talk by Anthony Mazzocchi. He devoted his remarks to explaining why the LPA should have no political program at this time, because, he said, it would be "undemocratic" to develop a program before a founding convention of the group takes place. He predicted such a convention might occur in late 1994.

Cindy Jaquith is a member of Local 26 of the United Food and Commercial Workers union and works at the Thorn Apple Valley Deli and Smoked Meats plant in Detroit.

# Atlanta area textile unionists and supporters picket Goody's stores

BY SUSAN LaMONT AND ALICIA MEREL

ATLANTA — On the last Saturday in November and the first three Saturdays in December, members and officials of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) from several locals in and around Atlanta leafleted and picketed two Goody's clothing stores in the area. Goody's, a discount clothing chain with many stores in the southeast, has been targeted by the union because of the company's refusal to negotiate seriously with ACTWU, which represents several hundred Goody's employees at the company's distribution center in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Last January, workers at the Knoxville distribution center voted to join ACTWU. Since then, however, the company has been stonewalling the union.

Union leaflets explain that Goody's Family Clothing made more than \$10 million in profits in 1991 and opened 20 new stores in 1992. But workers at the distribution center average only \$5.25 an hour and must pay over \$2,000 a year for family health insurance.

The response from holiday shoppers to the picket lines was very positive. Most were unaware of the harsh conditions faced by Goody's workers. "Yes, I'm union. I won't shop there anymore," was a common response. Others thanked the pickets for the information. "They don't treat their custom-

ers too good either," added one woman, laughing.

Several Goody's store workers also were glad to see the pickets. Only a few antiunion comments were heard. The first picket line at Goody's in Douglasville received front-page coverage in the *Douglasville Sentinel*.

ACTWU members from Arrow Shirt Company in Austell; Kuppenheimer's in Loganville; and Calvin's Manufacturing in Tallapoosa participated in the picket lines. Unionists from the Communications Workers of America, Service Employees International Union, and United Steelworkers of America also turned out. At the December 19 picket line at the Goody's in Covington, an energetic group of students from Morehouse College also participated.

At the picket lines in Douglasville and Covington, Goody's management called in the police, who forced pickets to move away from the front of the stores and out of the parking lots. This didn't dampen the pickets' spirits, however.

The union is planning further activities to put pressure on Goody's, following the successful holiday leafleting campaign.

Susan LaMont is a member of ACTWU Local 365 at Arrow Shirt Company in Austell, GA. Alicia Merel is a member of ACTWU Local 2490 at Kuppenheimer's in Loganville, GA.



# Some antiwar figures lend credibility to Somalia intervention

BY MARTIN KOPPEL

A range of pacifist and other political forces that opposed previous U.S. wars are supporting Washington's present takeover of Somalia, accepting the humanitarian pretext given for the intervention. Others, while opposing a "unilateral" U.S. invasion, have called for foreign military intervention under the United Nations' banner.

The Rev. William Sloane Coffin, who opposed U.S. wars from Vietnam to the Persian Gulf, now backs the marines in Somalia. "Moral isolation is simply not a defensible position for those opposed to war," he said. "There is great anguish and confusion. We are groping for some kind of legitimate police action on an international scale."

Coffin also favors such a "police action" to intervene in the former Yugoslavia.

Pax Christi, a Catholic-church-based pacifist group, similarly backs the U.S.-led invasion of Somalia, with the qualification that the troops be placed under UN command.

Another pacifist organization, the War Resisters League, distributed a leaflet for a December 22 vigil at the United Nations entitled "Save Somalia, Save Bosnia." While not explicitly calling for troops, it demanded, "Insure the safety of aid shipments and relief workers," the very justification presented by the U.S. government to send in the marines. The rally also raised the demand to "enforce UN sanctions" in the former Yugoslavia. This is the cover being used by Washington and other imperialist powers to escalate their military intervention in the Balkans.

A statement by War Resisters League leader David McReynolds, condemning "unilateral U.S. action," called for U.S. troops to be withdrawn from Somalia in favor of some unspecified "international action" in that country.

## UN intervention?

In an article in the January 2 *New York Amsterdam News*, political activist Samori Markman notes, "The U.S. move into Somalia is an attempt to secure a permanent strategic position to enable it to exercise leverage over its imperial allies, on the one hand, and to contain what it sees as the rise of a new threat against U.S. imperial interests."

Markman's conclusion, however, is to oppose "the U.S.'s unilateral intervention"

and instead support "a genuine international military force, democratically determined and controlled by a United Nations multinational general command, which would ensure the adequate policing of the food distribution."

All these organizations and individuals accept the false premise that the U.S. government or the United Nations can play a positive role in the world — if not always, at least this time.

The U.S. troops, however, are not in Somalia to feed hungry people. Their purpose is to impose a stable client regime that will guarantee corporate profits and make the country a possible launching pad for future U.S. military aggression in this vital region.

The U.S. rulers also seek to establish their "right to intervene." Supporters of U.S.- or UN-sponsored intervention in Somalia only give credence to future imperialist aggressions in Bosnia and elsewhere.

The wealthy U.S. rulers couldn't care less about thousands of human beings starving to death. They are the ones who imposed a cold-blooded embargo on the people of Iraq — reaffirmed by the UN Security Council in November — that since 1990 has claimed the lives of tens of thousands of Iraqi men, women, and children from starvation and disease. Washington has used "humanitarian" arguments as a cover for all its wars and invasions, including Grenada, Panama, Iraq, and now Somalia and Bosnia.

Is the United Nations a more humanitarian alternative to Washington's forces? A recent article in the right-wing magazine *National Review* gave the blunt answer.

## Twin Cities meeting debates Somalia invasion

BY JON HILLSON

MINNEAPOLIS — Washington's invasion of Somalia has prompted debate here among a wide array of political activists who have previously opposed U.S. military intervention abroad.

A December 17 meeting was sponsored by the Mayday Bookstore and Women Against Military Madness. Nearly 120 people participated, including student and youth activists, organizers of Central America and South Africa solidarity activities, other longtime foes of U.S. interven-



Marine harassing a Somali in Mogadishu. U.S. troops are not in Somalia to feed hungry people but to impose a stable client regime.

"Nothing can now be done by the UN in the world unless the United States approves of it," writes *National Review* editor John Sullivan. "But the U.S. can do a great deal more in the world if it has the blessing of the UN." As a result, "the role of the UN is to give respectable camouflage to U.S. foreign policy for the benefit of American liberal opinion."

## Need solidarity, not salvation

Is it true that some outside force has to come to the rescue of the Somali people? The famine in that country was not caused by the Somali people but by the very imperialists who now pose as saviors. More than a century of colonial and imperialist rule has plundered Somalia's natural resources and blocked its economic development.

It was Washington that over the last decade funneled nearly \$1 billion in weapons and aid to prop up the hated dictatorship of Mohammed Siad Barre, who after devasta-

ting the country was overthrown in early 1991.

The working people of Somalia are not simply helpless suffering victims. They are capable of acting in defense of their interests and have proven so repeatedly. Over the decades they successfully fought the British and Italian colonial rulers, united their country, and more recently resisted the Siad Barre tyranny. By the time Washington landed its troops, Somali farmers and workers were fighting their way out of the worst of the famine.

What the people of Somalia need is not salvation. They need solidarity from fellow workers and farmers around the world. Working people in the United States can help by demanding the U.S. government get all its troops out of Somalia now and send massive shipments of food.

Washington should also be pressed to cancel Somalia's debt to international banks and to open its doors to refugees from Somalia and other countries in the region.

tion, and a number of Somalis.

One of the three panelists, Abdi Samatar, a professor at the University of Minnesota and a Somali, denounced the European colonial plunder of his country. He noted Washington's historically reactionary role in the Horn of Africa.

But despite other political motives the Bush administration might have, Samatar said, Washington is "simply paying back a portion of what they owe the Somali people" with its military deployment and armed food convoys. He said military intervention is the

only way to get food to Somalis and to stop "hoodlums stealing food."

Tamrat Tademe, a professor at St. Cloud State University and an Ethiopian, told the audience that Washington's humanitarian pose was hypocritical.

"These are the same forces that killed 4,000 Panamanians in the name of humanitarianism, that slaughtered 200,000 of my Iraqi brothers and sisters. The U.S. intervention is like the convicted rapist opening a sexual abuse clinic," Tademe said.

Nonetheless, Tademe said, "since I believe in self-determination, I must defer to my Somali brothers and sisters. We cannot argue against the troops because they are already there."

August Nimtz, a member of the Socialist Workers Party, called for the "immediate, unconditional withdrawal of the U.S. troops from Somalia."

The U.S. invasion, cloaked in the rhetoric of humanitarianism, Nimtz said, aims to convince working people of Washington's right "to use its military muscle worldwide to shore up its crisis-wracked economic system."

Its immediate goal in Somalia is a stable, pro-U.S. regime and military staging area in this strategic region.

"The imperialists have known for years about famine in Africa," Nimtz declared. "Their economic system creates famine. We should demand the troops get out of Somalia and that food, in massive amounts, stays."

In the discussion that followed, a few activists argued that any support to the invasion by foes of intervention would help soften up public opinion for U.S. military aggression elsewhere, from Bosnia to Iraq.

A number of others contended that the demand for withdrawal of the troops is "abstract" and "academic" since mass starvation is under way in Somalia and U.S. troops are bringing in food.

Several said that they believed a potentially progressive United Nations was being "misused" by the United States.

On December 12, 40 people, including a number of college students, attended a Militant Labor Forum on the invasion of Somalia where many similar questions were discussed.

## U.S. extends scope of Somalia occupation

Continued from front page

[U.S. military] operation has broadened," admitted the December 31 *New York Times*, which has hailed the intervention from the very beginning.

Of course, this get-tough disarmament policy does not include the leaders of the major warring gangs who are being allowed by U.S. officials to retain control of their huge arms caches.

In fact, the U.S. invasion has actually led to intensified fighting among the warring gangs as each vies to reassert its military strength in the hope of getting the political nod from Washington.

In the southern port city of Kismayo, gang leader Col. Omar Jess of the Somali Patriotic Movement moved to reinforce his military control of that city prior to the arrival of U.S. troops by massacring as many as 200 opponents. Several days later Jess warmly welcomed U.S. special envoy Robert Oakley, who on December 19 paid a special visit to this gang leader in order to help smooth the entry of U.S. troops into the city.

## Stepped-up political intervention

According to the *Washington Post*, U.S. State Department officials have been quietly stepping up their political intervention into the country. They've been conducting what are euphemistically described as "town meeting"-style sessions throughout Somalia.

U.S. forces have also been setting up what

they call "interim security councils" in various towns that they hope can be transformed into governing groups.

In addition to starting up a radio station, the U.S. military also produces a newspaper called *Hope*.

Currently there are almost 20,000 U.S. troops in Somalia with another 7,500 troops from at least 17 other countries. The non-U.S. troop strength is expected to go "substantially over 10,000" according to U.S. Maj. Gen. Waldo Freeman. Initially, Washington planned to send 28,000 U.S. troops to Somalia but has now decided to scale this back by 4,000.

## Planning for UN occupation force

"We're beginning to actually plan for how the UN would come in to replace us," stated Lieut. Gen. Robert Johnston who is in charge of the overall Somalia operation.

Hopes for beginning to put this in place is focused on the January 4-5 UN-sponsored conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which will include heads of the various Somali warring factions. No U.S. officials are scheduled to attend as they claim they don't want to be so directly involved in the country's political restructuring.

The Pentagon hopes to start withdrawing some of the U.S. troops by the end of January with plans for the non-U.S. troops to form the basis of an ongoing UN occupation force that will remain indefinitely. However,

a sizable number of U.S. troops are expected to remain in Somalia for at least the next year.

Meanwhile, marines on the ground in Somalia continue to be surprised that what they are actually seeing contradicts what the military brass told them to expect. "We didn't expect to see camels and cornfields," said 23-year-old infantryman Charles Fox.

"We've seen all these pictures in magazines that show the horror of Somalia," stated Staff Sgt. Michael McClung. "We've been to Mogadishu, Baidoa, and now Bardera. People look definitely poor, but they're not lying around lethargically dying. We were wondering where these people were."

Many of the Somalis at the same time are becoming less intimidated by Washington's massive military presence. "During the first 15 days" after U.S. troops arrived, explained Cedric Piralla, head of the Red Cross in Mogadishu, "the Somalis were definitely impressed with this huge deployment of forces. But now they are much more confident."

Some Somalis have even been singling out Black marines to give them a piece of their mind. The December 27 *New York Times* reports, "Cpl. Kerry Freeman, a 22-year-old rifleman from Sandersville, Ga., said Somalis had lectured him about the mistreatment of Blacks in America. They would 'tell me all about how Blacks got to America as slaves,' he said."



# Framed-up unionist is 'a dangerous man'

## Major Cuban newspaper explains facts in Curtis case and his fight for justice

The following article appeared in the November 21, 1992, issue of *Ahora!*, the newspaper for the province of Holguín in Cuba.

BY REYNALDO LÓPEZ

I have just learned of Mark Curtis. He is seated facing the federal judge of Des Moines, Iowa. They accuse him of rape and illegal entry. He does not appear nervous. He answers the charges without blinking. His gaze is sure. He is wearing a beige suit. He has curly hair. The courtroom is not full. Those closest to him are the defense attorneys William Kutmus and George Eichorn, and a uniformed policeman who is fat and over six feet tall.

Mark Curtis's nightmare began on March 4, 1988. That day, at 8:30 p.m., he was with some co-workers at the Los Compadres bar and restaurant on the other side of town. After leaving, he went home, picked up the paycheck of his wife Kate Kaku, called a couple of friends, and was driving to a store.

Along the way a young Black woman stopped him, said she was in danger, and asked him to drive her to her house nearby. Less than two minutes later he was arrested on the porch of the house by police officer Joseph González, who dragged him inside the house, handcuffed him, pulled down his pants, and accused him of a sexual assault.

### Beaten by police

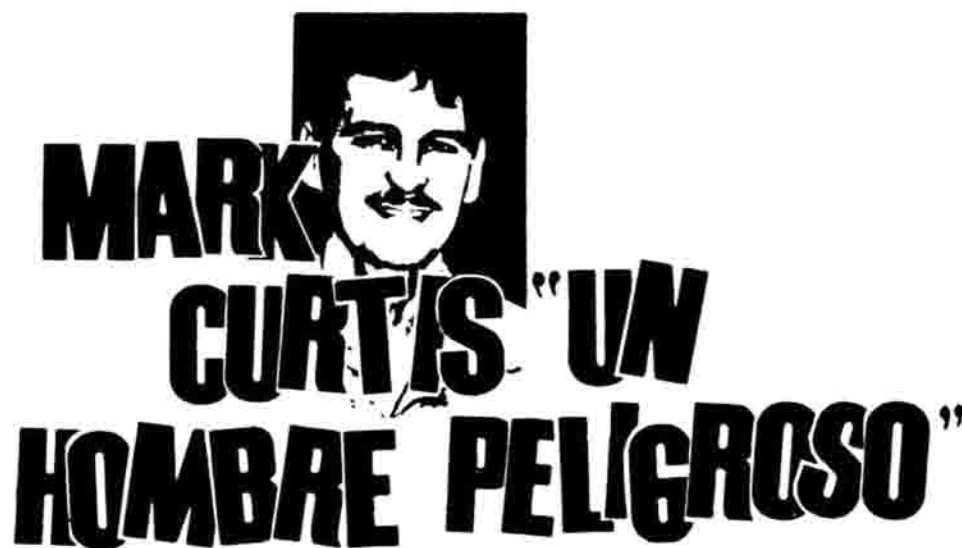
He was savagely beaten in the Des Moines jail by police officers Charles Wolf and Daniel Dusenberry. Wolf put his knee down with all his might on Mark Curtis's face. He smashed his knee three times into the left eye of the 29-year-old young man. Dusenberry kicked him twice in the groin. The supposed rapist was left semiconscious. Under his left eye was a wound bleeding profusely. He was in pain, suffering serious bruises in the abdomen and face, where he was wounded, and a fracture under his left eye.

On January 31 of this year, federal judge Charles Wollé ruled that both officers used excessive force against Mark Curtis and violated his constitutional rights when they beat him in the jail cell. This was his first big legal victory in his four-year fight for justice.

Mark was a worker in the meat-packing industry, and a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW). He fought to defend 17 immigrant co-workers who were arrested by immigration authorities on March 1, 1988.

Weeks before his arrest he participated in a protest against police racism in a nearby community.

His political record shows that he was among the young people of the United States opposed to the U.S. war against Nicaragua and Washington's support for the military government of El Salvador. He was an activist in the Committee in Solidarity



Headline for article in 'Ahora,' a Cuban paper, reads: "Mark Curtis 'a dangerous man.'"

with the People of El Salvador in Birmingham, Alabama.

He also helped organize demonstrations in defense of the rights of women and against apartheid. He was national coordinator of the Young Socialist Alliance and has been a fighter for social justice for many years.

Among the numerous activities Curtis was involved in was a work stoppage in the factory where he worked. There he spoke in Spanish, appealing to the union to use its power of organization to win the freedom of the arrested co-workers.

### Curtis is 'a dangerous man'

Mark Curtis became "a dangerous man" for the ruling families in Des Moines. This is one of the secrets why it was necessary to neutralize the "trouble maker" who was well known for his defense of the rights of workers on his job, where they had tried to fire him for insisting on his right to medical attention when he hurt his back.

Demetria Morris, a 19-year-old university student, holds that Mark Curtis is the perpetrator of the rape.

She testified that she was assaulted at the time when one of her favorite television programs began, at 8 p.m. — a time when the alleged aggressor was with a group of

co-workers at the Los Compadres bar-restaurant.

The description she offered of the attacker and other details raise serious questions about what really happened that night. Nothing she described identifies Mark Curtis as her aggressor.

She stated that the person who assaulted her was of the same height she was; Curtis is 12 inches taller. That he wore a belt; he did not wear one. That his breath smelled of cigarette smoke; he has never smoked. She says that the attack was long and violent; that she fought with him on the floor of the porch. She says that the porch was dirty and full of dog hairs. After a forensic examination of Curtis and his clothing, no hairs were found, nor dirt from the porch, nor was there any evidence that would link him to an attack against the young Black woman.

Demetria Morris was not the prosecution's principal witness at the trial. Nor even was her brother, who called the police to report that someone was attacking Demetria. The prosecution's case was based on the testimony of the arresting police officer, Joseph González, who testified that he grabbed Curtis in the act of raping Morris. He stated that Curtis tried to escape by running inside the house with his pants be-

low his knees.

Mark said at his trial that police officer González began the frame up on rape charges when he planted evidence against him by grabbing him inside the house and pulling down his pants.

### Police frame-up

For a similar incident, Joseph González was suspended from the police department for lying and for police brutality. However, permission was denied to present this to the jury. Permission was even denied Curtis's attorneys to see the police record of the officer and present it at the trial.

Curtis was also denied the right to tell the jury that during the night of his arrest he was beaten by the police. They did not permit him to explain that the police knew he was a political activist, as was shown by the fact that while they were beating him, they called him "a Mexican lover, just like you love Blacks."

There is no doubt that Mark Curtis was severely attacked and that false charges of rape were fabricated by the Des Moines police as a result of his political activity. He has now served over three and a half years of prison. He has been in five prisons, among them Anamosa, where he was elected secretary of the Martin Luther King Organization, and at John Bennett.

I continue to review the documents, looking for more details on the life of this 33-year-old young man. Throughout the world, a powerful movement in solidarity has arisen. I have also learned about it through Mary-Alice Waters and Martín Koppel, two U.S. journalists who did not stop talking about Mark Curtis during their stay in Holguín.

I did not miss a single detail of the video "The Frame-up of Mark Curtis." The room was not full, just like the courtroom was awaiting the arrival of the federal judge. Then he arrived. He sat down, and announced the sentence: "25 years of prison for the defendant."

Mark's breathing is slow and regular. He does not show fear. . . . But he knows that the sentence issued by the court is a parody of U.S. justice. That he is innocent. That he is yet another victim of the Yankee judicial system.

## Immigrant workers win case in Seattle

BY HILDA CUZCO

SEATTLE — After a two-week trial, a federal jury acquitted two immigrant workers here December 16 who faced serious charges brought by agents of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). The two facing charges, Oscar Uceda-Carcamo, a Salvadoran refugee who worked for the Washington Association of Churches Cen-

tral American Refugee Program (CARP), and Miguel Orozco-Delgado, a Mexican refugee who was an employee of the Northwest Immigrant Legal Services (NILS), were actively involved in providing assistance to refugees from Central America.

This victory, which the *Seattle Times* called "a rare setback for the government," was celebrated at the Committee for Justice for Orozco and Carcamo headquarters after the verdict. At the gathering, Orozco and Carcamo thanked everyone for their support and outreach work that made it possible.

"It is not the attorneys' victory, this is not my victory or Miguel's victory, it is everybody's victory," Carcamo said to dozens of supporters who attended the celebration. His wife Elisa recounted that when, following the verdict, they approached the jurors to thank them, one, in response, said, "No, thank you for helping our community."

The defense committee members felt that the presence of many supporters in the courtroom during the trial aided the acquittal. Among those supporters who attended the trial were farmworkers and members of the International Association of Machinists at Alaska Airlines.

In August 1991, armed INS agents raided the offices of CARP. They carted off documents and files and announced a wide-ranging investigation of CARP and NILS.

One year later, the government indicted Orozco and Carcamo, claiming they falsified documents for Salvadoran refugees who sought to stay in the United States under a special program known as Temporary Protected Status. Protests and lawsuits forced Washington to grant this status to Salvadorans fleeing the bloody civil war caused

by the U.S.-backed regime in El Salvador.

Orozco and Carcamo faced prison sentences up to 35 years, fines over \$1 million, and deportation from the United States.

The INS has used the 1991 raid on CARP and the lengthy investigation to harass and intimidate both refugees and workers at refugee assistance programs.

INS agents forced refugees to testify against the two through intimidation. The November 11 *Seattle Times* described how this was done:

"In the interview, José Ramírez Rauda, speaking through an interpreter, said that in return for his cooperation, the agents promised to give him a 'green card' and permit his family, including his four young sons, to emigrate from El Salvador to the U.S. But if Rauda did not cooperate with the government, the agents threatened to deport his wife to El Salvador and take away his employment permit."

At a press conference after the verdict, the Rev. John Boonstra, Director of the Washington Association of Churches, called this intimidation tactic "ethically appalling, legally wrong, and socially unacceptable."

On November 16, defying the late afternoon steady rain, friends and supporters of the Committee for Justice for Orozco and Carcamo held a rally on the steps of the U.S. Courthouse. This was the first public meeting organized by the activists. Showing enthusiasm, they carried picket signs and circulated petitions. They also organized candlelight vigils the first and last day of the trial, and a fundraising benefit. The committee has scheduled a next meeting to discuss how to counter INS attacks on immigrant rights.

### Literature available from the Mark Curtis Defense Committee

**The Frame-up of Mark Curtis** by Margaret Jayko. This pamphlet tells the story of Mark Curtis, a unionist and fighter for immigrant rights, who is serving a 25-year sentence in an Iowa prison on trumped-up rape charges. 71 pp., \$5. Order from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. (Please include \$3 for postage and handling.)

**Why Working People Should Join the Fight to Free Mark Curtis** by Harvey McArthur. Presents clear and convincing answers to the campaign of slanders that aim to justify the frame up of Mark Curtis. 24 pp. \$1.

**State of Iowa v. Mark Stanton Curtis.** Transcript of September 1988 trial that found Curtis guilty of sexual assault and burglary. 446 pp. \$30.

**The Stakes in the Worldwide Political Campaign to Defend Mark Curtis** by John Gage. A pamphlet that explains the political background to Curtis's case, the frame-up, and unfair trial. 25 pp. \$1.

**The Frame-up of Mark Curtis**, a VHS video produced by Hollywood director Nick Castle. This effective 49-minute documentary has clips from TV news broadcasts on Curtis's fight for justice; scenes from the trial; and interviews with Curtis, his wife Kate Kaku, and others. This video is available for the cost of reproduction and shipping. \$15.

For these and other materials (including in Spanish) write or call the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, IA 50311. Phone (515) 246-1695. Bulk quantities are available. Payments should accompany orders and checks can be made out to Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Please allow 2 weeks for delivery.



# Curtis wins support at Asian conference

BY FELICITY COGGAN

NEW DELHI, India — The fight for justice for political and union activist Mark Curtis won new support from participants attending the recently held 12th General Conference of the Asian Students Association here.

The conference took place in the context of a police mobilization and crackdown on democratic rights as the Indian government responded — with mass arrests, curfews, and the banning of five political organizations — to the December 6 destruction of the Ayodhya mosque.

Many of the young fighters, who came to the conference from 23 countries in Asia, are themselves involved in campaigns for human rights — from fighting for the release of East Timor independence fighter Xanana Gusmao, arrested by the Indonesian military, to exposing the continuing repression of the rights of the Indian population by the Rabuka government in Fiji. They were keen to learn more about Curtis's case from supporters of the Mark Curtis defense campaign attending the conference.

Two members of the Burma Students League, Ko Myo and vice-president Kyaw Kyaw Htut, endorsed the case. As political refugees from the repressive Myanmar (formerly Burma) military government, they are campaigning for the release from house arrest of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize while under arrest in November, 1991, she is currently on a hunger strike.

Gopal Siwakoti, program director for the Institute for Human Rights, Environment, and Development International (INHURED) in Nepal, who also signed on as an endorser of the Curtis defense campaign, saw it as related to the struggles in his country. Siwakoti has been an active opponent of human-rights abuses in Nepal and

India, and is convenor of Group 3 of Amnesty International in Nepal. He pledged to publicize the Mark Curtis case widely.

The new Nepali Congress government that came to power in 1991 after the first elections in 31 years is not acting promptly to protect human rights, Siwakoti explained in an article titled "Human Rights Situation after Democratic Change" which was circulated at the conference. The new constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal has shortcomings affecting fundamental human rights, he says. The conditions in police custody have remained "inhuman and degrading."

On April 24, 1992, police fired on a crowd of demonstrators protesting soaring prices, corruption, and the sale of natural resources to India. Dozens were killed and hundreds injured. Nepal is now facing a series of protests because of the failure of the present government to meet the needs of the people.

Tamil lawyer in the High Court of Madras, India, and coordinator of the Democratic Lawyers Forum, Chandra Sekaran, also endorsed Curtis's case and was interested in bringing the fight to the attention of others.

"Please convey my solidarity and revolutionary democratic wishes to the family of Curtis," Sekaran said. "I've gone through the materials. The procedure taken by the court of law was unscientific and pre-motivated."

The vice-president and international officer of the General Union of Palestinian Students, Dr. Ibrahim Khraishi, also endorsed the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, as did two young women from the All-India Students Association.

*Felicity Coggan is a member of the Meatworkers Union in Wellington, New Zealand.*

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## FEBRUARY 1965 THE FINAL SPEECHES

By Malcolm X. Speeches from the last three weeks of Malcolm X's life presenting the accelerating evolution of his political views. A large part is material previously unavailable, with some in print for the first time. \$17.95 (special Readers Club offer, \$13.50)

## BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY

By Malcolm X. Speeches tracing the evolution of Malcolm X's views on political alliances, intermarriage, women's rights, capitalism and socialism, and more. \$15.95 (special Readers Club offer, \$12.00)

# Spanish-language book by Malcolm X to be published

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

A new Pathfinder book of speeches by Malcolm X in Spanish will be available this month. *Habla Malcolm X* (Malcolm X Speaks) is the most extensive collective of speeches by the revolutionary leader that has been published in Spanish to date.

Pathfinder, the main publisher of Malcolm X's works, produced the 230-page book in response to the growing interest in Malcolm X's ideas among Spanish-speaking working people and youth inside the United States, throughout Latin America, and elsewhere. This book replaces a Spanish-language Pathfinder pamphlet of Malcolm X speeches published in 1984.

*Habla Malcolm X* brings together 19 speeches, interviews, and statements by Malcolm X from the last year and a half of his life. It includes major speeches ranging from the November 1963 "Message to the Grass Roots," one of the last Malcolm gave while still a member of the Nation of Islam, to a speech he presented in Rochester, New York, just five days before his assassination on Feb. 21, 1965.

Among them are speeches in Ghana and Britain, as well as several he gave in New York at rallies of the Organization of Afro-American Unity — launched by Malcolm X in June 1964 — and at three meetings sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum.

In these speeches and interviews, readers will find Malcolm's views — in his own

words — on a number of important questions, such as the fight against racist oppression, the need for organized self-defense against racist terror gangs, the conflicts that led to his being driven out of the Nation of Islam in early 1964, and his opposition to U.S. military intervention in Vietnam and the Congo.

Readers will also follow the development of Malcolm's views on women's rights, political alliances in the fight against oppression and exploitation, mixed marriages, and capitalism and socialism, among other questions.

Many of these works have appeared in English in *Malcolm X Speaks*, *By Any Means Necessary*, and *Malcolm X Talks to Young People*, all published by Pathfinder.

*Habla Malcolm X* includes two additional items as an appendix. One is a talk by Jack Barnes, then national secretary of the Young Socialist Alliance on Malcolm X's political legacy given shortly after his assassination. The other is a first-hand account of Malcolm X's meeting in September 1960 with Fidel Castro in Harlem, when the Cuban revolutionary leader was in New York to speak at the United Nations.

The book contains an introduction by Steve Clark, which is an expanded version of the introduction to the new edition of *By Any Means Necessary*.

It also includes eight pages of attractive photographs, a preface, a useful chronology of Malcolm's life, extensive footnotes, and a thorough index of names and subjects. All the speeches by Malcolm X are newly translated.

Initial prepublication sales indicate that the book will be in demand among Spanish-speaking workers and youth. Advance orders from commercial bookstore chains have already surpassed 1,100 copies.

*Habla Malcolm X*, which costs \$17.95, can be ordered from Pathfinder, 410 West Street, New York, NY 10014. It will soon be available at local Pathfinder bookstores, whose addresses are listed on page 12.

## 'Militant' Prisoner Subscription Fund

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.





# A Marxist view of the roots of anti-Semitism

The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation, by Abram Leon, 270 pp. New York: Pathfinder Press, 1970. \$16.95

BY IKE NAHEM

Propaganda and violence against Jews have been important ideological and political components of reactionary movements throughout the entire epoch of capitalism and imperialism.

The opening stage of a worldwide capitalist depression in the 1990s has deepened social polarization. Accompanying the growth of rightist political currents has been a

## IN REVIEW

rise in anti-Jewish activities in the United States, France, Germany, and other countries.

The Pathfinder Press title, *The Jewish Question: A Marxist Interpretation*, by Abram Leon, is indispensable for historical and political clarity on a question that has long been subject to mystification. It should be read by every thinking revolutionary-minded worker and young fighter.

*The Jewish Question* explains the reasons for the historical patterns of anti-Semitism and where it fits into class struggles under capitalism. It underlines the political utility of Jew-hatred, if it gains popular support, for the ruling classes to divert and derail the struggles of workers, farmers, and the "small" people of the towns and cities, as well as the political stake for the working class and revolutionary movement in combating it.

Leon's accomplishment in producing what is the only systematic and comprehensive materialist account of Jewish history and survival is all the more remarkable when the conditions the book was written under are noted.

### Under Nazi occupation

Abram Leon was a Polish Jew and central leader of the communist movement in Belgium — led internationally by Leon Trotsky — from the age of 23 in 1941 until he died in a gas chamber in Auschwitz in 1944. Belgium was under Nazi occupation at the time. During this same period Leon gathered the materials and wrote the manuscript of this Marxist classic.

*The Jewish Question* covers a span of history from the Roman empire to World War II in a fully documented manner, with a sharp and lively style. Leon rejected the common theories that explain Jewish survival over the ages as devotion to religion and nationality.

The starting point for Leon is the economic and social position of the Jews. From ancient society through the Middle Ages the Jews were overwhelmingly engaged in trade and all the financial activities that accompany commercial exchange. In this period, "The Jews constitute historically a social group with a specific economic function. They are a class, or more precisely, a people-class," he writes.

Sections of Judaism that held occupations outside the separate class position of the bulk of Jews — if they were farmers or owners of land — generally assimilated into the surrounding societies, converting to Christianity or Islam.

With the growth of trade and commerce in the valleys of the Euphrates and the Nile, Jews established themselves



Right-wing skinheads at January 1992 demonstration in Germany. Opening stages of worldwide capitalist depression has spurred the growth of rightist political currents, one of whose focuses is scapegoating Jews for the crisis.

as a commercial trader class — merchants, sailors, brokers, lenders of money — in a larger society utterly dominated by agricultural production for immediate consumption (use values) as opposed to production for trade (exchange values).

In the transition from slave to feudal society the economic and social role of the Jews carried over and developed, as did antagonism toward them. Leon writes, "The cause of ancient anti-Semitism is the same as for medieval anti-Semitism: the antagonism toward the merchant in every society based principally on the production of use values. . . . The hostility of classes that live from the land toward trade does not eliminate their dependence upon the latter. The landowner hates and despises the merchant but he cannot get along without him."

With the deepening of economic decay under feudalism, the importance of the commercial role of the Jews grew. "In the Tenth Century, they constituted the sole economic link between Europe and Asia," Leon notes. With large-scale capitalist industrial development the Jews in western Europe began to be pushed out of their economic and social positions and were subjected to violent persecution and massacre.

### Mass Jewish emigration

Over the next centuries the Jews were expelled and virtually eliminated from most western European countries where capitalist development was most advanced.

At first, there was mass Jewish emigration to eastern Europe where capitalist relations were much more backward, with the largest numbers concentrated in Poland and Russia. By the end of the nineteenth century there was large-scale Jewish emigration from eastern Europe to the United States and the western hemisphere, and an influx back into western Europe.

In this period, under all the pressures from the whip of capitalist development, the historic Jewish people-class began to break down and social and class differentiations developed in every area the Jews were concentrated. This included the creation of a Jewish proletariat, mainly of the artisan type, in the consumer goods industries. Leon thoroughly documents this dynamic from the nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries.

Since *The Jewish Question* was written, there have been changes in the conditions of Jewish existence in the world today, starting with the fact of the extermination of six million European Jews in the Nazi death camps during World War II and the subsequent establishment of Israel as a "Jewish state" in 1948.

The Jewish question is not withering away internationally or in the United States as a political question. As the economic crisis worldwide deepens, capitalist forces will increasingly attempt to scapegoat Jews and promote anti-Semitism.

*The Jewish Question* is a valuable book to understand the roots of anti-Semitism and politics in today's world.

## Australia Communist League: Troops out of Somalia!

Below are excerpts from a campaign statement by candidates of the Communist League in Australia: Ron Poulsen for Senate from New South Wales, Marnie Kennedy for House of Representatives from Grayndler, and Manuele Lasalo for House of Representatives from Sydney.

\* \* \*

Hiding behind the cover of a "humanitarian mission" by the United Nations to bring food and aid to famine-stricken people, the United States government and its allies have launched an invasion of Somalia. Within days of the initial landing of U.S. marines, the Australian government has announced its decision to send troops to help occupy that African country.

Eight hundred troops from one of the rapid deployment battalions based at Townsville in north Queensland are to be airlifted to Mogadishu by January 10. Equipment, including 30 armored personnel carriers, and a further 100 troops are to follow in the heavy landing ship HMAS Tobruk and the supply ship, HMAS Jervis Bay. This is the biggest expeditionary force to leave Australia since the Vietnam War.

The Australian troops will be joining a coalition of imperialist powers in Somalia led by the U.S. which includes France, Belgium, Canada, Britain, and New Zealand.

Australia is one of the world's major food

exporting countries and farmers in this country, as elsewhere around the world, face a growing crisis with "overproduction" and food mountains, yet millions starve in Africa. The actual food aid being organized from here is left to individual charity appeals to working people, while the government is testing its ability to be part of such a multinational invasion force.

Australia's rulers are driven by the deepening economic depression to join in the coalition wars led by Washington. Their goal is to try to secure as big a share of the spoils of each new imperialist war as they can take. And like Washington, they hope to use the

"humanitarian UN" guise of the Somali intervention to establish their prerogative to use military intervention abroad to protect their political and economic interests.

This war drive is coupled with the austerity war at home against workers and farmers. War and austerity are the only "solutions" that the ruling rich have to offer working people in a time of depression.

*No to the U.S.-led invasion of Somalia!  
The Australian government should send food and medical aid, not troops, to Somalia!*

*Open the borders of Australia to refugees from Somalia and Yugoslavia!*

## Canada farmers rally to defend livelihood

Continued from Page 6

feet at the conclusion of the rally.

"I don't want to hear that this country has no money for farmers. I was part of your constitutional process and you spent millions on that," she told the ministers, referring to recent failed efforts at constitutional reform in which the NDP and Tories collaborated. "Don't tell us there's no money when the prime minister is prepared to appoint ten new senators."

More rallies would be needed to force government action on the farm crisis, Dutton stressed.

"The rash of farm rallies in Saskatchewan over the past year demonstrates that there is a political force on the loose that

is looking for a direction," commented Saskatoon *StarPhoenix* political columnist Randy Burton in his December 19 analysis of the North Battleford action. "At the moment, however, it is largely leaderless, a grassroots rumble of discontent that knows what it's against but is not yet sure what it's for."

"That makes politicians very nervous. . . ."

The North Battleford rally, like most others in the province in the last year, was organized by an ad hoc coalition of individual farmers, a number of them with loose connections to the Tories and the right-wing Reform Party. Preston Manning, Reform Party leader, observed the rally from the bleachers.

Speaking from the rally platform was the manager of the North Battleford Canadian Tire store, prominent in the city's Chamber of Commerce. But no understanding was shown by rally organizers of farmers' need to ally with labor. No platform speaker represented the trade union movement, and there was no mention even from the floor of the ongoing rotating strike by the Saskatchewan Government Employees Union, prompted by the same austerity program that produced the NDP cutbacks to GRIP.

*Howard Brown farms near Rosetown, Saskatchewan, and is a member of Local 609 of the National Farmers Union.*

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# U.S. moves closer to Balkan intervention

Continued from front page

lowed speeches by French government officials expressing dismay that Washington was taking the lead in Bosnia. "I have not accepted my job to watch a Europe that can only follow the United States," said Jacques Delors, European Commission president, in a recent speech supporting direct intervention.

French president François Mitterrand followed with similar statements. Paris, with the largest contingent — 4,800 troops — in Bosnia and Croatia, is afraid it might be excluded from putting its stamp on the outcome of the Yugoslav conflict.

The capitalist government of France suffered a big blow in the recent trade dispute with Washington over farm subsidies. Threatened with a 200 percent import tax on European white wines, most European Community members backed down — over strong objections by Mitterrand's government — and agreed to cut farm subsidies and lower oilseed production. To add insult to injury, French troops in Somalia have had to function under U.S. command.

While certain imperialist governments have developed links to the Croatian regime of President Franjo Tudjman, others hoped to maintain a strong influence in Serbia. German capital has developed a bigger stake in Croatia than in other republics of the former Yugoslavia. Only after Bonn got its foot in the door with open support to Tudjman did Washington recognize Bosnia-Herzegovina as an independent state last April and begin talking about intervention.

## U.S.-Serbia links

U.S. secretary of state Lawrence Eagleburger, who recently denounced Milosevic as a war criminal, was only months ago counted as a close friend of the Serbian president. Washington hoped that Serbian-American millionaire Milan Panic, appointed as Yugoslav prime minister with Milosevic's blessing six months ago, would serve U.S. interests better in Serbia.

Panic, however, lost to Milosevic by a big margin in the race for the Serbian presidency in the December 20 elections. Panic was subsequently ousted from his post of prime minister by a no-confidence vote in the federal parliament.

At a Geneva conference on the Balkans in December, Eagleburger named a number of political and military figures from Serbia as responsible for "crimes against humanity."

His list included a couple of obscure commanders from Croatia but, significantly, left out Croatian president Tudjman and his right-hand man in Bosnia, Mate Boban, who like Milosevic have been responsible for the

practice of "ethnic cleansing" and other atrocities.

The rival imperialist powers of the United States, Canada, and Europe are driven to intervene in the Yugoslav war by increased conflicts among themselves in the midst of a world capitalist economic depression. Washington is pushing for intervention to assert its influence in the region ahead of Bonn and Paris. German chancellor Helmut Kohl, worried by U.S. military moves in the world, recently announced that Germany will send 1,500 troops to Somalia.

## U.S. closer to intervention

A widening range of commentators in the United States, both liberal and conservative, are now calling more loudly for U.S.-led military intervention in Bosnia, under either United Nations or NATO auspices. These appeals are combined with more urgent calls for a permanent UN force for worldwide "troubleshooting" and suggestions as to where such forces should intervene.

Rowland Evans and Robert Novak noted in a recent syndicated column that President-elect Bill Clinton "has asked for a study of all the consequences of U.S. enforcement of the no-fly zone into Bosnia ... and of the projected range of possible U.S. casualties. ... 'We are arranging it so that if he makes a pledge to move on Jan. 21, he can fulfill it within a single week,' one key [Pentagon] planner told us. Clinton has not yet decided, but most signs point to at least enforcing the no-fly zone, as he proposed during the campaign."

Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and top NATO officials have worked on the Pentagon plan for months. According to the December 28 issue of *Newsweek*, options contained in the plan include: enforcing the no-fly zone over Bosnia, using air power to expand the UN relief operation, arming Bosnian government forces, using ground troops to deter attacks on Albanians in Kosovo province, and forming "safe havens" within Bosnia.

## Oppression of Kosovo Albanians

Ethnic Albanians make up 90 percent of Kosovo province's 1.9 million people. Belgrade revoked the province's autonomy in 1989, following years of massive Albanian protests demanding an end to repression. The Milosevic government in Belgrade has vowed to never relinquish its hold on Kosovo, and rightist groups in Serbia have called for "open war" on Albanian separatists and expulsion of those who defy Serbian rule. The Albanian community in Kosovo largely boycotted the December 20 elections in Serbia.



British soldiers in Bosnia. Rival imperialist powers of the United States, Canada, and Europe are driven to intervene in the Yugoslav war by increased conflicts among themselves in midst of world capitalist economic depression.

Washington and other imperialist powers have been spurred to threaten the use of force against Milosevic's regime now because they fear Belgrade could soon provoke major resistance by Albanians in Kosovo, drawing in neighboring Albania on the side of Kosovo's Albanians. They also are anxious about deeper involvement in Yugoslavia by Turkey and Iran, which have aided the Bosnian regime.

Imperialist governments are likewise afraid that aggressive moves by Belgrade toward the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, to the south of Serbia, could create a conflict involving Bulgaria and Greece. According to the *Washington Post*, unnamed UN diplomats said Serbian officials recently approached the Greek government offering to partition Macedonia. Athens is already in a confrontation with Macedonia, challenging its right to use the name Macedonia.

## Yugoslav revolution

While the Balkans are often portrayed as a region where interethnic strife is simply a fact of life, the past century shows such conflict is by no means inevitable. More than 45 years ago, the workers and peasants of Yugoslavia led a successful revolution against landlords, capitalists, and imperialist occupiers to obtain land, democratic rights, and better social conditions. In the process they forged working-class unity that cut across ethnic and religious lines.

Following the 1945 victory of the armed Partisan movement, however, the Stalinist misleadership of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia blocked further progress in

overcoming national and regional inequalities and in leading working people to advance toward socialism. Josip Tito, who died in 1980, was the central leader of the League of Communists, the dominant political force in the Partisans.

This bureaucratic social layer has in the past four years fragmented into conflicting groups based in the different regions of the former Yugoslavia. Milosevic, Tudjman, and Bosnian president Alija Izetbegovich all came out of the apparatus of the former League of Yugoslav Communists.

They are simply pursuing their previous goals as bureaucratic rulers — enlarging to the maximum the share of the privileges and perks of the bureaucracy and its hangers-on. All that has changed is that, rather than presenting a "communist" image, the bureaucrats, working with aspiring capitalist forces, now seek support through nationalist demagoguery, pitting working people in different regions against each other.

The war they are waging is no different from a mafia-style battle over turf, but on a scale in which at least 150,000 people have been killed or disappeared in Bosnia alone during the past nine months, and 1.5 million made homeless.

## Serbian forces set back

Now with winter set in, the pace of fighting has slowed, and in recent weeks Bosnian and Croatian forces have made advances, according to a UN assessment. They have narrowed to about a mile a Serb-held corridor in northern Bosnia that connects Serbia to the main Serb-dominated areas of Bosnia and Croatia, twice preventing Serb forces from passing through the area in two weeks.

Serb forces are now calling more insistently for a cease-fire, while Bosnian government forces are reported to be preparing another offensive to ease the pressure on Sarajevo. UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali made a special trip to Sarajevo December 31 to try to dissuade the Bosnian government from such an offensive.

Only the working people of Yugoslavia can lead the way forward out of this carnage, as they did once before this century. Only by organizing themselves and forging a leadership committed to an internationalist perspective can they defeat the warring gangs that are destroying lives and livelihoods across the region.

The threatened outside intervention in Yugoslavia, whether it takes place in the name of the United States, the United Nations, or NATO, will only block this process, as the imperialists seek to impose stability around one or another would-be capitalist regime or set of regimes. Likewise, the economic blockade of Yugoslavia, including the arms embargo, only hurts working people, actually strengthening the hand of the gangster regimes.

In this sense, the embargo against Yugoslavia has exactly the same effect as that organized by Washington against Iraq. In Yugoslavia, as in Iraq and Somalia, working people need the freedom to unite in a struggle to take control of their own society and put an end to the rule of the warmakers. Imperialist intervention can only work against such a development taking place.

# 1992 'Militant' index is now available

BY NAOMI CRAINE

The 1992 *Militant* index is now available. It is being mailed out to all subscribers with this issue, and can also be purchased separately from the *Militant* business office.

This index makes the wealth of information printed each week in the *Militant* more easily accessible.

The *Militant* provides facts and analysis, from the point of view of working people, that are of lasting value for all those who want to fight against war, racism, union-busting, and attacks on democratic rights.

An increasingly prominent feature of world politics is the drive toward war by Washington, and other imperialist powers such as the rulers of Britain, France, Germany, and Japan. In 1992, the *Militant* provided the historical facts needed to understand the war tearing apart the former Yugoslavia, explained why military intervention by the United States and its allies is not the way to end the slaughter, and sent a reporting team to Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia, to learn what the war there means for working people.

The socialist paper sharply condemned the invasion of Somalia by tens of thousands of U.S. troops in December, and covered the continued occupation of Iraq by U.S. military forces and the repeated threats and provocations against that country.

When some 13,000 members of the United Auto Workers union at Caterpillar Corp. went

on strike against the company's union-busting demands, *Militant* reporters and supporters traveled to Illinois to support the strikers and publicize their fight. Nearly 40 articles about the strike at Caterpillar, and discussions and fights that have taken place since the auto workers returned to work, were printed in 1992. In addition, the *Militant* provided first-hand reports on the fight by British miners against the government's plan to close 31 coal mines, and numerous other struggles by fighting workers around the world.

In May, thousands took to the streets in cities around the United States and internationally to protest the acquittal of the cops who beat Rodney King, a Black worker in Los Angeles. Demonstrations against police brutality in Detroit, New York, and Des Moines, Iowa, as well as in Canada, Britain, and many other places were also covered in the *Militant*. The *Militant* continued its important coverage of the ongoing fight for justice for framed-up unionist Mark Curtis.

The battle to defend the right of women to safe, legal abortion is also chronicled in the pages of the *Militant*. In 1992 thousands of young women and men mobilized to defend abortion clinics from rightist attacks by groups like Operation Rescue in Buffalo, New York; Houston; and dozens of other cities around the United States. The *Militant* was there when 500,000 marched on Washington in April in support of the right to choose.

*Militant* reporting teams traveled around the world in the past year, including to the following countries: Cuba, El Salvador, Germany, Greece, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Nicaragua, South Africa, Spain, and the former Yugoslavia.

The 1992 index makes it easy to refer to *Militant* coverage on many important events. All articles are cross-referenced by both author and country. Countries with a large number of items listed, such as Canada, South Africa, and the United States, are further divided by subject.

To order copies of the index, send \$1.50 to the *Militant*, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. To order the 1992 *Militant* bound volume, which includes the index, send \$50 to the same address.

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## CALIFORNIA

### San Francisco

From Sarajevo to Somalia: The Imperialist Drive Toward War. Speaker: Jim Altenberg, Socialist Workers Party, member Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-5. Sat., Jan. 9, 7 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Donation: \$3. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

## CONNECTICUT

### New Haven

Somalia: What's Behind U.S. Intervention? Panel discussion. Sat., Jan. 16, 4 p.m. Dwight

Hall, 67 High St., Yale Old Campus. Donation: \$3. Tel: (203) 934-3804

## GEORGIA

### Atlanta

Israel: Stop the Deportations! Return Palestinians Home Now! Speakers: Nick Gruenberg, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America Local 3944; others. Sat., Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m. 172 Trinity Ave. SW. Donation: \$3. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

Eyewitness Account: Pastors for Peace Caravan Challenges U.S. Embargo of Cuba. Speakers: Mercy Pinacas, Cuban-American who went to Cuba with Pastors for Peace caravan; Lea Bockman, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m. 172 Trinity Ave. SW. Donation: \$3. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

## ILLINOIS

### Chicago

U.S. Hands Off Yugoslavia! Speakers: John Votava, Socialist Workers Party, member Amalgamated Transit Union Local 308; others. Sat., Jan. 9, 7 p.m. 545 W. Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (312) 829-6815.

## MARYLAND

### Baltimore

Return the Palestinians Home Now! Speaker: Glova Scott, Socialist Workers Party, member United Transportation Union Local 454. Sat., Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m. 2905 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (410) 235-0013.

The Fight for Jobs: Eyewitness Account of the British Miners' Fight Against Pit Closures. Speaker: Clay Dennison, laid-off member of United Mine Workers of America, just returned from Britain. Sat., Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m. 2905 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (410) 235-0013.

## MINNESOTA

### St. Paul

Nationalism, Civil War, and the Threat of U.S. Military Intervention in Bosnia. Speaker: Chris Nisan, Socialist Workers Party, member United Transportation Union Local 1000. Sat., Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m. 508 N. Snelling Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

Class Conflict and Social Crisis in India Today: An Eyewitness Report. Speaker: Greg Rosenberg, traveled to India in December to attend Asian Students Association conference, member United Auto Workers Local 879. Sat., Jan. 16,

7:30 p.m. 508 N. Snelling Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

## OHIO

### Cleveland

Oppose U.S. Military Aggression in Yugoslavia. Speaker: Peter Thierjung, 1992 Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress, member United Auto Workers Local 538. Sat., Jan. 9, 4 p.m. 1863 W. 25th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Philadelphia

Germany: The Fight Against Racist Attacks. Speaker: John Cox, recently returned from Militant reporting trip to Germany. Sat., Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

Justice for Leonard Peltier! Video showing of Incident at Oglala. Speaker: representative, Leonard Peltier Defense Committee. Sat., Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

## UTAH

### Salt Lake City

Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism. Speaker: Pat Grogan, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 9, 7 p.m. 147 E. 900 S. Donation: \$3. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

## WASHINGTON

### Seattle

Open U.S. Borders to Haitian Refugees: Eyewitness report from Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. Speakers: Harvey McArthur, Militant reporter, toured Haitian refugee camp at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba; Oscar Cárcamo and Miguel Orozco, refugee workers who won case against Immigration and Naturalization Service; Luke Sissysag, member ACT-UP (AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power). Sat., Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E. Madison. Donation: \$3. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Translation to Spanish.

## AUSTRALIA

### Sydney

Somalia: 'Humanitarian Aid' or Imperialist Invasion? Speaker: Manuele Lasalo, Communist League candidate for Sydney in 1993 federal elections. Sat., Jan. 9, 6 p.m. 66 Albion St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$3. Tel: 02-281 3297.

## SWEDEN

### Stockholm

Rescind the Deportation of the Palestinians Now! Speaker: Inge Hinnemo, Communist League. Sat., Jan. 9, 4 p.m. Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

# White House pardon of officials stirs debate

Continued from front page

they are in response to "a profoundly troubling development in the political and legal climate of our country: the criminalization of policy differences." Referring to the six top government officials just pardoned, Bush said, "The common denominator of their motivation—whether their actions were right or wrong—was patriotism."

In addition to Weinberger, those receiving pardons included Elliott Abrams, former assistant secretary of state; Duane Clarridge, former chief of the CIA's European division; Alan Fiers, former chief of the CIA's Central American task force; Clair George, former CIA deputy director of operations; and Robert McFarlane, former national security adviser.

Abrams, Fiers, and McFarlane had previously pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges of withholding information from Congress. George had been convicted in early December on two felony charges of perjury and making a false statement to Congress. Clarridge, like Weinberger, was scheduled to go to trial in early 1993.

Bush sought bipartisan support prior to announcing the Weinberger pardon. Democratic House speaker Thomas Foley and Rep. Les Aspin, President-elect Clinton's defense secretary-designate, made clear that they would have no objections.

After Bush's announcement several Democratic Party senators and representatives called for congressional hearings to investigate the pardons. Clinton claimed that he was troubled by the president's action.

Meanwhile, Senate Republican leader Robert Dole has called for an investigation into Walsh's conduct. And William Kristol, chief of staff to Vice-president Dan Quayle, has urged that an inquiry be launched to determine whether Walsh's comments about Bush violated American Bar Association ethical standards.

"Bush didn't wimp out. The President showed personal courage," said the *Wall Street Journal* in praise of the pardons.

## Usurped government power

Since its public disclosure in November 1986, the Iran-contra affair has become the most well-known example of the extent to which government power has been usurped and concentrated within the executive branch. This trend has had bipartisan support. Congressional critics have basically confined their position to simply demanding that Congress be consulted as a more effective way of carrying out White House policies.

Shortly after Congress voted to cut off

military aid to the Nicaraguan contras in 1984, Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North, operating through the National Security Council in the White House, led an operation that involved secretly selling arms to Iran in order to obtain millions of dollars in funds to arm the mercenary contra army fighting to topple the Nicaraguan government.

This covert operation came to light in October 1986 when a contra supply plane carrying U.S. citizen Eugene Hasenfus and 10,000 pounds of arms was shot down in Nicaragua. In response to public clamor and outrage about this event, then-president Ronald Reagan agreed to appoint an independent counsel. In December 1986, Lawrence Walsh was selected by a panel of three federal judges as the special prosecutor with wide powers to investigate support given to the Nicaraguan contras by anyone in or out of government since 1984.

Walsh had previously been a deputy attorney general in the Eisenhower administration in the 1950s, a Nixon-appointed envoy during the Vietnam War, and a federal judge.

From the beginning Walsh's investigation has been slandered and stymied by the White House. Both the Reagan and Bush administrations refused to allow defendants access to secret government documents relevant to the case. This resulted in early 1989, for example, in the dismissal of two of the main charges against Oliver North. It also forced Walsh to abandon the prosecution of Joseph Fernandez, a former CIA station chief in Costa Rica who played a key role in illegally arming the Nicaraguan contras. Walsh, however, obtained 14 indictments and 11 convictions dur-

ing the six-year investigation.

While many political commentators were sympathetic to the idea of pardoning Weinberger they were outraged about Bush's justification for it.

"My problem with President Bush's self-described act of 'honor, decency and fairness' is not that he pardoned a clutch of ex-officials involved in the Iran-contra affair," states Leslie Gelb in the December 27 *New York Times*, "but that he pardoned their crimes."

"Compassion for Caspar Weinberger would have been an acceptable basis for a pardon," says Anthony Lewis in his *New York Times* column, "but Mr. Bush deliberately broadened the ground to one that menaces the institutions of a country whose political system is founded on law."

Lewis describes the Iran-contra revelations as "a calculated assault on the constitutional balance of power, far worse than Watergate's cover-up of a political burglary," and "an assertion of absolute Presidential power in foreign policy, above the law."

"Bush's pardon is unpardonable," writes Garry Wills in the December 27 *Washington Post*. He characterized this action as part of "the war of the executive against the legislative branch."

Meanwhile, Bush announced December 30 that he is hiring former U.S. attorney general Griffin Bell to represent him in the ongoing Iran-contra investigation. Walsh has yet to determine whether he will call in Bush for further questioning prior to submitting his final report to Congress in the coming months.

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OHIO: Cincinnati: P.O. Box 19484. Zip: 45219. Tel: (513) 221-2691. Cleveland: 1863 W. 25th St. Zip: 44113. Tel: (216) 861-6150.

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WASHINGTON, D.C.: 523 8th St. SE. Zip: 20003. Tel: (202) 547-7557.

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 1405 E. Madison. Zip: 98122. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

WEST VIRGINIA: Morgantown: 242 Walnut. Mailing address: P.O. Box 203. Zip: 26507. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

## AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 19 Terry St., Surry Hills, Sydney NSW 2010. Tel: 02-281-3297.

## BARBADOS

Bridgetown: P.O. Box 891. Tel: (809) 436-7723.

## BRITAIN

London: 47 The Cut. Postal code: SE1 8LL.

Tel: 071-928-7993.

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

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

## CANADA

Montreal: 6566, boul. St-Laurent. Postal code: H2S 3C6. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

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

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

## ICELAND

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

## MEXICO

Mexico City: Apdo. Postal 27-575, Col. Roma Sur. Mexico D.F.

## NEW ZEALAND

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

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## Labor news in the Militant

The Militant stays on top of the most important developments in the labor movement. It has correspondents who work in the mines, mills, and shops where the events are breaking. You won't miss any of it if you subscribe. See the ad on page 2 for subscription rates.



**He's worried about dangerous people?** — David Harding, a former New York state police investigator, was convicted of perjury after



Harry Ring

admitting he concocted evidence in three murder prosecutions and an assault case. He said he did it because of "a firm belief that the defendants were dangerous to the public and should be removed from society to assure the safety of others."

**They don't like loose tongues?** — Harding's frame-up activity was disclosed after he told the CIA about it during a job interview. The spook agency turned him in to the state cops.

**From Somalia to U.S.: they care** — The Defense Department has decided to tell shelters and other homeless agencies to get rid of more than one million blankets that the Pentagon gave them over the past six years. The blankets are contaminated with DDT, a toxic pesticide banned in 1972.

**Plus free advice** — A Pentagon spokesman said agencies should not toss those contaminated blankets "if

someone's going to freeze to death." He said risk can be reduced by placing a sheet or layer of clothing between blanket and skin.

**Black humor?** — British Coal, the government agency charged with slashing mining jobs beyond the bone, marketed a pre-Xmas special — a coal-carved "personal memento of the industry that made Britain great." The pieces depict an old-time miner holding a lamp and "enthraling his daughter with tales steeped in myth and mystery." And only £24.95 (\$55).

**Experts on neglect** — In West Virginia, Douglas Rupe was convicted of child neglect after his son, 11,

lost both legs to frostbite. The homeless father and son were living in an abandoned, unheated bus.

**Send that guy to Washington** — Forty Hardee restaurants in Iowa are adding chicken to the menu, creating an estimated 200 new jobs paying slightly more than the minimum wage. Hailing this "bold venture," Iowa's state treasurer said, "It's true these aren't the greatest jobs. But we need a lot of jobs to spur competition for workers, and that will raise wages."

**Freudian slip** — U.S. forces put out a leaflet assuring the Somali people that they come as friends. The first word in the leaflet was supposed to

be "adunka," meaning "world." It came out "adoonka," which means slave.

**Hunger? 'Natural disaster'** — Last year Zimbabwe had a stockpile of corn from a good harvest. The World Bank compelled it to sell the corn abroad to obtain currency to pay off debts to Western banks. Now Zimbabwe is importing corn from these same countries, reportedly at double the price.

**Thought for the week** — "What is being done in Somalia is what is needed in many places around the globe — a humanitarian velvet glove backed by a steel fist of military force." — Ronald Reagan.

## 'Sexual predator' law denies democratic rights

BY SARA LOBMAN

The impending execution of Westley Dodd has drawn nationwide attention to a reactionary Washington State law that is a serious threat to the most basic democratic and constitutional rights of prisoners and all working people. Dodd, who was convicted of torture, rape, and murder of three boys in 1989 and has waived all appeals, is scheduled to hang January 5.

The "sexual predator" law, passed in 1990, allows the state to keep people convicted of rape or child abuse locked up indefinitely — even after they have completed serving their sentence. The law requires those convicted of sex offenses to register with the police in whatever community they move into after completing the terms of their sentence and also requires the authorities to publicize the presence of these individuals to the community.

State officials point to Dodd as an example of why they threw out most of the state's old statutes regarding treatment of prisoners convicted of sex offenses. Washington now has the strictest set of laws on sex offenders in the nation.

At least five other states and the city of Toronto have told Washington State prosecutors they are considering enacting sim-

ilar laws if the statute holds up in court.

### Allows lock-up for future crimes

The law, which is currently being challenged in court, allows the state to lock people up, not for actual crimes, but for crimes they might commit in the future. There is no limit to the length of time a person can be held. David Boerner, who helped draft the law, explained, "It will be some time before these guys get out. Old age or some kind of technological breakthrough might do it." Boerner is a former state and federal prosecutor.

One in five prisoners in Washington State — 2,270 out of 10,032 — is classified as a sex offender. When these prisoners come up for parole, their records are automatically screened. If state officials think they should be committed beyond their sentence, the case is taken before a jury by a prosecutor. Unlike a criminal trial, the jury's decision to commit does not have to be unanimous.

Once committed — and so far, everyone brought before a jury by the state has been — the imprisoned individual comes up for review by the state once a year. The state then decides which inmates can go before a jury to request release.

To date, sixteen men are being held under the "sexual predator" law. No one commit-

ted under the law has been released.

Vance Cunningham had been out of prison for five months after serving four years for the rapes of two women. He had served an earlier sentence for raping another woman. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, Cunningham "looked like a prison success story." He had his high school equivalency diploma, a job as a mechanic on a fishing boat, and a clean bill of health from a prison psychologist.

Then Washington's End-of-Sentence Review Committee invoked the "sexual predator" law. Two detectives arrested Cunningham at work. He was locked up indefinitely in the Special Commitment Center — a wing of a maximum security prison.

Cunningham is one of two men challenging the program before the state supreme court. "There's a wrong being done here," he said. "I served my time and stayed clean the five months I was out."

### 'Mental abnormality'

Preventive detention — locking someone up because they might commit a crime at some future point — is unconstitutional in the United States. To get around this, Washington State officials have taken advantage of laws that allow government authorities to detain mentally ill patients.

The state claims that the criminal histories of the men it labels "sexual predators" show they have a "mental abnormality" requiring confinement until they can be successfully treated. But since psychiatry has

no clinical definition for "mental abnormality," there is no way to cure it and no road out of prison for those detained.

"It wouldn't have been fair if we were punishing them," Boerner said. "We're confining people for purposes of public safety and treatment, and the constitution allows that."

Proponents of the law argue that "victims' rights" outweigh the constitutional rights of prisoners or those with a criminal history. The Washington State law feeds on this by portraying those it labels "sexual predators" as permanent criminals. Westley Dodd has been a convenient tool for state officials trying to advance this line. "I must be executed before I have an opportunity to escape or kill someone else," Dodd said in a court brief.

The state has run into some resistance. When officials decided to detain Cunningham, they asked his former prison psychologist to revise her diagnosis to concur with their judgement. She refused. The committee then hired another psychologist who, without even interviewing Cunningham, declared that he fit the law's "mental abnormality" criteria.

The American Civil Liberties Union and the Washington State Psychiatric Association have filed briefs supporting the legal challenge to the law. The psychiatric association calls the "mental abnormality" label "hopelessly vague." By basing the law on such criteria, the group said, "the statute effectively produces lifetime preventative detention."

## 'Militant' reporter speaks in Miami on conditions of Haitian detainees

BY DAN FEIN

MIAMI — A bilingual meeting in Creole and English of 50 people at the Militant Labor Forum December 19 capped a successful three-day speaking tour here for Harvey McArthur.

McArthur, a railworker and reporter for the *Militant*, visited the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay in Cuba December 16 to interview some of the 274 Haitians that are being held there. Most have tested positive for the HIV virus.

Upon his return to Miami, McArthur spoke to a rally of 500 Haitians celebrating the 2nd anniversary of the election of Jean-Bertrand Aristide as president of Haiti and calling for his return to power. McArthur described the conditions of the refugees in Guantánamo Bay and how the very existence of the naval base there violates Cuban sovereignty.

McArthur told the crowd, "This is not just a question for the Haitian people. We need to build broader protests not only against the forced detainment of Haitians at Guantánamo Bay, but for the rights of all people to come to the United States."

The next day McArthur did an interview with WLRN, the local affiliate of National Public Radio, and with Creole-language Radio Antan Fre. Jessica Jackson, with the radio program "Pèpla," heard McArthur at the rally earlier and asked him to speak on her show. Claude, who conducted the "Pèpla" interview, asked McArthur about the *Militant* newspaper. After the program, the director offered to sell the *Militant* from their office.

At the Militant Labor Forum, Lavarice Gaudin, a Veye-Yo leader, joined McArthur on the platform. Many who came heard about the forum on the radio shows McArthur had spoken on. Photographs of Guantánamo Bay by McArthur were displayed.



Militant/ Harvey McArthur  
Haitians at U.S. base demonstrate how they were treated when they protested conditions in the camp a few months ago.

Gaudin spoke about the repression of students in Haiti today. After a recent massacre of students by the military dictatorship, one student, who the soldiers thought was dead, made it to a nearby hospital. When the military found out he was at the hospital, they went there and shot him.

"None of this gets reported in the U.S. to more easily justify Bush's policy," Gaudin said.

In the discussion period, one Haitian who was earlier at Guantánamo Bay spoke about why he fled Haiti.

Many points of view were expressed on whether Clinton's election will help the situation.

## 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO



The Czechoslovak press disclosed Jan. 5 that Antonin Novotny had been deposed as the first secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party. He is to be allowed, however, to remain as president of the country. The new first secretary is Alexander Dubcek, a member of the Presidential Council and first secretary of the Slovak Communist Party.

Novotny's head-on collisions with the intellectuals and students had sharpened the differences within the leadership. On Oct. 31 more than 1,000 students from the Strahov campus of the Technical College of Charles University marched with burning candles toward the government's Hradcany Castle to protest the lack of light and heat in their dormitories. The demonstration was spontaneous and nonpolitical.

The students were blocked from the government buildings, shoved, cursed and beaten. The official count says 12 students and three policemen were hospitalized, but students estimate the injured as close to 50.

Although the grievances were promptly attended to, the political repercussions of the fracas continue. One student leader reportedly remarked that some of the most convinced Communists in the university have begun to question the regime's action.

Students at Charles University believe that the police crackdown was ordered because the government fears that the disaffection of the Czechoslovak writers is spreading to the campuses.

The speeches of the dissident writers at the congress of the Writers' Union in June have since been the prime topic of private discussions among the students. "The writers said Novotny must finally come to terms with the mistakes, the excesses, and the crimes of Stalin," one language student observed.



January 16, 1943

Discrimination in wages between men and women workers by the H. K. Porter Company's locomotive plant at Lawrenceville, Pennsylvania, and failure of the management in several conferences to agree to adjust wages led on Jan. 5 to a strike by 800 members of the United Steel Workers, CIO. The company was paying women 17 1/2 cents under the scale called for in the union contract for their category of work.

The significant part of the strike was the fact that the principle of equal pay was demanded not only by the women, but was vigorously supported by the men. Less than 100 of the employees were women but the entire plant was shut down by the walk out of the 800 members of the local.

The women had been employed for over 4 months on the substandard scale, in spite of repeated promises by the management to increase their pay "once their work was satisfactory."

Action of the men workers indicates that they accept the women as equals and recognize that discrimination is an employer trick to divide the workers and reduce their bargaining power.



## Oppose U.S. rulers' war moves

George Bush's highly publicized New Year's day visit to Somalia was part and parcel of the public relations campaign aimed at winning support for what Washington asserts is its right to militarily intervene in "world trouble spots."

While tens of thousands of troops occupy southern Somalia, the U.S. rulers are moving to more aggressively utilize their tremendous military might in both Yugoslavia and Iraq.

The shooting down of an Iraqi plane December 27 by a U.S. fighter jet is simply the latest provocation resulting from the hundreds of U.S., British, and French warplanes patrolling the skies over the southern part of that country. This outrageous violation of Iraq's sovereignty comes on top of the ongoing economic embargo that has resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of workers and peasants.

At the same time, Washington is pressing forward in its quest for a United Nations Security Council resolution that would clear the way for U.S.-led bombing raids on Serbian airfields, and the placing of imperialist military forces on the ground in the Kosovo region of southern Serbia. In fact, the U.S. government's demand for a resolution supporting the use of "all necessary means" to enforce a no-fly zone over Bosnia is the exact same justification used to unleash the brutal U.S. air war against Iraq just two years ago.

While some former antiwar figures in the pacifist milieu have been taken in by U.S. imperialism's rationalizations for military intervention in Bosnia and Somalia, the true, ugly face of Washington's "humanitarian missions" was on display for the world to see during its 1991 military

assault against Iraq in which more than 100,000 Iraqis were killed. Thousands were plowed alive into their trenches, which became mass graves; many others seeking to flee the fighting were bombed into oblivion on the infamous road to Basra.

From Vietnam in the 1960s and 1970s, to Grenada in 1983, to Panama in 1989, the real record of imperialism's "humanitarian interventions" has meant death and destruction for the working people of these countries.

Washington's drive to use its military might worldwide flows from the decline of the capitalist system and increased conflicts among the imperialist powers themselves. The U.S. rulers hope to use their worldwide military dominance to counter the economic power of their capitalist competitors in Europe and Asia.

The assault against Iraq signalled the opening guns of World War III. Washington's military moves into Somalia, and soon into the former Yugoslavia, further advance the prospect of a devastating world carnage. The U.S. rulers' only answer to the deepening crisis facing world capitalism is more military interventions and wars.

However, working people in the United States and throughout the world have the power to halt imperialism's inexorable drive toward war. Through massive united protests and international working-class solidarity the warmakers can be driven back.

We must demand:

Lift the economic embargoes on Yugoslavia and Iraq!  
No imperialist military intervention in Yugoslavia!  
U.S. and UN troops out of Somalia!

## Washington endorses hijacking

"Once a pilot diverts his craft from its lawful journey and enterprise, I don't see any difference between him and a pirate. This was a hijacking, no matter what you call it," stated a lawyer for a major airline. This accurately describes the criminal diversion of a Cuban airliner to Miami December 29. U.S. officials' open endorsement of this hijacking is an outrage.

No matter how much the government lawyers scramble to reinterpret laws and international treaties, they cannot change the facts. This was clearly a case of air piracy, kidnapping, stealing aircraft, and the assault and battery of a security guard. Yet those who conspired to commit these acts, and carried them out, were released after just 36 hours and are being treated as heroes by the big-business media.

As Rafael Dausa, from the Cuban Interest Section in Washington, D.C., explained, the hijackers were "stimulated by the American government who receives these kind of people with open arms." Washington has long encouraged spectacular "escapes" and "rescues" from Cuba, at the expense of international law, in order to provide grist for the propaganda mill against the Cuban revolution. Ten days before the hijacking incident, Orestes Lorenzo Pérez was allowed to take off from Florida in a small plane, land briefly in Cuba, and return to the United States. Lorenzo was given a hero's welcome, including a visit to the White House, since he did it with the pretext of "rescuing" his family.

The rulers of the United States welcome such "heroes," through official policy and through the media, as part of their relentless effort to isolate Cuba politically and to disrupt it economically. Washington tries to use such incidents to justify its allegations of human rights abuses in Cuba.

The red-carpet treatment of Lorenzo and the Cuban hijackers stands in sharp contrast to the reception Haitian refugees — and most other immigrants — receive from the U.S. government. More than 200 refugees, mostly Haitian, have been waiting for political asylum hearings in Krome Detention Center in Florida for months. Many of these prisoners went on a hunger strike after the Cuban hijackers were released from the same center in less than two days, protesting the blatant double standard. At the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, 274 other Haitians, who Washington admits have grounds to seek political asylum, are being detained because they have allegedly tested positive for the HIV virus. Since May, Haitians fleeing political repression and devastating social conditions in their country have been picked up on the high seas by U.S. authorities and forcibly returned to Haiti without even a hearing. This is another case of piracy that Washington refuses to call by its real name.

The Cuban demand — that the pilot who organized the recent hijacking, Carlos Cancio Porcel, be extradited to stand trial in Cuba — deserves the backing of supporters of democratic rights and working people internationally.

## What Bush's pardons reveal

President George Bush's defense of his pardoning of top government officials involved in the Iran-contra scandal reveals a lot about the character of U.S. foreign policy. The imperialist rulers in Washington intend to continue conducting their policy with impunity and free of control by the people of the United States. "The common denominator of their motivation — right or wrong — was patriotism," said Bush of those he had just pardoned.

The lies, the cover-ups, the policies they had to conduct in secret, arose directly from U.S. imperialism's response to two massive and popular revolutions that occurred in 1979, in Nicaragua and in Iran. In both cases, the pressure of workers and peasants was reflected in governments that proclaimed wide-ranging reforms encroaching on the prerogatives of the capitalists and landlords.

U.S. imperialism's response to these revolutions was swift and simple: the organization of murder and destruction on a massive scale, to drive them back and limit their scope and influence.

Against Nicaragua, Washington organized and funded the contra army, to try to topple the Sandinista government. Tens of thousands of teachers, medical workers, peasant leaders, and youth who fought to defend the revolution were killed in this effort. Because of rapidly growing opposition to this policy among people in the United States, the majority in Congress, despite its earlier backing for the contra war, voted in 1984 that no further financial aid be given to these mercenaries.

Without blinking, the Reagan government continued the aid in secret, then lied and covered up when the truth about the scheme began to emerge.

Against Iran, Washington and its imperialist allies did all they could to encourage and arm the regime in Iraq to block the revolution. Largely in secret, they aided Saddam Hussein's almost eight-year-long invasion and war against Iran, in which hundreds of thousands were killed.

The extent of Washington's backing for the Saddam Hussein regime has only emerged recently, as the so-called "Iraqgate" piece of the ongoing scandal became known. So intense was their desire to defeat Iran that Washington, London, and other European imperialist governments armed and funded Baghdad virtually right up to its invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Bush hopes through the pardons to stymie any further investigation and also, in effect, to let off the hook those primarily responsible for these policies — himself and his predecessor, Ronald Reagan.

The message of Bush's justification for his pardons should be clear for all fighters against the aggressive policies pursued by imperialism: bloody attacks on the struggles of working people around the world, and at home, will continue. These policies will be carried on openly if possible and, when necessary, in secret.

Only when the imperialist rulers are replaced by a government of workers and farmers will such policies come to an end.

## Prison programs for sex offenders

This column is devoted to a discussion with our readers — printing remarks, questions, suggestions, and other comments sent to the *Militant*. Where possible we will take up issues raised in notes and letters as a way to help clarify and expand on the coverage in the paper.

Rick Berman, in a letter printed opposite, argues that "nothing is wrong . . . per se" with Sexual Offender Treatment Programs (SOTP) of the type existing in Iowa state prisons.

Berman also states that such programs should not be made conditions of parole, and agrees with the *Militant* that making a prisoner such as Mark Curtis undergo such a program is "cruel and unusual punishment." Curtis, a unionist and political activist framed up by police and prosecutors in Des Moines, Iowa, on a sexual abuse charge,

## DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

maintains his innocence and is appealing his conviction.

Berman states that programs such as Iowa's SOTP need to be more widely "available," including in prisons.

But there is a world of difference between having a sexual offender or drug abuse course "available" to free individuals, and setting these programs up in prisons. The very nature of prison — punishment by forcible detention, with time off for good behavior — guarantees that participation in any such programs is less than voluntary, whether or not the state authorities explicitly demand participation in the program as a condition for parole, as they do in the case of the Iowa SOTP. In many cases such courses are offered as a means of avoiding a jail term altogether.

Every prisoner knows that if you subject yourself to the program, one way or another you may enhance your chances of winning your freedom sooner.

### Break the prisoner's spirit

These programs are truly designed to break a person's spirit, and to turn prisoners against each other. In the Iowa program, for example, high marks are given for berating and humiliating other participants in the program for their alleged misdeeds. Those on the receiving end are required to "listen and not speak until all feedback is given."

With every session monitored by eagle-eyed social engineers, the recipient is instructed that "eye contact will be kept at all times" with the person doing the berating. "Retaliation for negative feedback will not be tolerated."

Moreover, as Berman explains, going through this performance is not just done once or twice. "This type of treatment takes a long time; many months and even years," he writes.

In this context, as the prisoner improves at dishing out "negative feedback" to others and at self-denunciation, the result is the opposite of building up the "healthy sense of self-esteem" that reader Berman hopes for.

### Capitalism breeds alienation

Capitalism is a system that at its very heart is based on exploitation and dog-eat-dog competition. It breeds alienation from society as a whole.

Many of those who fill society's jails are imprisoned for acts such as robbing their fellow workers or assaulting other individuals. These acts mirror the behavior of those who are held up as the models — the capitalist rulers, the "successful" — whose riches and exalted place come only at the expense of workers and farmers who create the wealth of society. This is quite aside from the frame-up of working-class youth that takes place, where "troublemakers" like Mark Curtis are railroaded to jail for acts they didn't commit.

Various forms of drug dependency, for which not-so-voluntary "treatment" programs are widely "available" in prisons, grow up hand-in-hand with the alienation from a rotten society.

None of this antisocial behavior will be ended through so-called therapy, no matter how massive the doses with which it is applied.

It can only be ended through a social revolution that overturns capitalism, in which society's victims — those exploited by capitalism, many of whom will have done time in capitalism's jails — will sacrifice and struggle. They will transform themselves into new human beings as they lead in transforming society into to one in which human solidarity, not dog-eat-dog competition and exploitation, is the driving motive.

— GEORGE FYSON

### CORRECTION

In the article "Hearing on police killing opens in Detroit" in the January 8, 1993 issue the charges facing the cops Lessnau and Douglas are reversed. In fact, Lessnau was charged with aggravated assault while Douglas was charged with involuntary manslaughter.



# Company uses drug bust to try to divide workers

BY DEBBIE LAZAR

BRIDGETON, Missouri — Wednesday, Dec. 9, 1992, began like every other day at Hussmann Refrigeration. I was working at my job on one of the assembly lines in this big commercial refrigeration plant. Suddenly, I noticed a commotion. Three men had surrounded one of my coworkers and were putting handcuffs on him. They then paraded him out of the plant, walking him up and down the aisles.

The word spread rapidly through this plant of more than 1,000 workers that there was a drug bust going on. We heard

## UNION TALK

that the company parking lot was filled with police cars and news media.

Later that day the company issued a memo to all employees from Jean Evans, the vice-president of Human Resources. "Earlier today, several Bridgeton employees were arrested by local police officers for selling/possession of illegal drugs on Hussmann property. The Company has cooperated fully with the police in the investigation culminating in these arrests. Naturally, the individuals involved are being terminated," Evans stated. "Effective immediately, the Company will offer a \$1,000 reward to anyone who provides confidential information to the Company which leads to the arrest and conviction of any person involved in selling/possession of illegal drugs in this facility."

According to union officials of United Steelworkers of

America Local 9014 at Hussmann, six workers were arrested and fired after a nine-month undercover operation, complete with federal drug agents, surveillance cameras, and wire taps.

Discussions on the job have been nonstop about the drug bust. Some workers' initial reactions have supported the company and the cops.

"It's about time they did something — I hate drug pushers," said one worker.

"They must have some evidence against these people or they wouldn't have arrested them. They must be guilty," thought another.

"Who do you think was the snitch?" Many workers are wondering.

But not everyone is looking at the arrests favorably. One coworker complained, "It's not right. Everyone they arrested and fired was Black. This is discrimination!"

The undercover operation and arrests are serious attacks on the democratic rights of all workers at Hussmann and against our union, which will be negotiating a new contract later this year. They will neither curb drug use nor protect health and safety, as the company spokespeople claim. Instead, their effect is to intimidate and divide workers, to destroy any union solidarity that exists among us. The company's use of agents in our ranks to spy on us, and its \$1,000 reward, serve to make workers suspicious and mistrustful of each other.

Hussmann and the police have violated our right to privacy. They are trying to make it harder for us to stick together and build a union that can fight. They want us

caught up in looking for agents among us.

The six workers fired from their jobs for alleged illegal drug possession must be considered innocent until proven guilty. They have the right to a trial. The company should reinstate them with full back pay.

Hershell Kirkman, one of those fired, who has worked at Hussman for more than three years, explained that his good name and reputation have been ruined. Overnight he has been branded a criminal and no one is telling his side of the story.

He explained his shock when he was handcuffed and taken out of the plant. "I never even missed a day of work. I do my job. I have a wife and children. I go to church. I have no record at all. If this could happen to me, it could happen to anybody," he said. "I have never used drugs. I am clean and I got a drug screening to prove it."

But Kirkman has been publicly humiliated in front of his coworkers and his name has been smeared in the local media.

He cannot receive unemployment benefits. His car was seized. Kirkman had to take his child out of daycare after being told he was not welcome on the property when he went to pick up the child.

The debate on the shop floor and in the union continues about the ramifications of this drug raid. We must stand together and defend each other.

Drugs are not the issue here. Hussmann and the cops are using drugs as an excuse to intimidate and divide us. We must not fall into their trap.

Debbie Lazar is a member of USWA Local 9014.

## LETTERS

### Heartfelt gratitude

On behalf of the Leadership and entire membership of the ANC Women's League, I wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude for considering us in your distribution of the *Militant*.

We find the publication very useful and informative of world events. I will in turn include you in the mailing list of our quarterly journal *The Rock* which I hope will keep you informed about the League's activities and other issues related to our country. *The Rock* is a fairly new publication but it is trying to capture all important aspects relating particularly to women of South Africa.

Kgopotso Sindelo  
International Desk  
African National Congress  
Women's League  
Johannesburg, South Africa

### Treating sex offenders

Several different issues were confused in the December 18 *Militant* article titled "Iowa Prison Program Amounts to Cruel and Unusual Punishment." Author Maurice Williams began the article by correctly attacking the notion that Mark Curtis should be forced to attend the SOTP program to win his parole. So far so good. Then Williams, bolstered by quotes from Mark Curtis Defense Committee activist Priscilla Schenk, unfortunately used the majority of the article to present a strange, naive, and unrealistic vision of how to conduct therapy for sex offenders.

Mark Curtis is innocent and should not have to admit "guilt" and enter the SOTP program in order to be paroled. No prisoner should be forced to confess and enter a treatment program, thereby weakening her or his ability to appeal, as well as weakening the ability to attract broad support for a defense effort. However, sex offender treatment programs, drug and alcohol programs, and other types of counseling should be available for prisoners.

Sex offender treatment programs can only be effective if they help offenders take responsibility for their actions and develop empathy for others, especially for those they have harmed. Typically, people who commit sexual rapes of adults or children either don't believe their victims were harmed, or rely on violent acts against others as one of their principal coping skills to help them achieve a feeling of well-being or power. They

minimize and deny. For these reasons, all the techniques attacked by Williams and Schenk are essential to help these people develop a healthier approach to life: group therapy, confrontation by peers, listening to feedback from others, introspection about their past, and accepting responsibility for their actions. And this type of treatment takes a long time; many months and even years.

Treatment programs that lack these elements are a set-up for failure. They do not help participants develop a healthy sense of self-esteem. They do not help participants learn to think socially. They do not help participants learn to process and manage the rage and shame that drives their destructive behavior.

Putting Mark Curtis in such a treatment program would be cruel and unusual punishment. But unfortunately there are many thousands of people in and out of prisons whose lives would be greatly improved (not to mention the lives

of the people around them) if they had access to programs like these. As the capitalist crisis deepens, continuing cutbacks in funds for mental health programs put such treatment out of reach for more and more people who need it. Nothing is wrong with this type of treatment in prisons per se. Making it a condition of parole is what needs to be opposed.

Rick Berman  
Portland, Oregon

### Mexico doctor

Regarding the case of Humberto Alvarez Machain, who was kidnapped in Mexico by Washington and brought to Los Angeles to be tried in the murder of a U.S. drug agent.

When the presiding judge ruled that the government had no case against Alvarez and ordered him released, he went to Los Angeles International Airport to return home. At the airport, Immigration and Naturalization Service agents

tried, unsuccessfully, to prevent him from leaving.

How did Alvarez get into the clutches of the immigration cops? Simple. After the case against him was dismissed, the prosecutor ordered Alvarez turned over to Immigration on the grounds that he had entered the United States illegally! Talk about Catch-22.

Harry Ring  
Los Angeles, California

### Jim Percy

About 200 people attended a memorial meeting held in Sydney recently for Jim Percy, National President of the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) who died of cancer on October 12. He was aged 44.

In 1972, Jim Percy helped found the Socialist Workers League, which became the Socialist Workers Party in 1976. Percy was the national secretary of the organization for almost two decades.

Following its split from the

Fourth International in the mid-80s, the SWP redefined itself in 1989 as a "red-green party" and changed its name to Democratic Socialist Party. It also renamed its weekly newspaper, *Direct Action*, as *Green Left Weekly*.

Key speakers at the Sydney meeting included several former members of the DSP and its predecessors, as well as Barry Sheppard from the U.S. who addressed the Sydney and subsequent memorial meetings around the country as a member of the U.S. Committees of Correspondence.

Lee Walkington  
Sydney, Australia

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.

## Paul Galloway: Support for my fight has been magnificent

I would like to thank the *Militant* and its readers for the magnificent support given to me in the campaign I have been waging for the last few months — to defend my rights and physical safety — after I was brutally attacked at work.

On August 6 last year, I was sexually assaulted by a group of miners at Thoresby colliery where I have worked for the past 15 years. The leader of this group went around the pit boasting that he had "finger-fucked" Paul Galloway. Another miner warned me at the time that I would be the "plaything" of this individual. The idea behind the attack was to shut me up — to stop me being an outspoken political activist and union fighter, and to intimidate other miners who are thinking and discussing today about how to defend their jobs. The attack took place, in fact, as the government and British Coal were preparing plans to shut 31 pits and throw 25,000 miners out of work.

In early September the *Militant* ran an article which told the truth about what happened. The article explained that I was a long-time member of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and of the Communist League. And that I was treating the matter as a union issue

and calling for messages of protest to be sent to the two unions at Thoresby — the National Union of Mineworkers and the Union of Democratic Miners (UDM). While I am a member of the NUM, it was important for both unions to condemn the attack and call their members who took part in it to order. The *Militant* article had an electrifying effect inside Thoresby — both NUM and UDM members expressed their disgust at the attack when they read the full facts.

What also had a big impact on my workmates and fellow union members was the response of *Militant* readers and others around the world who heard about the assault. Dozens of messages of protest — from as far away as Christchurch, New Zealand, and Seattle, Washington, in the United States — came into the union offices. These messages were written by working people who were sickened and angered by this attempt to use violence and intimidation to settle political differences.

Many sent personal messages of solidarity to me which were deeply appreciated. Among these was a letter from framed-up union and political activist Mark Curtis.

Today, because of this international solidarity and the response of rank-and-file miners at

Thoresby — members of both unions — my rights have been defended and I am physically safer at work.

Miners, especially in Nottinghamshire where Thoresby is located, have been divided into two unions since the end of the 1984-5 strike. This damaging division is not about to vanish soon but members of both unions inside Thoresby are today discussing together in a serious way how best to resist the attacks on jobs.

What I have to say in the discussions, including my views against the war moves being carried out by the British and U.S. governments, is treated with respect even though everyone doesn't agree with me.

UDM members have explained to me how they respected the way I was campaigning to defend myself. On October 21 I marched alongside UDM and NUM members from Thoresby and other nearby pits on a demonstration against mine closures. Several UDM members had traveled to London on NUM buses.

A few weeks ago my clothes were tossed around the bath house floor. I and my supporters thought at first this might signal a renewed campaign of harassment. However, it now appears that this was

an isolated act — probably by one of the pit deputies (supervisors).

The campaign that was launched following the August 6 assault — to enable me to work safely and speak freely — has been successful. Those responsible have backed off from further assaults or provocations. Therefore, I am no longer asking for messages of protest to be sent to the two unions at Thoresby. Of course if there is another attack on me or any other union member, another campaign will be needed.

I plan to concentrate fully on being part of the fight to resist the government's pit closure program and attack on jobs. The bosses are having serious problems proceeding with these closures — the latest being the High Court ruling that the decision was "illegal." Despite these problems the rulers will continue with their attacks on miners and other working people — but we will continue to resist. Solidarity of the kind shown in the campaign to defend me — international solidarity — will be essential to strengthen the fight we all face.

An injury to one is an injury to all.

Paul Galloway  
Sheffield, England



## Antiracist actions across Europe

### Belgium: workers strike against discrimination

BY LUDO DE WITTE

BRUSSELS, Belgium — A one-day strike December 11 ended in victory at the giant FNAC bookshop. The conflict erupted when the boss decided to transfer two Moroccan workers from the warehouse to the cleaning section. The boss's action was the latest in a months-long offensive that included moves to impose more flexible work rules, arbitrary layoffs, and forced transfers within the shop.

The bookshop has a work force of about 200. A small minority of them are Moroccans. None of them work as booksellers, but as price labelers, cashiers, and in the warehouse. Cleaning, however, is done by a subcontractor, who employs mostly Moroccans.

The bookshop was shut down as workers set up a mass picket line outside. At the end of the day, the boss agreed to place the two Moroccans back in their original work sections, and promised that through the end of 1994 nobody would be transferred to a new section against his or her will.

"The boss was clearly shocked that Belgians moved so massively to defend Moroccans," commented a worker employed as a bookseller.

"In the last three months we doubled attendance at meetings and 30 people have joined the union," commented another worker. "You could see the pride in the eyes of the strikers when the boss came to discuss with us at the picket line. We hadn't fallen into his trap of accepting forced transfers because there were solely Moroccans at stake."

#### Racist attacks on immigrants

As in Germany, racism and mobilizations against it have become dominant features of Belgian politics. There are 100,000 Moroccans in Brussels, a city of 1 million people. Moroccans and Turks have been the first victims of racist measures and attacks.

Big companies, like Volkswagen and Renault, refuse to hire immigrants. Laws bar immigrants from jobs in the public sector, which includes the postal service, telephone company, and railways.

Immigrant workers face particularly harsh conditions in the fields as fruit pickers. The fruit growers are allowed to hire undocumented eastern European seasonal workers at an hourly wage of 195 Belgian francs (U.S.\$6.50.).

An Albanian worker who has applied for, but hasn't yet obtained, political asylum told a reporter from the daily *De Standaard*, "An Albanian prison is better than this. The first week I got no wage, because the boss considered it to be an education to become a good fruit picker. Nine workers sleep in a small caravan. To wash ourselves we must go to a nearby pond."

An official report from the Royal Commissioner for Immigrants states that this exploitation also happens in construction, the hotel sector, garment industry, and meat-packing.

Workers and peasants fleeing war zones like the former Yugoslavia are denied refugee status in Belgium. Their temporary stay depends entirely on the goodwill of Belgian authorities. Meanwhile, the government has proposed a new law designed to further restrict the right to asylum.

These moves by the government have emboldened rightist forces. Since mid-1991 rightist thugs and cops have killed at least five immigrants in Brussels. Rightist parties received 500,000 votes in the parliamentary elections of Nov. 24, 1991.

#### Antiracist demonstrations

Last March a demonstration "against racism, for tolerance" drew 100,000 people. Tens of thousands of mainly young people

have continued to mobilize against racism. At the end of October an antiracist and antifascist demonstration drew 10,000 people — mainly university students. Last November 24 demonstrations of mainly secondary school students drew 10,000 in Antwerp and 15,000 in Ghent.

Out of these successful actions permanent committees have been formed that are designed to react rapidly to attacks from racist thugs. At the end of December, some 100 activists quickly mobilized against racists in Antwerp who had been harassing two Turkish women.

Ludo De Witte works at Volkswagen and is a member of the metal workers union FGTB/ABVV.

### African workers in Paris demand decent housing

BY JEAN-LOUIS SALFATI

PARIS — Hundreds of African immigrant workers and their families have been waging a militant fight here for the right to decent, low-cost housing.

From May 21 through the end of October, more than 1,400 people — 960 of them children — set up a tent camp on the Esplanade at the chateau of Vincennes in Paris. All of the 237 families there have incomes that allow them access to public housing. Threatened with evictions or living in tiny lodgings or slums, these workers and their families set up this camp as part of a fight for decent housing.

The majority of the families are from Mali, with others coming from eight other African countries including Senegal, Mauritania, Tunisia, and the Ivory Coast. Some of the families have been applying for public housing for 10 years. Many are employed as cleaners by the city hall in Paris or the metro (subway system), which promises to make housing available to its employees.

#### Government slander campaign

The government proceeded to launch a slander campaign against these immigrant workers saying that they had refused lodging. Rightist anti-immigrant demonstrations were organized weekly in front of the housing ministry by the National Front, a fascist party led by Jean-Marie Le Pen, demanding, "housing for the French and a charter flight for the Malians."

On October 29 at 6:00 a.m., 1,200 riot police surrounded the camp forcing everyone to leave. Those who resisted were beaten by the cops. That evening some 600 people slept in the street as no alternative housing had been organized for them. At Limeil-Brevannes, near Paris, one large empty room in an unused hospital became the new home for 120 people. Many families were separated. "Animals would have been better treated," stated Toure, a worker who had lived in the tent city.

A support committee was set up to help the families make their fight known. On October 31, some 1,000 people demonstrated against the destruction of the Vincennes tent city. Protesters chanted, "A roof, it's a right."

"This fight is for the honor of the working class in France," stated Mr. Taboure, one of the leaders of the support committee.

#### Two million empty apartments

While there is a shortage of public housing, it is estimated that there are 2 million empty apartments in France. Most of these were built by the banks and insurance companies in the hopes of making superprofits through exorbitant rents. They choose to keep them unoccupied rather than make them available to low-income families.

"A law exists that allows the state to take



250,000 joined a vigil against racist attacks January 1 in the city of Essen, one of several such protests in recent weeks in Germany. Above, November protest in Quedlinburg, eastern Germany. Banner reads "No violence. Hold out your hand to the refugees."

over empty apartments in emergencies," said Taboure. "This is what the workers of Vincennes, their families, and the support committee demand from the government today."

#### Solidarity actions

A demonstration November 14 brought together 200 people in front of the housing ministry. The action was endorsed by more than 20 organizations including the CGT labor federation, several African organizations, and SOS Racisme.

Many students and workers have joined up with this fight and have expressed their solidarity. Prior to the cop attack on the Vincennes tent encampment, some 200 students participated in a meeting organized at the University of Nanterre.

"The government wants to break our resistance but they won't succeed," stated Serinte Konte, a representative from one of the homeless families, at a Militant Labor Forum held November 21 in Paris. Twenty-seven people participated in the forum including several representatives from the families of Vincennes.

"An agreement was signed between African countries and France so that we could come to work here," stated Konte. "Some of us have worked here 15 or 20 years. They must house us."

### Sweden: counter-march against racist actions

BY INGE HINNEMO

STOCKHOLM — At the end of November this city was the site of several demonstrations against racism. An open air meeting November 29 drew around 600 people. Later that evening some 1,000 people, mainly youth, marched with torches in a demonstration called by various youth groups affiliated with major political parties. On November 30, 1,000 turned out for a counter-demonstration against a racist and fascist march.

The week before the antiracist actions, tombs at two Jewish cemeteries were vandalized, fueling protests against right-wing organizations.

November 30 is commemorated by ultranationalist forces in Sweden as the anniversary

of the assassination of Swedish king Karl XII in 1718. For some years now, racist and fascist forces have used these celebrations to try to get public support for their violence. The rightist demonstrations have been met by countermobilizations of varying size. In 1991, for example, several thousand people took part in antiracist demonstrations called for that day, and the racists were very few and demoralized.

#### Police aid racists

This year the police in Stockholm sought to assert their authority to decide who would be allowed to march. They gave a permit to the racist march and refused a permit to a simultaneous counterdemonstration. Rightist provocations the week before November 30, however, made it impossible for the cops to follow through with their attempt to stop a countermobilization.

The racist rally numbered a few hundred people. The fascist character of these forces was expressed more openly than before, with Nazi symbols and Hitler salutes. A woman who argued with the right-wingers was beaten and called "Jewish swine" in front of television cameras.

The counterdemonstration, which was built by a leaflet and a poster headlined "No fascists in our streets!," gathered around 1,000 people. A line of ushers was posted between the massive police lines and the demonstration. The cops had blocked off a large part of Kungsträdgården, the park where the demonstrations took place.

Police announced that a bomb had been found in Kungsträdgården and evacuated the park, pushing demonstrators to Sergels torg, a square in central Stockholm.

The right-wingers were taken out of the city in buses by the police. While the counterdemonstration continued at Sergels torg, scuffles broke out between some of the young protesters and police. The cops completely surrounded the square and broke up the demonstration. Participants were allowed to leave for the subway in small groups. Forty-four people were arrested, only a few of them right-wingers.

The same night 2,500 people blocked the main street in the southern university town of Lund, preventing a march by a hundred ultranationalists to celebrate Karl XII.

Inge Hinnemo is a member of the Metal Workers Union in Stockholm.